

film

Basic Instinct 2

If your instincts are telling you to see this sequel for cheap thrills, do yourself a favor and ignore them. Sure, there are some unintentionally hilarious moments involving 110 mph car sex and a wet and wild Jacuzzi brawl. For the most part, though, it's a tedious and convoluted mess that's bound to sweep this year's Razzie Awards. Despite some nude scenes and belabored attempts to ooze sex appeal, Sharon Stone fails to titillate as novelist and suspected murderess Catherine Tramell. But she looks like Meryl Streep compared to British actor David Morrissey, who has no charisma whatsoever in the pivotal role of Catherine's psychiatrist. **D+**

—Stephen Blair

Brick

If you like the verbal storytelling of Dashiell Hammett novels, then you will like this movie, too. Rian Johnson's writing/directing debut is an homage to film noir set in a modern Southern California high school. A student's (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) ex-girlfriend (Emilie de Ravin) vanishes, and he has to find the damsel in distress. Encountering fellow students with a lot of issues, he takes an interesting journey while learning more about himself. Richard Roundtree is impressive as the assistant vice principal. **B**

—Yvonne P. Behrens

Don't Come Knocking

Written by and starring Sam Shephard and directed by Wim Wenders (*Wings of Desire*), this



You've come a long way, baby: Sharon Stone with Leilani Sarelle in 1992's *Basic Instinct* (top) and with Charlotte Rampling in the sequel.

film tells the story of Howard Spence, a former Western movie star who, at the age of 60, has seen better days. Upon learning that he might have a child somewhere, he tries everything to find the person so his life won't be completely meaningless. Along the search he discovers a whole life he has missed. Featuring wonderful performances by Jessica Lange and Tim Roth as well as screen veterans Eva Marie Saint and George Kennedy. **A-**

—YPB

Lonesome Jim

Actor Steve Buscemi directed this dramedy about a 27-year-old (Casey Affleck) who, after failing in New York as a writer, moves back in with his Midwest parents and falls in love with a nurse (Liv Tyler). The movie is painfully honest about average people's lives, and that is what makes it not just funny but also heart-wrenching to see. While the story isn't completely revealed until the end, viewers will enjoy the humor, and I assume a lot of them will relate to the character and situations. Opens April 14. **B**

—YPB

Lucky Number Slevin

Scottish director Paul McGuigan (*Wicker Park*) really keeps us on our toes with this noirish comic thriller involving a case of mistaken identity, crime and revenge where nothing is as it seems. If you can stomach the bloody violence while people are getting killed left and right, this film will keep you guessing until everything fits neatly together at the end. Featuring an incredible cast led by Josh

Hartnett, Bruce Willis and Lucy Liu and supported by Morgan Freeman, Ben Kingsley and Stanley Tucci. **B**

—YPB

Take the Lead

This drama from video director Liz Friedlander (R.E.M.'s "The Great Beyond") is based on the true story of former professional ballroom dancer Pierre Dulane (Antonio Banderas), who volunteers to teach dance in New York's public school system. Yes, this sounds familiar to *Mad Hot Ballroom*, but it is a fascinating feel-good film. As in last year's hit documentary, the urban kids (led by Rob Brown of *Finding Forrester*) are the stars of the movie, creating a completely new dance style blending ballroom and hip-hop moves. **A-**

—YPB

Thank You for Smoking

Christopher Buckley's 2004 novel about a slick spokesman for the tobacco industry was a scathing indictment of corporate lobbyists and the influence they exert in Washington, D.C. The author's protagonist is a member of the M.O.D. (Merchants of Death) squad, a semi-secret weekly lunch club that consists of him and fellow flacks for the National Rifle Association and the alcohol industry. While director Jason Reitman's adaptation is provocative and interesting, ultimately Aaron Eckhart as the lead character is too mild-mannered for the satire to soar. **B**

