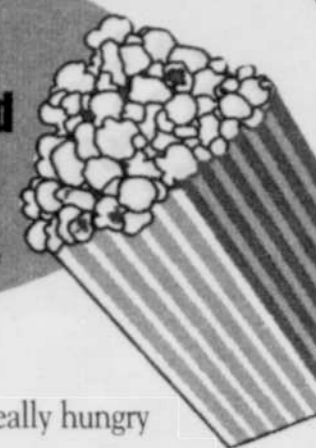


# What's Poppin'?

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



## CITY OF GOD

This series of vignettes from the hoods of Brazil is too long, beyond violent and overpopulated with characters but remains worth seeing for the young cast's strong performances as well as the audacious visual flair displayed by directors Kátia Lund and Fernando Meirelles. The academy must have thought so, anyway—it's been rereleased due to four Oscar nominations.

—Jim Radosta

## DIRTY DANCING: HAVANA NIGHTS

Bookish, uptight Katey Miller (Romola Garai) and her family visit 1958 Havana, where Cubans spend their prerevolution time mamboing all over town. Katey would love to be bumping and grinding like her new pals (most notably sexy Javier, played by *Y Tu Mamá También's* Diego Luna), but parents and peers won't let her! Every time this awful but somehow watchable sequel to

*Dirty Dancing* threatens to become serious, it collapses into the Katey Questions: Will the white girl win the big dance contest? Will she fuck Javier?

—Gary Morris

## THE FOG OF WAR

You can sense the weight of the world in the weary eyes of former Defense Secretary Robert McNamara, the subject of this riveting Oscar-nominated documentary from Errol Morris (*The Thin Blue Line*). Having played a pivotal role in World War II, the Cuban Missile Crisis and Vietnam, the octogenarian has a wealth of surprisingly progressive insights on mistakes made and lessons learned.

—JR

## MIRACLE

Saddled with an insipid title and the Disney moniker, you don't get much more than you bargained for from this feel-good flick starring Kurt Russell as the coach of the 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey team that (miraculously!) beat the Soviets and brought home gold during a turbulent period of recent world history. But it's really damn entertaining and, yes, I got misty. Go team!

—Lisa Bradshaw

## MONSTER

Charlize Theron handily won the Golden Globe for her lead role in this gritty true-life story about queer serial killer Aileen Wuornos, a prosti-

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

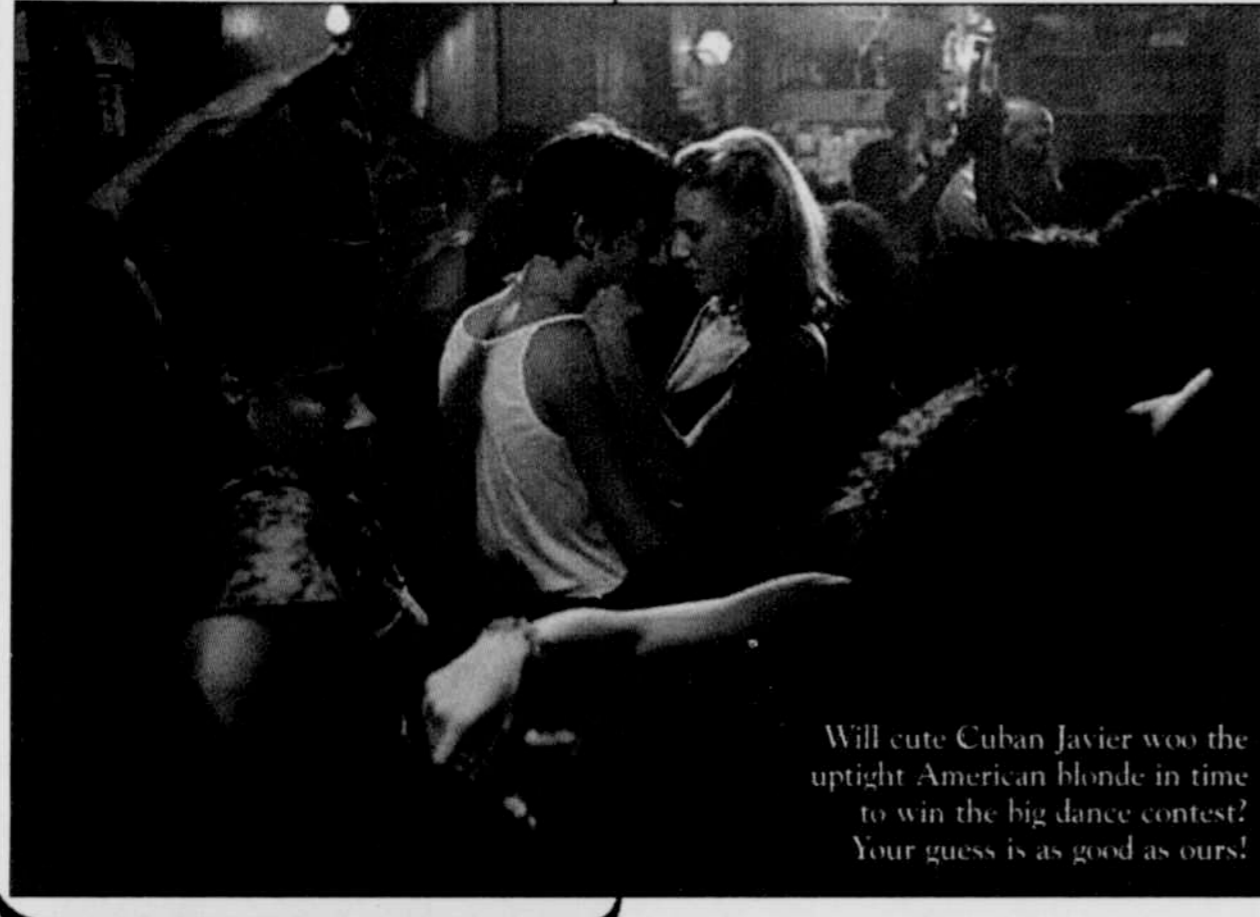
tute who murdered six men 13 years ago in Florida. Writer/director Patty Jenkins manages to combine multiple social commentaries relatively free from judgment while eliciting superb performances from Theron, Bruce Dern as her only real friend and Christina Ricci as her partner—who alternately loves and uses her.

