

# film

## Down to the Bone

This is for sure not a feel-good movie for a nice Sunday afternoon. Avoiding stereotypes and clichés, the indie feature film debut of writer/director Debra Granik realistically portrays Irene's (Vera Farmiga) struggle to raise her sons, hold her marriage together, keep a job and not to let a cocaine addiction take over her whole life. She eventually realizes that she needs to check herself into a rehab center and that the road to survival will be long and rocky. Opens Jan. 6 at Hollywood Theatre. **A**

—Yvonne P. Behrens

## End of Suburbia: Oil Depletion and the Collapse of the American Dream

This depressing yet revealing documentary, which traces the origins of overconsumption back to post-World War II nuclear families, provides ample evidence that the days of cheap oil could be over by the end of this decade—and that our lives will be changed forever as a result. Plays Jan. 13 to 15 at Fifth Avenue Cinemas. **B**

—Jim Radosta

## Fun with Dick and Jane

Are we having fun yet? Not really. Jim Carrey and Téa Leoni replace George Segal and Jane Fonda in this uneven update of the 1977 comedy about an upwardly mobile couple who turn to crime when the hubby loses his posh job. The remake gets off to a strong start with a sharp satire of an Enron-like corporation that suddenly folds and leaves its employees with incredibly shrinking pension plans. But when it comes to the slapstick robbery sprees, there are numerous misfired jokes for every genuine chuckle. **C+**

—Stephen Blair

## Loggerheads

This lovely drama tells three intertwining stories, each taking place around Mother's Day in North Carolina. An HIV-positive drifter (Kip Pardue) arrives in a small coastal town to watch over the endangered loggerhead turtles that nest there. His mother (Tess Harper) is torn between devotion to her gay son and her preacher husband. Meanwhile, a lonely woman (Bonnie Hunt) mourns the child she gave up for adoption years ago. Opens Jan. 13 at Hollywood Theatre. **A-**

—JR

## The Matador

Written and directed by Richard Shepard (*Oxygen*) and co-produced by and starring Pierce Brosnan, this movie is a hitman comedy about two

people who meet by chance in a Mexican bar. Although they have nothing in common, they are drawn together, and we follow their journey through several countries and even more margaritas, ending with a nice twist. Moving, witty and entertaining with great support from Greg Kinnear and Hope Davis. Opens Jan. 13. **A**

—YPB

## Munich

Based on true events, Steven Spielberg's ambitious new film follows a group of men who track down and kill the Palestinian terrorists who masterminded the murders of 11 Israeli athletes at the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich. Flashes of cinematic genius punctuate the film, most notably the bombing and shooting scenes that are disturbingly artful in the vein of *The Godfather*. But the characters are not particularly engaging, and the emotionally manipulative climax all but cancels out the reflective mood that anchors the rest of the movie. For a more convincing lesson on this subject, rent the Oscar-winning documentary *One Day in September*. **B-**

—SB

## Music from the Inside Out

Daniel Anker (*Scottsboro: An American Tragedy*) spent five years filming this wonderful documentary about members of the world-class Philadelphia Orchestra and their love of music. Ensemble performances are interwoven with the stories of individual musicians, who play everything from bluegrass to salsa. Even if you don't like classical music and don't play an instrument, this film is an entertaining look at a mix of different music styles. Opens Jan. 6 at Hollywood Theatre. **A**

—YPB

## The New World

Like other Terrence Malick films, this historical drama features gorgeous cinematography and poetic voice-over narration. But unlike his 1970s masterpieces, *Badlands* and *Days of Heaven*, his latest effort has a preachy tone that's hard to stomach, and much of the dialogue is flat-out corny. In keeping with his recent clump of crappy performances, Colin Farrell lacks charisma as John Smith, the Brit who woos Pocahontas amid warfare between English settlers and Native Americans in 1607 Virginia. For all its beauty and epic grandeur, the picture never fully engages. And to the dismay of gay men everywhere, Pocahontas doesn't belt out "Colors of the Wind" in this version of the story. Opens Jan. 13. **B-**

—SB

## Rumor Has It...

"I've always thought Mrs. Robinson was the most interesting character in *The Graduate*," says a character in this lackluster sequel (of sorts) to the seminal 1967 classic. The same can be said of Shirley MacLaine, who is the only sign of life here as the Pasadena matron who presumably inspired the character. **C**

—Floyd Sklaver 10



Kip Pardue (left) and Michael Kelly star in *Loggerheads*.



Shea Steel  
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503-282-4000 Ext 112  
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