

Reel

BY JAMES HIBBERD

SITTING IN THE LOST WORLD, MY soul is nowhere to be found * What Commandments did I break on Father's Day? * Have I been playing God on my boogie nights? * Perhaps * But it's not my fault, I cannot help that I'm addicted to love * So I sit on my nightwatch, waiting for the fifth element: you



The Lost World

Universal

This movie is big — *real big!* Big stars! Big director! Big dinos! Big action sequences! Big box office grosses! Big advertising campaign! Big fast-food tie-ins! Big stuffed dino dolls at toy stores! Big! Big! Big! There's nothing about this movie that's small! (Except for maybe the plot and character development, but who really cares about that?)

Addicted to Love

Warner Bros.

Something to Talk About, Till There Was You, Pretty Woman, One Fine Day, When a Man Loves a Woman, Addicted to Love... are you seeing a trend yet? For the love of God, isn't there one studio exec with enough neurons firing to think of an original title? Anyway, Meg Ryan and Matthew Broderick play two spurned lovers who team up to spy on their former mates, who are moving in together. Hmm, how about calling it ... *Tainted Love*? Darn, this is tough.

The Fifth Element

Columbia

The plot of this \$90 million science-fiction fantasy is being kept secret until its Cannes Film Festival debut. But the preview, which ran during the Super Bowl, did reveal impressive sets and costumes. We also know that Bruce Willis stars as a cab driver, while Gary Oldman plays his nemesis (a bad tipper?).



Playing God

Buena Vista

After performing an operation while high on amphetamines, a famed L.A. surgeon (David Duchovny) is stripped of his medical license. Desperate for work, he takes a job treating gunshot wounds and drug overdoses for a criminal ganglord (Timothy Hutton). Mulder look out!

Boogie Nights

New Line

Call it Marky Mark and the Humpy Bunch. Mark Wahlberg, Julianne Moore and Burt Reynolds star in this dark comedy about an extended family of porn filmmakers in the '70s. Sex, drugs, bell bottoms, disco — this one has it all!



Warriors of Virtue

MGM

Young Ryan Jeffers is transported to the Land of Tao where he becomes Yee, a Warrior of Virtue. Together with his comrade Roo Warriors, Yun, Lai and Tsun, they battle the evil warlord Komodo for control of the Land of Tao's Lifesprings. Once the acid wears off, will Ryan be transported to the Land of Rehab?

Nightwatch

Dimension

Trainspotting's Ewan McGregor stars as a law student moonlighting as a hospital night watchman. Instead of hunting down some juicy malpractice suits, he finds himself the lead suspect in a series of grisly murders. Nick Nolte and Patricia Arquette co-star in this thriller, and the word on the street is "creepy."

Commandments

Gramercy

When Manhattan yuppie Seth Warner (Aidan Quinn) loses his wife, job and home, he decides to get even with God by breaking each of the Ten Commandments (right, as if a Manhattan yuppie wouldn't have already blasted through at least eight of 'em). Starting with the lesser infractions and working his way up the scale of sin, Warner is consoled by his late wife's sister, played by Courteney Cox. Apparently the Commandment, "Thou shalt not cast *Friends* actors in a feature film," was also broken.



Twin Town

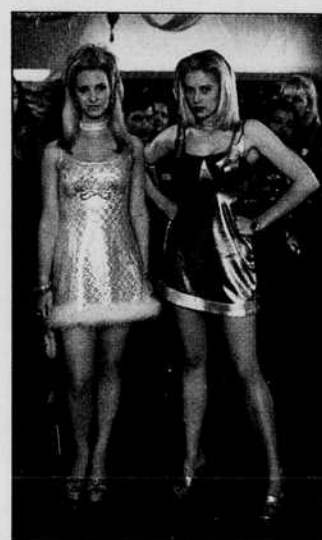
Gramercy

Finally, a film about a workman's comp claim gone bad. A wealthy roofing contractor in Swansea, South Wales, refuses to compensate one of his workers who took a tumble off a ladder. But the injured handyman and his wayward sons, The Twins, devise a wickedly comic way of getting even. Another black comedy from Andrew MacDonald and Danny Boyle, the duo behind *Shallow Grave* and *Trainspotting*.