—LB

## TOUCHING THE VOID

This excruciating documentary gives us a front-row seat to a near-deadly 1985 mountain climb in Peru. Using re-enactments as well as intense interviews with survivors Joe Simpson and Simon Yates, director Kevin Macdonald (*One Day in September*) cranks up the drama while effectively conveying the thrill that drives these people to put their posteriors in peril.

—JR



Will cute Cuban Javier woo the uptight American blonde in time to win the big dance contest? Your guess is as good as ours!

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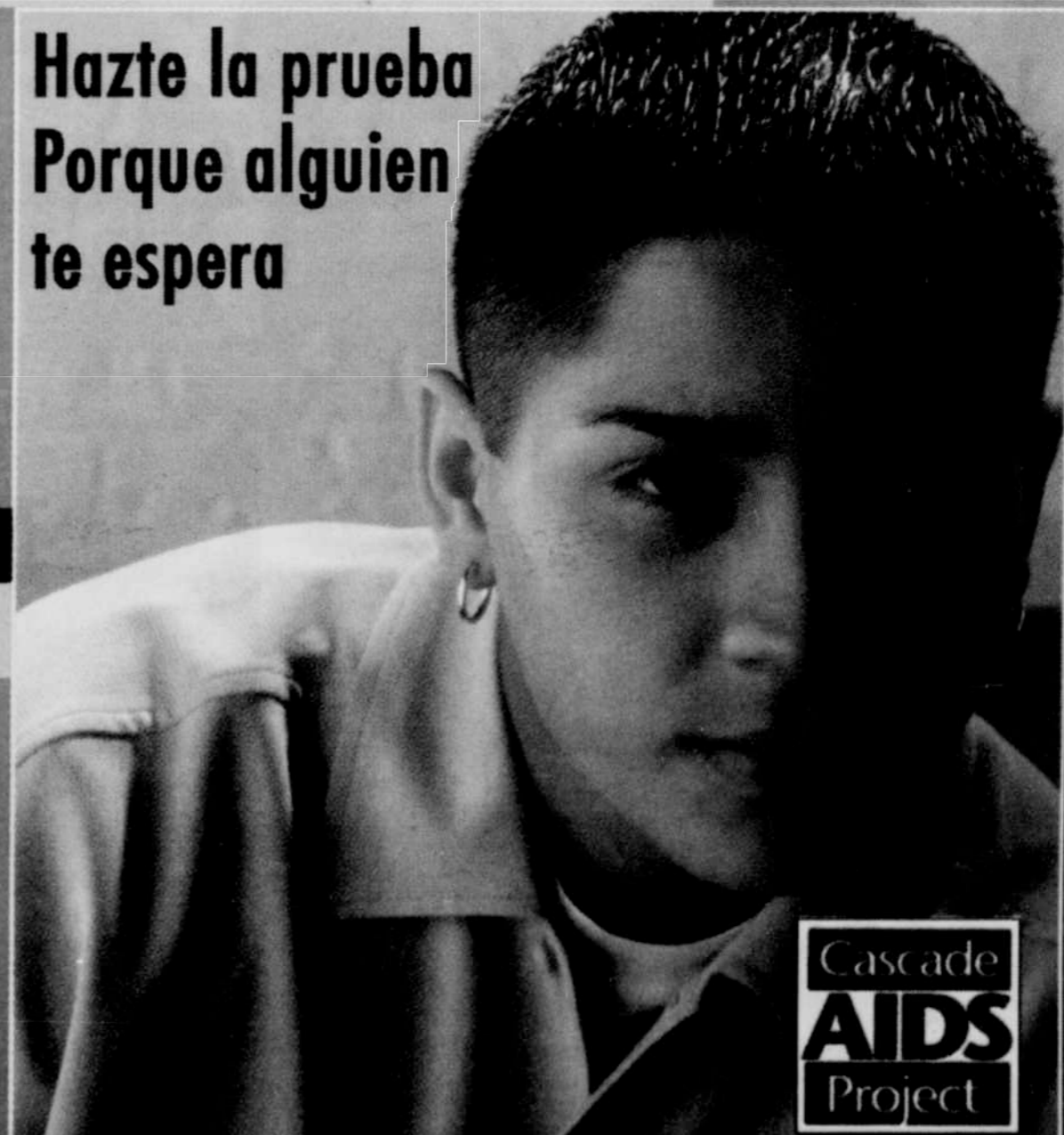
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