

FILM

# Hooray for Hollyweird

Forget the Oscars—here, we present the 2001 Dubious Distinctions in Gay Cinema

BY JIM RADOSTA

**GENITAL SHORTS**

*Hedwig and the Angry Inch* wins the award for Funniest Line of the Year. Actor/writer/director John Cameron Mitchell gets clinical while singing about the title character's failed sex-change operation: "When I woke up...I was bleeding from the gash between my legs. It's my first day as a woman, already it's that time of the month."

**NO-NONSENSE NONFICTION**

2001 was a great year for documentaries. We learned all about anthropologist Tobias Schneebaum in *Keep the River on Your Right*, gay Jews in *Trembling Before G-d* and rural transsexuals in *Southern Comfort*.

**SKIN FLICK**

*Hannibal*—without a doubt the worst film ever made—taught us about the mating rituals of serial killers. In a grotesque flashback, Dr. Lecter (Anthony Hopkins) dates Mason Verger (Gary Oldman), slips him some drugs, then suggests he start mutilating his face. "It sounded like a good idea at the time," the disfigured freak laments.

**GET SHORT-EYES**

This certainly wasn't a good year to be messing around with little boys. In *L.I.E.*, a pedophile (Brian Cox) becomes a fractured



John Cameron Mitchell (left) described his "Barbie doll crotch" in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*

**BI-CURIOSITY KILLED THE CAT**

In *Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back*, actor/writer/director Kevin Smith nearly goes down on Jason Mewes in order to gain access to Miramax Studios. In *American Pie 2*, a couple of women convince some horny guys to kiss each other in exchange for a demonstration of lesbian love. Actor Seann William Scott (*Dude, Where's My Car?*) seems to be making a habit of making out with his male co-stars. Hmm....

**GOOD JILL HUNTING**

Lili Taylor gave another award-worthy performance as *Julie Johnson*, a married woman who develops a crush on her best friend (Courtney Love) as she discovers her growing passion for mathematics. Unfortunately, nobody saw the fall release, perhaps because of detrimental timing: The character's prick of a husband (Noah Emmerich) also happens to be a New York City firefighter.

**IF THE SHOE FITS...**

Audiences were howling during *Legally Blonde* when shrewd law student Elle Woods (Reese Witherspoon) deduced a witness was lying about a heterosexual affair after he dissed her dated Pradas.



Reese Witherspoon cracked the case in *Legally Blonde*

**AND YOU THOUGHT RICHARD HATCH HAD IT BAD**

In *Series 7*, a reality television satire, contestant Jeff (Glenn Fitzgerald) not only is struggling with his "ex-gay" status, he has to decide whether to kill his former girlfriend in the pursuit of fame and fortune.

**DON'T MAKE ME ANGRY. YOU WOULDN'T LIKE ME WHEN I'M ANGRY.**

Who knew a popcorn thriller could serve as a cautionary tale about hate crimes? In *Joy Ride*, a trucker flies off the handle after two CB pranksters fool him into hooking up with a sexy woman for a motel room rendezvous. When a man answers the door instead, the killing spree begins.

**CONCENTRATION CAMP**

First we learn Adolf Hitler might have been gay, and now this. In *Zoolander*, Mugatu seeks fashion industry domination by brainwashing a dumb male model into assassinating Malaysia's president, who is cracking down on sweatshops. Although the villain never officially confirms his sexuality, actor Will Ferrell's fruity portrayal leaves little to the imagination.



Will Ferrell played a flaming fashionista in *Zoolander*

**MORE POSITIVE REPRESENTATIONS OF OUR COMMUNITY**

This year, gay and lesbian celluloid careers ran the gamut from hooker (*From Hell*) to street thug (*Our Lady of the Assassins*), from junkie porn star (*The Fluffer*) to male hustler (*Life as a House*). *The Score*—at least according to numerous reports—featured a "homosexual crook" played by Marlon Brando. Thankfully, the gay

content ended up on the cutting-room floor.

**FRENCH KISSING**

Gay Paree lived up to its name by producing most of the year's best queer cinema: *The Adventures of Felix*, *The Closet* and *Come Undone*.



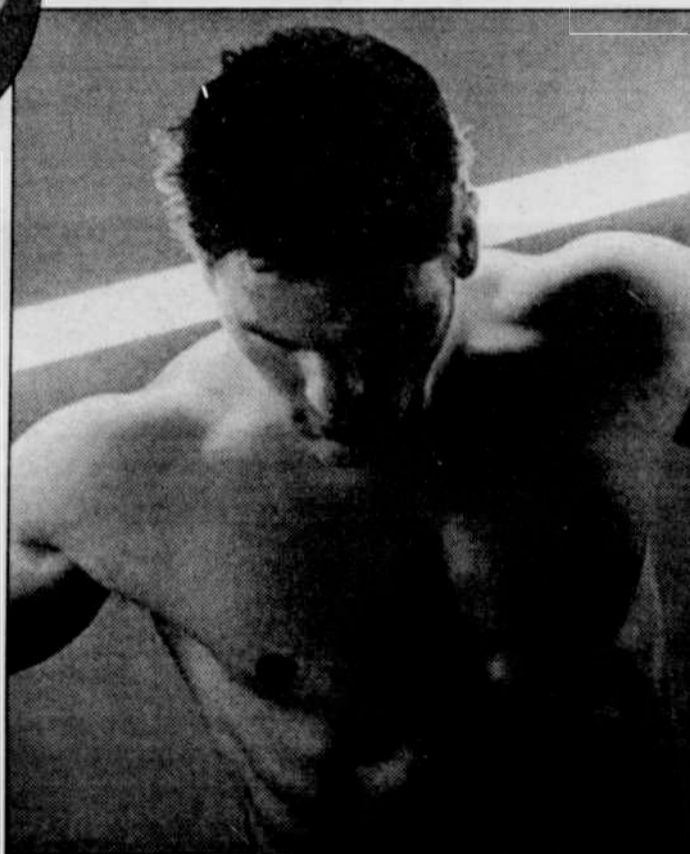
*Joy Ride* passengers Steve Zahn (left), Leelee Sobieski and Paul Walker learned not to upset homophobic truckers

**PITCHING A TENT**

Up-and-coming television actors Michael Ian Black (*Ed*) and Bradley Cooper (*Alias*) put the "wet" and "hot" into *Wet Hot American Summer*, a broad spoof of early '80s sex comedies. The guys shock their fellow counselors by coming out of the closet on their last day at camp.

**TITLES WITH GREATEST GAY PORN POTENTIAL**

*Riding in Boys with Cars*, *Harry Palmer and the Sorcerer's Bone*, *Ocean's Eleven Inches*. [7]



*The Fluffer* was put in an enviable position: getting paid to arouse buff *Baywatch* babe Scott Gurney



Paul Reubens didn't *Blow*, but the movie sure did

father figure to a juvenile delinquent but winds up dead. In *The Deep End*, sleazeball Darby Reese (Josh Lucas) pursues a gay teen but gets what's coming to him. Meanwhile, Paul Reubens (aka Pee-Wee Herman) enjoyed a short-lived comeback after portraying a bisexual hairdresser in *Blow* but now is the subject of a child porn investigation.

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