

OPENING OR RETURNING:
Play 9 from Outer Space: Ed Wood's 1958 sci-fi classic makes everybody's worst films ever list, but a movie this bad is worth seeing. Bela Lugosi stars, although he died months before the filming. He appears by virtue of silent film snippets. Hilariously awful. Plays at 6 pm at DIVA; discussion follows.

Russian Ark (Russia, 2001): Alexander Sokurov's cinematic achievement – one 96-minute, uninterrupted shot – is a tour of the Hermitage in St. Petersburg, long the repository of Russian (and European) art and history. This fantasy journey through 300 years of Russian history is hosted by a 19th century aristocrat. NR. Plays at 7 pm on Jan. 4 in 115 Pacific, UO campus. In Russian with English subtitles. Free. **Online archives.**

CONTINUING:
After the Sunset: Just one more heist and he'll retire, master thief Pierce Brosnan promises his girlfriend (Salma Hayek). But a pesky FBI agent (Woody Harrelson) comes to his island paradise. Bret Ratner directs; also stars the great Don Cheadle. R. Movies 12.
Aviator, The: Martin Scorsese's 169-minute film about lover, aviation pioneer and eccentric billionaire industrialist Howard Hughes stars Leonardo DiCaprio as Hughes, with Cate Blanchett, Kate Beckinsale, John C. Reilly, Alec Baldwin

lude Law, Alan Alda, Frances Conroy and Ian Holm. DiCaprio is brilliant in the role, and Scorsese makes the film his own. One of the best films of the year. Very highest recommendations. PG-13. Cinemark. Cinema World. **See review this issue.**

Blade: Trinity: Vampire hunter Blade (Wesley Snipes) is back. Meanwhile, vampire leaders are bringing back the rejuvenated Dracula, their progenitor, who's now called Drake (Dominic Purcell). Yikes! Written and directed by David Goyer and based on the Marvel Comics character, the film also stars Kris Kristofferson, Ryan Reynolds, Jessica Biel, Parker Posey and Natasha Lyonne. R. Cinemark.

Bourne Supremacy, The: Paul Greengrass (writer, director of *Bloody Sunday*) directs Matt Damon as assassin Jason Bourne in the second installment of Robert Ludlum's espionage thrillers. Also stars Joan Allen, Brian Cox, Julia Stiles, Kurt Urban and Franka Potente. One of the summer's best films. Highly recommended. PG-13. Movies 12. **Online archives.**

Bridget Jones The Edge of Reason: Lackluster Bridget Jones sequel stars Renee Zellweger, Colin Firth and Hugh Grant again. Directed by Beeban Kidron, romantic comedy also stars Jacinda Barrett, Jemma Jones and Jim Broadbent. R. Movies 12. **Online archives.**

Christmas With the Kranks: Based on John Grisham's *Skipping Christmas*, this comedy stars Jamie Lee Curtis, Julie Gonzalo and Tim Allen and is directed by Joe Roth. Also stars Dan Aykroyd,

Heech Marin and M. Emmet Walsh. PG. Cinemark.

Closer: Director Mike Nichols (*Angels in America*) looks at the relationships of four strangers, played by Julia Roberts, Jude Law, Natalie Portman and Clive Owen. Outstanding performances by all four make this a film not to be missed. Shows the anger, resentment and folly that result from such high-voltage matters as fidelity, sexuality and relationship. Ignore the negatives and see it. Very highest recommendations. One of 2004's top movies. R. Cinemark. **Online archives.**

Darkness: Fright-filled horror movie written and directed by Jaume Balagueró, it's about a family that moves into a haunted house where horrible things happened. Stars Anna Paquin, with Lena Olin, Iain Glen and Giancarlo Giannini. Despite mild rating, film is reported to be nightmare-material. PG-13. Cinemark.

Fat Albert: Bill Cosby character debuts in a live-action and animated film based on Cosby's stand-up routines about growing up in Philly. Directed by Joel Zwick. PG. Cinemark.

Finding Neverland: Johnny Depp stars as British playwright J.M. Barrie, based on Allan Knee's play, *The Man Who Was Peter Pan*. Directed by Marc Foster, it also stars Kate Winslet, Julie Christie, Radha Mitchell and Dustin Hoffman. Winslet and Depp's performances are radiant, but the real star of the show is 12 year-old Freddie Highmore, playing the actual child, Peter Llewelyn Davies, who inspired Barrie's play. The picture is heartbreaking, gorgeous and probably too compli-

targeted for young children. PG. Cinema World. **Online archives.**

Flight of the Phoenix: Using Robert Aldrich's 1965 adventure film as his base, John Moore updates the main story, in which crash survivors in the vast, remote Gobi Desert attempt to put their fractured plane together and fly out. Stars include Giovanni Ribisi, Dennis Quaid and Jacob Vargas. PG-13. Cinemark. Cinema World.

Forgotten, The: Julianne Moore is a grieving parent. She learns from her psychiatrist (Gary Sinise) and others that her 8-year-old son never existed. Directed by Joseph Ruben, the film also stars Dominic West, Alfred Woodard, Linus Roache, Anthony Edwards. PG-13. Movies 12.

Garden State: Zach Braff wrote, directed and stars in this funny, resonant romantic comedy, which co-stars Natalie Portman, Peter Sarsgaard and Ian Holm. Braff and Portman help the film get to a truth about what it is to be 20-something in the early years of the 21st century. Highest recommendations. R. Movies 12.

Online Archives.