Romy & Michele's High School Reunion

Touchstone

Mira Sorvino and Lisa Kudrow are two underachievers who get a case of makeover madness when they're invited to their 10-year high school reunion. Janeane Garofalo plays a meanie, and Kudrow is in familiar territory, having starred in *Ladies Room*, the play on which it is based.



Brassed Off

Miramax

That thing the Grimethorpe Brass Band doesn't do is let the closing of the local coal pit bring 'em down. "Brassed off" is Yorkshire for "pissed off" — and that they are. Ewan McGregor, Tara Fitzgerald (*Sirens*) and Pete Postlethwaite (*Romeo and Juliet*) are bandmates who inspire a community to hang in there by blowing their own horns.

Father's Day

Warner Bros.

Robin Williams and Billy Crystal team up for this remake of the French comedy *Les Compères*. It's the story of a woman (Nastassja Kinski) who convinces two ex-boyfriends to search for her runaway son by telling each that he's the boy's father.

Masterminds

Triumph

The "lone hero against a hostage-taking criminal mastermind and his gang" formula is dying hard. And *Masterminds* is yet another entry. But this one has a twist: The lone hero is a 14-year-old kid. The youngster faces off against Patrick Stewart, who's taken hostage the entire student body of his school. Even cooler than an assembly, huh?

You'll find everything but the Raisinets on U's movie page: <http://www.umagazine.com>

Screen Saver

Nowhere

Sex, T.V., aliens, drugs, S&M, murder, religion, Los Angeles, suicide, pop culture, more sex and Gibby Haynes litter the psychedelic landscape of *Nowhere*, the third film in Gregg Araki's "Teen Apocalypse" trilogy. "I like my movies to have a real impact on you — an impact that you don't soon forget," says Araki, who wrote, directed and edited the film.

The press notes aptly describe *Nowhere* as a "Beverly Hills 90210 episode on acid." It's a surreal soap opera chronicling a day in the life of thrill-seeking L.A. teen-agers punctuated with gobs of cameos by pop culture touchstones like Shannen Doherty, John Ritter and Charlotte Rae.

"I like to use the cameos — not in a cheesy way, but to underscore the surreal qualities of the movie," says the U. of Southern California grad. "It's like a dream, when you have familiar faces from your subconscious pop out."

Araki, whose previous films include *The Doom Generation* and *The Living End*, says groups like Nine Inch Nails and Portishead have been a greater influence than filmmakers such as Spielberg and Scorsese. Perhaps punk and new-wave nihilism are the reason for the omnipresent feeling of doom in his films?

"I definitely have a feeling of impending ... something."

The Reel Deal

Austin Powers

A lascivious secret agent in a groovy velvet suit, Austin Powers has it all: chicks to shag, money to blow and a swinging pad. But according to Mike Myers, his character's political incorrectness is part of his charm.

"I'm not into mean humor. I'm not into racist or sexist stuff that isn't ironic," he says. "Austin Powers is kinda like [*Saturday Night Live's*] Czech Brothers — you can't really be mad at them because they're so innocent in their inappropriateness."

Austin Powers is a '60s fashion designer/British secret agent cryogenically frozen to chase his nemesis, Dr. Evil (also Myers), into the '90s. Myers says the film was inspired by movies like *Casino Royale* and Peter Sellers' *Pink Panther* films.

"I was fascinated by that whole world of the jet-setter playboy, I thought I would love to wear those clothes and be in that world."

Between playing the film's title role and working with co-stars Elizabeth Hurley, Mimi Rogers, Tom Arnold and Carrie Fisher, Myers says making the film was the most fun he's ever had. So will Powers return for another adventure? "Oh my God, I would love that."

