

film**Arctic Tale**

Director Sarah Robertson's film fits perfectly with the timely discussions about global warming. Make no mistake—this is not a nice little children's documentary. *Arctic Tale* has two parts, narrated beautifully by Queen Latifah with breathtaking cinematography, that realistically show the hard fight for survival involving a walrus and her calf and a polar bear and her cub. Although the film is funny at times and will touch the viewer's heart, it uses dramatization in other parts and hopefully be another wakeup call that we have to do something to preserve our planet. Opens Aug. 10. **A**

—Yvonne P. Behrens

Becoming Jane

With *Pride & Prejudice*, Jane Austen proved that even 200 years ago, most first novels are semi-autobiographical. But director Julian Jarrold has crafted a film about Austen that's devoid of the passions and wit that infuse her novels. Anne Hathaway (*The Devil Wears Prada*) mumbles her way through, and James McAvoy as the love interest of *Becoming Jane* is simply unbecoming. **C**

—Floyd Sklaver

The Bourne Ultimatum

Matt Damon returns as Jason Bourne, the moralistic government hit man who only wants to find out the truth about his past before disappearing, but the government that spawned him wants him dead before he finds out their secrets. Director Paul Greengrass (*United 93*) stages an action film that is so visceral and realistic that when punches are thrown, you might duck. Taut and engaging from start to finish, this is an extended chase film, and an excellent chase film at that. **A-**

—Andy Mangels



A flamboyant farmer struggles to save his soil in *The Real Dirt on Farmer John*.

Brooklyn Rules

Michael Corrente's entertaining movie tells the story of three friends who grew up in Brooklyn in the 1980s and how their choices affect each other's lives. Desperately trying to get away from his *Scooby-Doo* image, Freddie Prinze Jr. does a decent job as the good guy. *Brooklyn Rules* has all the classic ingredients of a mob movie. Opens Aug. 3 at Hollywood Theatre. **B**

—YPB

I Don't Want to Sleep Alone

The movies of gay Taiwanese director Tsai Ming-liang tend to inspire one of two reactions. Fans see visual tableaux worthy of Vermeer and

Caravaggio, in the service of stories about mysterious characters in absurd (often sexually strange) situations. Detractors, put off by Tsai's glacial pacing, tend to run for the exit. *I Don't Want to Sleep Alone* won't change anybody's mind. But for adventurous viewers, this beautifully shot, heartfelt film about a homeless man and a paralyzed guy, both being lovingly (and sometimes sexually) attended by, respectively, a male Bangladeshi guest worker and the beleaguered daughter of a mean "boss lady," will surprise and captivate. Opens Aug. 3 at Living Room Theaters. **A**

—Gary Morris

The Real Dirt on Farmer John

John Peterson isn't gay, although you'd never know it from his effeminate manner and his penchant for cross-dressing. Riding a tractor with a boa wrapped around his neck, he looks more like a glam rock icon than an organic farmer who plies his customers with bell peppers and broccoli. This enjoyable, folksy documentary by Taggart Siegel follows Peterson from his childhood on a Midwestern farm to the present, with tales of family tragedies and financial woes along the way. The most interesting scenes take place in the late 1960s, when Peterson turned the farm into an agricultural artist's colony of sorts. Opens Aug. 10 at Hollywood Theatre; Peterson and Siegel will answer questions after screenings during opening weekend. **B+**

—Stephen Blair

Rescue Dawn

Werner Herzog wrote and directed this movie version of his 1997 documentary *Little Dieter Needs to Fly* about a U.S. soldier (Christian Bale) whose plane is brought down over Laos during a secret bombing mission in 1966 and who faces torture and starvation

at a prison camp in the jungle. The movie is about survival of the body and the mind. Steve Zahn and Jeremy Davies lead a brilliant supporting cast, and the cinematography is wonderful, underlined by a beautiful score from Klaus Badelt. **A-**

—YPB

The Simpsons Movie

An experience of *Star Wars* proportions for Duff-swilling, Ralphie Wiggum-quoting cult members occurred July 27. Church of Yellow swung its doors open and *The Simpsons* devotees paid for a meal they'd received at no cost for nearly 20 years. Despite the irrelevance of a review for a film that fanatics have already seen twice—judging from record box office reports—*The Simpsons Movie* delivered. More than a quadruple-sized episode, it offered stunning animation without CG pizzazz; a promise that obscure characters have a moment of screen time; and more innuendo than your reliable Sunday pastime. Sequel? **A+**

—Jaymee R. Cuti

Stanley Kubrick Retrospective

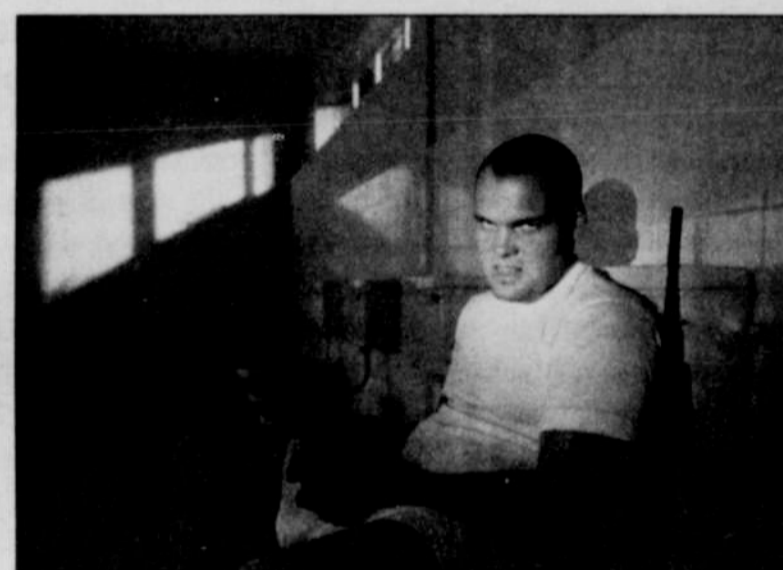
Throughout the lion's share of August, the Northwest Film Center presents a retrospective of the late, great Stanley Kubrick. As one of America's greatest independent film mavericks, he stands in the company of Orson Welles, Robert Altman and the British-born Alfred Hitchcock. Whitsell Auditorium will celebrate his legacy by screening all 12 of his feature films: famous opuses like *A Clockwork Orange* and *Dr. Strangelove* alongside early works such as *Spartacus* and *The Killing*, made before Kubrick broke entirely with the studio system to work as an independent producer. For a complete schedule visit www.nwfilm.org.

—Tony LeTigre

Walking to Werner

Inspired by Werner Herzog's walk from Munich to Paris in 1974 to see a dying friend, nontraditional documentarian Linas Phillips takes off in the summer of 2005 to walk 1,200 miles from Seattle to Los Angeles to meet the legendary filmmaker in person. Following Phillips' encounters on the road—interspersed with engrossing e-mails and voicemails from Herzog—will leave a huge impression on the audience. What an incredible journey! Opens Aug. 4 at Hollywood Theatre. **A**

—YPB



Crazy for Kubrick? Then don't miss the Northwest Film Center's retrospective featuring these loony fellows: from left, Jack Nicholson in *The Shining*, Malcolm McDowell in *A Clockwork Orange* and Vincent D'Onofrio in *Full Metal Jacket*.

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