Incredibles, The: Writer/director Brad Bird and Pixar Animation Studios create an action-adventure story set in suburbia where a former top crime fighter, Mr. Incredible, gets the call to jump back into actions. PG. Cinemark. **Online archives.**

Kinsey: Bill Condon's excellent film about human sexual researcher Alfred Kinsey stars Liam Neeson, Laura Linney and Peter Sarsgaard. Frank, open-hearted and genuinely humorous, this is a must-see movie. An entertaining and enlightening antidote to the bedroom politics of the religious right and one of 2004's best, the film gets my highest recommendations. R. Biju. **Online archives.**

Ladder 49: Stars John Travolta and Joaquin Phoenix as Baltimore firemen. PG. Movies 12.

Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events: *The New York Times* calls the Lemony Snicket books "mordantly funny," but the stories of the misadventures of three orphans who fall into the hands of an evil cult are popular with children and adults. Jim Carrey plays said count, three game kids bedevil him, and Meryl Streep, Timothy Spall, Billy Connolly, Luis Guzmán, Jennifer Coolidge, Jane Adams and Catherine O'Hara help. Directed by Brad Silberling and written by Robert Gordon. PG. Cinema World. Cinemark.

Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou: Wes Anderson's new ensemble comedy stars

Bill Murray as a famed underwater adventure filmmaker who's run into some big waves and is going under. Co-stars Owen Wilson, Anjelica Huston, Cate Blanchett, Michael Gambon and Willem Dafoe. R. Cinema World. Cinemark.

Meet the Fockers: Jay Roach follows *Meet the Parents* (2000) with Ben Stiller's bride and in-laws to be Teri Polo, Robert De Niro and Blythe Danner meeting his rather eccentric parents, Dustin Hoffman and Barbara Streisand. Culture clash writ small. PG-13. Cinemark. Cinema World.

Napoleon Dynamite: Jared Hess' indie comedy stars Jon Heder as a high schooler, who lives in Idaho with his grandmother. The *Village Voice* says, "the film is an epic, masterfully observed pastiche on all-American geekhood, flooring the competition with a petulant shove." PG. Movies 12.

National Treasure: Directed by Jon Turteltob and producer Jerry Bruckheimer, adventure stars Nicolas Cage searching for treasure George Washington hid during the Revolutionary War. Sean Bean plays his British rival who's anxious to score the treasure first. PG. Cinemark.

Ocean's Twelve: Director Steven Soderbergh returns with the gang: George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, Don Cheadle, Bernie Mac, Andy Garcia, Julia Roberts and newly Catherine Zeta-Jones. A recent group interview in *Premiere* makes reveals they had a blast making this sequel. Highly recommended for its unabashedly confident entertainment value. PG-13. Cinemark. Cinema World. **Online archives.**

Phantom of the Opera, The: The Andrew Lloyd Webber musical is brought to the screen by Joel Schumacher. It stars Emmy Rossum, Gerard Butler and Patrick Wilson. Unfortunately, under Schumacher's insipid direction, kitsch dominates. If you already love the work, you may enjoy the film, but the too-sweet sentimentality is too much for me. PG-13. Cinemark. **See review this issue.**

Polar Express, The: Robert Zemeckis directs a wholly CG animation adventure, starring Tom Hanks in multiple roles in this adaptation of children's book by Chris Van Allsburg. Called "performance capture," the technique uses actors' live-action performances to drive the emotions and movements of the digital characters. G. Cinemark. Cinema World.

Ray: Jamie Foxx plays late, great Ray Charles in this musical, biographical drama, directed by Taylor Hackford. Co-stars Kerry Washington, Regina King,

Cliffon Powell, Harry Lennix, Terrence Dashon Howard, Richard Schiff, Anjunae Eshon and Sharon Warren. Outstanding performance by Fox. One of the year's finest films. PG-13. Movies 12. **Online archives.**

Shall We Dance: American remake of the sublime Japanese film of the same title. Sorry to report it, but Jennifer Lopez plays the dance teacher and Richard Gere the shy man who learns to dance. See the original to compare to this all-Hollywood effort. PG-13. Movies 12.

Shark Tale: In this computer-animated feature, a lovable tropical fish with the voice of Will Smith takes on the underwater Mafia when he assumes responsibility for killing the godfather of the Great White Sharks. Other voices include those of Jack Black, Robert De Niro, Renée Zellweger, Angelina Jolie and Martin Scorsese; Eric Bergeron. Directed by Vicky Jensen. PG. Movies 12.

Sideways: Fresh social comedy by Alexander Payne follows two guys on a bachelor week in California wine country. Great performances by Paul Giamatti (*American Splendor*) and Thomas Haden Church ("Wings") sweetens the tale, as do Virginia Madsen and Sandra Oh. One of the best films of the year. Don't miss. R. Bijou. **Online archives.**

Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow: Starring Jude Law, Gwyneth Paltrow and Angelina Jolie, this digital special effects sci-fi action film was shot without sets and locations. Brainchild: writer/director Kerry Conran in collaboration with producer Jon Avnet. Other stars include Giovanni Ribisi, Michael Gambon and Bai Ling. PG. Movies 12. **Online archives.**

Spanishfly: James L. Brooks's comedy/drama stars Adam Sandler, Tea Leoni, Anne Bancroft and Paz Vega. A non-English speaking woman goes to work for an upscale LA family. PG-13. Cinemark. Cinema World.

SpongeBob SquarePants: Animated feature starring one of Nickelodeon's most absorbing characters. Voices by Alec Baldwin, Scarlett Johansson and others. PG. Cinemark.

Without a Paddle: High-speed comedy adventure stars Seth Green, Matthew Lillard and Dax Shepard as clueless adventurers who go into the Oregon wilderness in search of lost treasure. PG-13. Movies 12.

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