

eatingout eatingout eatingout eatingout



A gay detective (Val Kilmer, right) helps a burglar-turned-actor (Robert Downey Jr.) research for a role in *Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang*.

Harmony (Michelle Monaghan), a wannabe actress who has surprising ties to his past and a shared love for pulpy 1950s detective novels. Soon, the trio is plunged into a real murder mystery that threatens all of their lives. As the bodies—and body parts—pile up, so do the eccentricities of the characters, until the inevitable showdown with the bad guys, which doesn't go exactly as planned.

Written and directed by Shane Black, writer of *Letal Weapon* and other '90s action films full of smirking heroes and unbelievable action, *Kiss* is a winking deconstruction of exactly the type of film that made him rich. The story is narrated by Downey in a snarky, self-referential style as he addresses the audience, letting them know that he knows he's in a film but that the story is somehow real anyhow. The narrative device cleverly pulls viewers in from the start, as do the three main characters' various flaws, from Harmony's promiscuity with everyone except the love-smitten Harry, to Gay Perry's nonchalance toward crazed violence, to Harry's unfortunate disability to be seriously injured at every plot point.

The postmodern humor and cliché tweaking could have backfired on Black if he wasn't supported fully by Downey, who wears the stress of his past few years for his character, and Kilmer, who seems to be smirking and sleepwalking even as he bull's-eyes every target he needs to hit. Gay Perry's homosexuality is treated fairly and funnily—not with camp, but as a defining characteristic that only matters to the story when it matters to the dialogue.

*Kiss* is one of the most enjoyable films I've seen this year and merits multiple viewings. It's not playing in very many theaters, so catch it while you can. **A**

—Andy Mangels

**Or (My Treasure)**

Director Keren Yesaya achieves an unlikely look at



A gay painter (Callum Keith Rennie, left) consoles a grieving divorcé (James Allodi) in *Wilby Wonderful*.

a mother-daughter relationship with this film, which won five awards at the 2004 Cannes Film Festival, including the Golden Camera for Best First Film. Or (Dana Ivgi) is a high school student in Tel Aviv who lives with her mother (Ronit Elkabets), who has been working as a prostitute for the past 20 years. With her mother's health getting worse, Or desperately wants to find a way out of their living situation. She works hard to save her mother and even follows her path into prostitution, but in the end she rescues no one. Opens Nov. 18 at Hollywood Theatre. **B-**

—YPB

**Shopgirl**

You won't have to shop around much to find a better movie than this vapid adaptation of Steve Martin's best-selling novella. Martin, who wrote and produced the film, stars as a 50-something, emotionally detached millionaire who wins a trophy girlfriend in the form of a young Saks retail babe (Claire Danes). Despite a heartfelt performance from our so-called heroine, the doomed romance is totally unconvincing. Instead of zippy dialogue and character development, we get lots of pointlessly pretty shots of perfume counters and L.A. skylines. **C**

—SB

**Wilby Wonderful**

This dark comedy is the latest film from Canadian director, writer, playwright and actor Daniel MacIvor. Taking place over the course of a single day, the film follows a cast of characters who are caught in momentary distress about life in the small island town of Wilby, Nova Scotia. Dan (James Allodi) secretly wants to kill himself because his wife left him. Brent (Maury Chaykin) is a corrupt mayor, and Duck (Callum Keith Rennie) is a gay painter. A cop (Paul Gross) had an affair years ago with a woman (Rebecca Jenkins) who returns unexpectedly with a teen-age daughter. Meanwhile, he can't really understand what he sees in his wife (Sandra Oh) anymore. She is a busy real estate broker, and all of the stories connect through her work. Wilby is one of those traditional-seeming towns that is actually more socially progressive than it appears. When the day comes to an end, the stories unwind—but not without a twist. Opens Nov. 25 at Hollywood Theatre. **A-**

—YPB (C)

**ristorante fratelli**  
 an italian kitchen  
 regional italian dinners  
**Open 7 nights**  
 Sunday-Thursday 5:00-9:00pm 1230 nw hoyt | portland  
 Friday-Saturday 5:00-10:00pm 503-241-8800  
 www.fratellicucina.com

**M**  
**Le Bistro Montage**  
 301 S.E. Morrison  
 Open Seven Days a Week  
 Dinner: Sun-Thur. 6p.m.-2a.m.  
 Fri. & Sat. 6p.m.-4a.m.  
 Lunch Mon-Fri. 11:30-2  
 503.234.1324  
 montage.citysearch.com

**Chameleon**  
 RESTAURANT & BAR  
 2000 NE 40th  
 (2 blocks north of Sandy)  
 503-460-2682  
 private parties and catering available  
 Check out our new menu!  
 5:30 to 9pm Tues-Thurs  
 5:30 to 10pm Fri-Sat  
 late-night lounge on weekends

**The Bull Ring NW**  
 (503) 274-4096  
 1900 NW 27th off VAUGHN  
 WWW.BULLRINGNW.COM  
**HOMEMADE MEXICAN FOOD**  
 CHILE VERDE, TAMALES, DESSERTS AND MUCH MORE  
 DAILY LUNCH SPECIALS  
 Celebrating 13 years!  
 OPEN TUE-FRI 11AM · SAT & SUN 4PM · CLOSED MONDAY

**ArtBar & BISTRO**  
 Convivial NW Cuisine  
 SW Broadway & Main  
 Tel: 503.432.2905  
 WWW.ART-BAR.COM

**Remember World AIDS Day**  
 Get a FREE TEST for HIV, syphilis, or hepatitis C  
 Thurs Dec. 1  
 World AIDS Day  
**CC Slaughters**  
 NW 3rd Ave & Davis St  
 9-11:30pm  
**Come and get it!**  
 Multnomah County Health Department