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## film

### Bobby

Emilio Estevez wrote and directed this excellent film about 22 extraordinary characters (portrayed by a stellar cast including Anthony Hopkins, Helen Hunt, Laurence Fishburne, William H. Macy and Sharon Stone) 16 hours before the assassination of U.S. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy on June 6, 1968, mixed in with historical footage. People believed Kennedy was going to do some great things, and we'll never know if he would have, but the saddest thing is that 40 years later, the United States is still struggling and fighting for equal rights for all. **B**

—Yvonne P. Behrens

### Casino Royale

Does the new blond James Bond (Daniel Craig) hold up to the ones who came before? Certainly! With a breathtaking opening scene, we are introduced to 007 before he got his license to kill. Director Martin Campbell (*The Mask of Zorro*) sends us on an action-packed journey set, as usual, in exotic places around the world while Bond pursues a banker to the world's terrorist organizations. The audience can relax a little in between the thrills when the movie slows down to focus on his romance with Vesper Lynd (Eva Green) before the final showdown at a poker game. One thing that did not live up to expectations was the soundtrack, but that is just a minor quibble. **A**

—YPB

### Encounter Point

A nonviolent approach to peace is at the heart of this touching yet unsentimental documentary about reconciliation between grieving Israelis and Palestinians. Hardened animosity, rooted in holy Scripture for millennia, seems poised to bend as directors Ronit Avni and Julia Bacha highlight grassroots efforts by organizations like the Bereaved Families Forum. A mother who lost her son, an Israeli soldier guarding a settlement against his will, states the activists' aims succinctly: "We are not pro-Israeli or pro-Palestinian. We're pro-solution." Opens Dec. 1 at Hollywood Theatre. **A**

—Malka Geffen

### Fast Food Nation

A failed departure from the 2001 Eric Schlosser book by the same name, *Fast Food Nation* missteps

with interwoven narrative in the spirit of Steven Soderbergh's dazzlingly complex *Traffic*. The film—featuring an ensemble cast composed of Greg Kinnear, Ethan Hawke, Luis Guzman, Patricia Arquette, Kris Kristofferson, Lou Taylor Pucci, Wilmer Valderrama, Bruce Willis and Avril Lavigne—peaks at an unflinching slaughterhouse scene that omnivores should see with eyes wide open. **C-**

—Jaymee R. Cuti

### For Your Consideration

Christopher Guest (*Waiting for Guffman*, *Best in Show*) again proves he's among the funniest directors working today. Moving away from his customary mockumentary style, he turns his satiric attention toward Hollywood itself as he tells the tale of a faded star who believes a rumor that her comeback performance is Oscar-worthy. Aided by his usual troupe of actors (including the wonderful Parker Posey playing an actress cast as a lesbian), Guest skewers filmmaking and its assorted vain characters with wit and intelligence. **B+**

—Floyd Sklaver

### A Good Year

Based on Peter Mayle's book, this romantic comedy by director Ridley Scott (*Thelma & Louise*) stars Russell Crowe as Max, a British stockbroker who inherits a vineyard in Provence, France. After his arrival there, he needs to decide if his life so far is what he wants or if he has to make changes. The cinematography beautifully captures the region's natural charm. Don't dismiss this as a chick flick; it sure makes a great date movie! **B**

—YPB

### Happy Feet

Since last year's hit documentary *March of the Penguins*, we have been swamped with penguins—in commercials, in toys and now in this really cute animated musical by director George Miller (*Babe: Pig in the City*). A talented cast (Robin Williams, Nicole Kidman, Hugh Jackman and Elijah Wood) provides voices for the story of a young Emperor Penguin who faces the huge challenge of finding his soulmate even though he cannot sing. A rare film for the whole family. **A-**

—YPB



*For Your Consideration* stars Parker Posey (right) as an actress cast as a lesbian in the fictional drama *Home for Purim*.