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Demetrius

Demetrius

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film

Bigger, Stronger, Faster

This must-see documentary takes an honest, firsthand look into the world of steroid use and abuse. First-time director Chris Bell and his two brothers grew up idolizing muscle men like Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sylvester Stallone and became members of the steroid subculture. The movie takes a critical look at the United States, where the winning and reward mentality is in our daily life, and asks if it is really surprising that many U.S. heroes are using performance-enhancing drugs. *Bigger, Stronger, Faster* manages to span the political, competitive and personal effects of steroids and will be an eye-opener for a lot of people. (Seeing the arms of one of the men is truly mind-blowing.) Opens June 20. **A**

—Yvonne P. Behrens

Gus Van Sant's Death Trilogy

Shortly after achieving mainstream success with *Good Will Hunting* and *Finding Forrester*, Portland queer filmmaker Gus Van Sant bravely went back to his experimental roots with this series, which is being revived by the Northwest Film Center. 2002's *Gerry* (9 p.m. June 13) was challengingly slow, but the bleak imagery of two men lost in the desert made it worth the effort. 2003's haunting *Elephant* (9 p.m. June 14) gave us a voyeuristic vantage point as a Columbine-esque school shooting unfolded. 2005's tedious *Last Days* (8 p.m. June 15) failed to offer any insight into Kurt Cobain's suicide—although I did leave the theater feeling very, very depressed. *Gerry*: **B** *Elephant*: **A** *Last Days*: **D**

—Jim Radosta

House of Usher/Kiss Me Deadly

Hollywood Theatre opens a two-for-the-price-of-one double feature of gay twists on classic titles June 13. Both were unavailable for review, so buyer beware.

In *Kiss Me Deadly*, ex-spy Jacob Keane is drawn back into the shadowy world of international espionage when his former partner Marta (Shannen Doherty) reappears after 17 years, her memory erased, on the run from a pair of ruthless assassins working for an unknown entity. Jacob and Marta have no idea who wants them dead, or why. Their path leads them all back into the high-stakes world of international espionage and mortal danger as they must elude a mysterious villain looking to gain classified information at any cost.

In Edgar Allen Poe's *House of Usher*, when a young man, Victor, visits his old friend Roderick Usher and Usher's sister Madelene at their crumbling family estate, he discovers the two decaying as quickly as their mansion. He soon discovers that the only thing keeping the Ushers alive is a terrifying secret. The gay update is directed by Portland native David DeCoteau.

The Incredible Hulk

Hoping that most viewers will be ready for a more turbo-charged relaunch of the Hulk (after the coma-inducing Ang Lee adaptation in 2003), Marvel Studios has unleashed its latest attempt to smash filmgoers' wallets. This time out Edward Norton plays the brooding Bruce Banner, on the run from government agents, who want to use the mutations in his gamma-powered blood to create bioweapons. All too soon, he runs afoul of the



Casey Affleck (left) and Matt Damon get lost in the desert in Gus Van Sant's *Gerry*.

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