

FILM

REVIEWS

Domino

This new film from director Tony Scott (*True Romance*) and writer Richard Kelly (*Donnie Darko*) is "sort of" based on the life story of actor Laurence Harvey's daughter, Domino (Keira Knightley), who turned away from her career as a model and become a bounty hunter in Los Angeles. *Domino* is not an easy movie to watch. It's bloody and hardcore, almost like a color version of *Sin City*—quick cutting, multi-media presentation, overlapping lines and interesting déjà vu with *Beverly Hills, 90210* vets Ian Ziering and Brian Austin Green playing themselves and Mickey Rourke as Domino's boss. **C+**
—Yvonne P. Behrens

Good Night, and Good Luck

George Clooney's timely, well-considered and confident directorial follow-up to the auspicious *Confessions of a Dangerous Mind* recounts—in cinematographer Robert Elswit's beautifully frank, rerun-*evocative* black and white—the 1953 media confrontation between television newscaster Edward R. Murrow and witch-hunting anti-Communist Sen. Joe McCarthy, R-Wis. David Strathairn—supported by a stellar cast including Clooney, Robert Downey Jr. and Patricia Clarkson—is likely to garner awards for his spot-on portrayal of Murrow, and the film balances its deft exploration of the television newsroom dynamics of yore with a healthy skepticism (apt, given Clooney's own

tube origins) toward the medium's future dominance. **A-**

—Christopher McQuain

North Country

In the feisty female tradition of *Norma Rae* and *Silkwood*, Charlize Theron plays a single mom who files harassment charges against her sexist male co-workers at a northern Minnesota iron mine. The action is gripping, edgy and infuriating, but it loses credibility in the climactic, over-the-top courtroom scenes. Though Woody Harrelson inadvertently comes off as a total bozo of a lawyer, director Niki Caro (*Whale Rider*) coaxes terrific, earthy performances from her cast. Frances McDormand steals the show as Theron's witty and ailing friend, and Bob Dylan makes frequent appearances on the soundtrack. **A-**

—Stephen Blair

À Tout de Suite

Benoît Jacquot (*Sade, A Single Girl*) directed this French new wave thriller—shot in black and white and based on actual events—about a Parisian art student (Isild Le Besco) who flees her stifling bourgeois family to join her lover, a Moroccan gangster, on a cross-continent adventure through Spain, Morocco and Greece. (This will make up for the vacation I couldn't take this year.) Her breathtaking journey of self-discovery captures the fear and exhilaration of love on the run. Opens Oct. 21 at Hollywood Theatre. **B**

—YPB



24 Hours on Craigslist spotlights a transsexual escort (right) and an Ethel Merman drag queen searching for the perfect backup band for her Led Zeppelin covers.



24 Hours on Craigslist

To its credit, this film (opening Oct. 21 at Clinton Street Theater) doesn't purport to be anything other than what it is: brief interviews, over a one-day period, with various people who've used San Francisco-based Craigslist. This vastly popular online classified service, now in just about every city, allows people to find everything from apartments to clothes to sex partners. The doc samples a wide range of these types: a butler wannabe, a gay porn star/drag queen, a guy who buys "250 women soldiers' pants," a self-styled "rent-a-husband," a Chinese immigrant girl who paints penises. All are "unmasked" from the noted anonymity of Craigslist.

Don't look here for how Craigslist started during the crazy dot-com era, or the scandalous purchase of part of it by eBay a few months back.

There's no history and no context here, just interviews. But reality riffs like this are only as interesting as their subjects, and enough of these folks are duds to make the whole project seem more like a self-indulgent home movie than a fascinating dip into a consumer subculture.

A few characters and scenes keep the film from being a total waste. Best of all is a brilliant, hilarious "flash mob" sequence, in which hundreds of hipsters meet (via a Craigslist posting) at a posh San Francisco hotel, where they all "fall asleep" in unison, hug each other and do all manner of other whimsical things while the staff watches in astonishment. But the film's attempt to make Craigslist inventor Craig Newmark a kind of Wizard of Oz: mythic figure are way strained. As anyone who's lived in SF knows, Craig is a familiar fixture around town with no mystery at all. Kind of like this film. **C**

—Gary Morris

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