

## film

### The Invasion

Smartly written and excellently paced, this latest reiteration of *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* finds a space fungus taking people over while they sleep. Nicole Kidman plays a psychiatrist who stumbles onto the truth and spends the rest of the film trying to rescue her son and avoid falling asleep. Full of intriguing political sidelines—is the world of the emotionless but relatively peaceful fungus-people better than our war-driven existence?—this is a classy thriller that deserves audience support. **A-**

—Andy Mangels

### Rocket Science

Jeffrey Blitz (*Spellbound*) won top directing honors at Sundance for this dark coming-of-age comedy about a stuttering teenager cast adrift in the fast-talking world of high school debate competitions. Like Todd Solondz's *Welcome to the Dollhouse* and Wes Anderson's *Rushmore*, the film delivers a razor-sharp screenplay and a breakthrough performance by an unknown teen actor. The charmingly gawky Reece Thompson evokes all the humiliation, heartaches and transient joy that adolescence has to offer. *Fargo* fans can rejoice that Steve Park of Mike Yanagita fame has a hilarious supporting role. **A**

—Stephen Blair

### 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](http://www.nwfilm.org).

—Tony LeTigre

### Stardust

Young Tristan dreams of marrying the prettiest girl in his sleepy English village, and when a falling star crashes to the Earth, he goes over the forbidden wall in the woods to find her. Not unlike a certain Kansas tornado, he is deposited in the magical land of Stormhold, where he soon comes in contact with evil witches, unicorns and a dwindling cadre of murderous successors to the rightful throne. When the star turns out to be a cranky girl (Claire Danes), only the gay captain of a flying pirate ship can help him find his true love.

With a pedigreed cast—as the lead witch, Michelle Pfeiffer gobbles the scenery like a bear at a buffet—and a script based on the excellent Neil Gaiman's graphic novel, I wanted to enjoy *Stardust* much more than I did, but I can't pigeonhole what bothered me most. Perhaps it's the overstuffed plot, which seems to drag more the busier it gets. Or it could be Robert De Niro's gay pirate, who is both charming and horribly stereotyped. Mostly my annoyance was with Danes, whose scowl brought the film into the mud during every scene in which she appeared. *Stardust* strives to be high fantasy but only rarely achieves its goals. **C+**

—AM



Are ye talkin' to me? Robert De Niro plays a closeted gay pirate in *Stardust*.

### Summertime

This documentary about a summer camp in northern Wisconsin was directed by Sarah Price (*The Yes Men*) and musician Bradley Beesley of the Flaming Lips, who delivered the film's soundtrack. The kids are natural, the comments are honest, and the editing is great. Opens Aug. 25 at Hollywood Theatre. **A-**

—Yvonne P. Behrens

### The Ten

Perhaps responding to the theocratic overtures in our government since President Bush and company stole office in 2000, co-writers Ken Marino and David Wain decided to take an irreverent approach as well in *The Ten*. Comical and worthwhile to watch (at least at home), the primary problem with *The Ten* is that it lacks guts. Perchance the filmmakers did this to make a commentary on our nonchalance today toward the Ten Commandments, but it makes for some

rather tame filmmaking. Opens Aug. 17 at Cinema 21. **B-**

—John Esther

### This Is England

This movie is based on director Shane Meadows' (*Dead Man's Shoes*) experience as a young boy growing up in working-class Britain under Margaret Thatcher's regime in the early '80s. A 12-year-old named Shaun (wonderfully played by newcomer Thomas Turgoose) finds a new family by befriending some Skinheads who are into music, parties and Doc Martin boots. Things change when ex-member Combo (Steven Graham) is released from prison; he soon causes a rift and becomes the catalyst to change the group into a militant, racist force. Filled with great dialogue and brilliant cinematography, *This Is England* is a wonderful portrait of the culture and politics of this time. Opens Aug. 24 at Hollywood Theatre. **A**

—YPB 10

hip  
**CHICKS**

do  
**WINE**

Join Us For Our  
**6th Year Anniversary Party**

A.K.A. The Belly Button Wine Festival

\$8 admission for one or \$15 for two

**Saturday, Aug. 18<sup>th</sup> 6pm - 9pm**

Live Music by Carlyle  
Wine Tasting • Tasty Treats

- Winery and Tasting Room **Open Daily 11am - 6pm**
- 4510 SE 23RD AVE. PORTLAND • 503-234-3790
- [www.hipchicksdowine.com](http://www.hipchicksdowine.com)

(see our website for directions & events)

**knowing**  
makes a difference

**test for HIV**

if you like to play

(& get results while you wait  
if your partner's positive or you're  
into man-on-man action)

Always confidential  
Portland • 503.988.3775  
**FREE TEST** with ad

**Six Intimate Theaters**

**The Best in Foreign  
and Independent Film**

**Gourmet Cuisine  
and Full Bar**

**LIVING ROOM  
THEATERS**

No Minors after 3:30pm

SEE IT.  
Executive cinematography.  
Memorable characters.  
Hardly scenes in the  
safe urban living room.

**Cinema Has Come to its Senses™**

341 SW 10th Ave at the corner of Stark | [www.livingroomtheatres.com](http://www.livingroomtheatres.com) | 971.222.2010

**Everyone needs  
a good  
fairy  
in their life!**

*Why do my customers come back again and again? Because we work our magic to make the mortgage process painless and fun. Find out for yourself!*

- Free Loan Consultations
- First-time Home Buyers
- Refinancing
- Debt Consolidation
- 2nd's & Equity Lines
- Credit Challenged
- \$0 Down Loans
- Reverse Mortgages

**Christine C. Hall**  
Senior Loan Consultant

*Proudly Serving Oregon and  
Washington for over 13 years.*

**503-481-0574**