



Peek Preview

From scandalmongering students to sandal-wearing warriors, from ball-bouncing lovers to baby-bouncing mothers, check out this cheat sheet covering some of the spring's most anticipated flicks. BY ERIN RICHTER



	↑ THE VIRGIN SUICIDES	↑ KEEPING THE FAITH	FREQUENCY	↑ READY TO RUMBLE	↑ LOVE & BASKETBALL	GOSSIP	↑ COMMITTED	GLADIATOR	↑ WHERE THE HEART IS
RELEASE DATE	April 21	April 14	April 28	April 7	April 21	April 28	April 28	May 5	April 28
STUDIO	Paramount Classics	Touchstone	New Line	Warner Bros.	New Line	Warner Bros.	Miramax	DreamWorks/Universal	Twentieth Century Fox
THE PLAYERS	Kirsten Dunst, Josh Hartnett, James Woods	Edward Norton, Ben Stiller, Jenna Elfman	Dennis Quaid, Jim Caviezel, André Braugher	David Arquette, Scott Caan, Oliver Platt	Omar Epps, Sanaa Lathan, Alfre Woodard	James Marsden, Lena Headey, Norman Reedus	Heather Graham, Luke Wilson, Casey Affleck	Russell Crowe, Joaquin Phoenix, Connie Nielsen	Natalie Portman, Ashley Judd, Stockard Channing
THE SKINNY	Sofia Coppola wrote and directed this '70s-era paean to ill-fated sisters.	A priest and a rabbi walk into...the arms of a leggy pentite.	He can't see dead people, but a New York cop hears his dead father and attempts to alter history.	Two dunderheaded wrestling fans try to revive the career of their dethroned hero.	Childhood friends play the game of love as they both try to make it to the pros.	A college assignment on the nature of rumors leads to rape accusations and a suicide.	A devoted newlywed hoofs it to El Paso in search of her errant husband.	Exiled from Rome and forced into slavery in A.D. 180, a former general returns to wreak havoc in the Colosseum.	A 17-year-old gives birth in a Wal-Mart and becomes a local celebrity.
SOUNDS LIKE...	<i>Dazed and Confused</i> <i>Ordinary People</i>	<i>Reality Bites</i> a <i>Stranger Among Us</i>	<i>The Sixth Sense</i> <i>Somewhere in Time</i>	<i>Dumb and Dumber</i> <i>Play It to the Bone</i>	<i>He and She Got</i> <i>Hoop Dreams</i>	<i>Wild Things'</i> <i>Body Shots</i>	<i>Unhappy, Texas</i>	<i>Spartacus Beyond</i> <i>Thunderdome</i>	<i>She's Having a Baby</i> <i>Waiting for Guffman</i>
YEA	A dreamy Dunst; Air's ethereal electronica score	Great actor Norton adds "movie director" to his résumé.	Director Gregory Hoblit helmed <i>Primal Fear</i> .	Appearances by Goldberg, Diamond Dallas Page, and the Nitro Girls	Romance and sports—could be a perfect date movie; produced by Spike Lee	Foxy cast includes Kate Hudson, Joshua Jackson, and Marisa Coughlan.	Hunky <i>ER</i> doc Goran Visnjic moonlights as a desert sculptor.	Director Ridley Scott made <i>Alien</i> and <i>Blade Runner</i> ...	Based on Billie Letts' 1998 Oprah Winfrey-blessed novel
NAY	Hartnett's bad '70s hair	But perhaps Stiller should have gotten that job.	Superman turned back time to save Lois Lane, but will this work for an average Joe?	Is it us, or should 1-800-A-R-Q-U-E-T-T-E hang it up for a while?	<i>Eddie, Forget Paris, The Air Up There, Blue Chips, shall we go on?</i>	Costar Eric Bogosian utters the phrase "This revolution will be televised."	Do quirky road romances have any new ground to cover?	...and <i>1492: Conquest of Paradise</i> and <i>White Squall</i> .	Didn't we see something like this on <i>Jerry Springer</i> ?
THE BUZZ	Too literary, but Mrs. Spike Jonze can direct.	Everyone's praying this priest-rabbi joke is actually funny.	Communicating with the dead is hot, but the trailer hints that things could get sappy.	Any more mugging and the cast would be under arrest.	Scored big points at Sundance	Could be good, trashy fun à la <i>Cruel Intentions</i>	Cutesy and stylish	Audiences have been gasping at that trailer.	Portman, Judd, and baby—a guaranteed estrogen-fest

KEEPING THE FAITH: MICHAEL GINSBURG; READY TO RUMBLE: SAM EMERSON; LOVE & BASKETBALL: B. BALDWIN; COMMITTED: JOHN P. JOHNSON; WHERE THE HEART IS: SUZANNE TENNER