

What's Poppin'?

What's popped and what's flopped, in a theater near you.

THE EVENT

This drama from the director of *The Hanging Garden* gets some strong performances from dependable queer indie film regulars Parker Posey (not being comedic—hold onto your hats) and Olympia Dukakis, as well as Brent Carver as an AIDS social worker under investigation for assisting the suicide of Matt (Don McKellar), who throws a big party to say goodbye to friends and family. There are some effective bits, but the maudlin script really needs a tweak. Opens Oct. 24 at Hollywood Theatre.

—Lisa Bradshaw

INTOLERABLE CRUELTY

George Clooney could charm the pants off me (quite literally), which makes up for the flaws in this old-fashioned screwball comedy directed by Joel and Ethan Coen (*Fargo*). Chronic bride Catherine Zeta-Jones is a perfect match for Clooney's slick divorce lawyer, and the double twists are genuinely unexpected, but on the whole the film doesn't add up to much.

—Jim Radosta

- ☉ dud, bottom of the bag
- ☉☉ only if you're really hungry
- ☉☉☉ good effort, pass the salt
- ☉☉☉☉ mmmm, tasty!
- ☉☉☉☉☉ get the big tub o' corn

does well by the actors, including Tim Robbins, Kevin Bacon, Laurence Fishburne, Laura Linney and Marcia Gay Harden. (Sean Penn is a little too Method for this film; his "thing" works better in the upcoming *21 Grams*.) If *Mystic River* is not quite the powerhouse many critics are promising, it's still a fine example of solid, confident storytelling.

—CM

SCHOOL OF ROCK

Jack Black cements his status as a superstar in this edgy yet endearing comedy from director Richard Linklater (*Dazed and Confused*) and writer Mike White (*Chuck & Buck*) about a wannabe rocker who poses as a substitute at an uptight prep school to make some quick cash. He soon liberates the kids by helping them form a band, and they teach him a few life lessons as well.

—JR

UNDERWORLD

Stealing from *The Matrix* and *Blade*, this humorless flick imagines a city infested with vampires and hairless (!) werewolves who are at war, with a human (Scott Speedman) caught in the middle and Kate Beckinsale as a vampire huntress. The

costuming—leather and rubber bondage—is the only thing to recommend. Devoid of charm or originality, and with a two-hour-plus running time, *Underworld* will make audiences feel like they're undead.

—Andy Mangels

VERONICA GUERIN

Hollywood action producer Jerry Bruckheimer of the endless explosions and car chases makes a bid for respectability with this lower-key drama based on the life of an Irish journalist whose fearless exposés of Dublin's drug dealers got her killed. What most annoys about this mediocre film are Cate Blanchett's godawful Irish accent (she must have studied with the Lucky Charms elf) and her character's aggravating indifference to the danger she constantly puts her family through.

—Gary Morris



Kill Bill is a visual masterpiece. Quentin Tarantino, we love you.

KILL BILL: VOLUME 1

More pulp fiction from Quentin Tarantino. Uma Thurman is The Bride, and The Bride is out for revenge—an exceedingly simple plot into which Tarantino crams as much visual prowess, ultraviolence, and trash iconography and movie-geekdom as he can. His saving grace is an overwhelming passion for cinema; there's a childlike joy in his gimmicks, and his movies make you high. *Kill Bill* is a feast for the senses—the anime sequence alone!—and generally deserving of most of the hype.

—Christopher McQuain

MYSTIC RIVER

This Clint Eastwood-directed murder mystery is more somber and intense than most—it's a whodunit with the shattering personal dimensions left in. Eastwood

Beautiful Thing

An urban fairytale



October 31
to
November 15

For tickets call
503-239-5919
or
503-224-8499

Theater! Theatre!
3430 SE Belmont
Portland, OR

HALLOWEEN CONTEST
opening night!
Best costume wins a
FA-BOO-LOUS PRIZE!

by
Jonathon
Harvey

There is only ONE "Most Popular"

Continental Club Baths

The Most Men
The Most Times
The Most Popular



bathhouses for men

Club Seattle

1520 Summit Ave Seattle, WA
clubsea.com

Club Portland

303 sw 12th & Stark Portland, OR
clubpdx.com

club member: Rico photo: Don ad design: atomdrive@excite.com

When the devil is right...
... he is more right than all the
sanctimonious angels in the world.

Romulus Linney's

2

Portland Premiere

October 17 - November 16

(503) 242-0080

At Theater! Theatre! • 3430 SE Belmont Ave.
www.profiletheatre.org