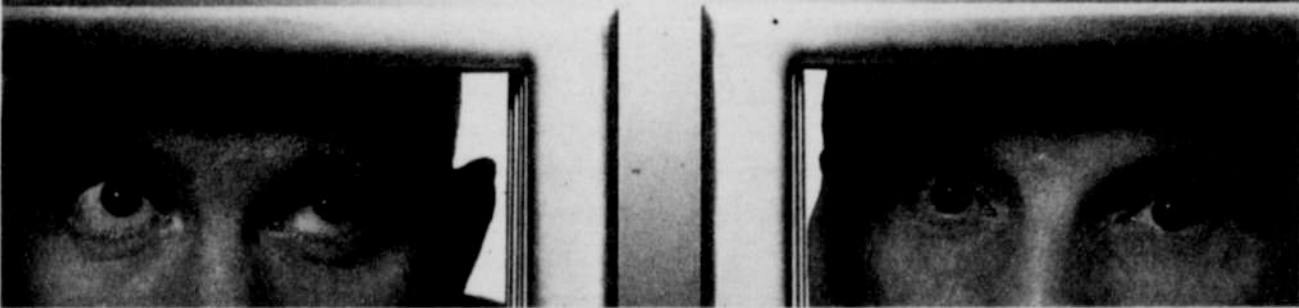
—Floyd Sklover **JO**

by ITAMAR MOSES
directed by CHRIS COLEMAN
WORLD PREMIERE
Celebrity Row



"Sure to lodge a satisfying lump of fear and fascination in your throat."

—Willamette Week



MARCH 21 - APRIL 16, 2006

503 274-6588 1111 SW Broadway

tickets start at \$20

www.PCS.ORG

30 & UNDER
Sun-Thurs **\$15**

PORTLAND
**CENTER
STAGE
THEATER
LIVE**

Mentor
Graphics

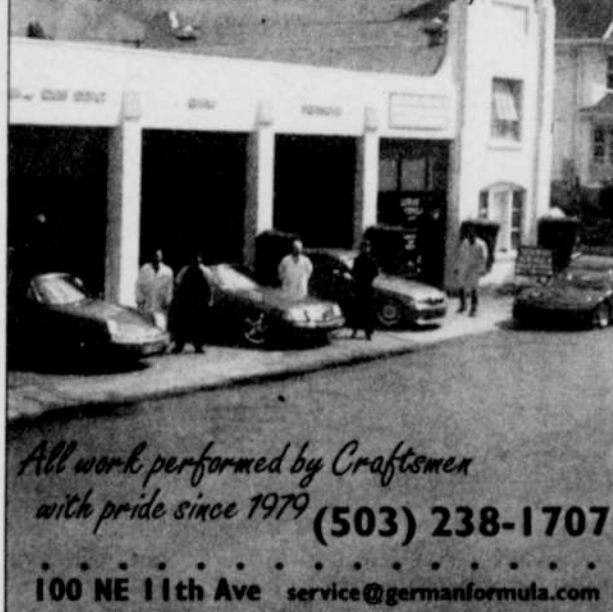
Higgins

katu

link
fm102Portland
monthly

German Formula Inc.

Repair Facility & Collision Center
BMW, Mercedes & Porsche exclusively



All work performed by Craftsmen
with pride since 1979 (503) 238-1707

100 NE 11th Ave service@germanformula.com

mp

Great Rates
Competitive Pricing
Open Communication
Friendly & prompt
service
Scheduled updates
during the loan process

MIKE POPNOE, Mortgage Consultant

10300 SW Greenburg Road, Suite 590
Portland, OR 97223
Phone: 503-768-5100 • Fax: 503-768-9011
Email: mpopnoe@source-one-financial.com

Westside Florist

Our professionals
will arrange
your delivery

(503) 642-9992
1-800-356-1884

Aloha Market Centre
20455 SW TV Highway
www.westsideflorist.net

Don Duncan
owner

Teleflora

Promoting Natural
Habitats for People
and Wildlife

Full Service Provider:
landscape design to
installation!

Circadian
Consulting & Design, LLC

Gail A. Dresner
Professional Landscape Designer
503.349.4578 (cell)
http://circadian.us/ • LCB# 8343