

Opening This Week — Sept. 28

BIG BUDGET FILMS

Hotel Transylvania (PG for action, rude humor and scary images) Animated romantic comedy about the Dracula's daughter (Selena Gomez) who, over the objections of her father (Adam Sandler), falls in love with a mere mortal (Andy Samberg). Voice cast includes Kevin James, Ceelo Green, Steve Buscemi and Jon Lovitz.

Looper (R for profanity, sexuality, nudity, drug use and graphic violence) Sci-fi thriller, set in 2042, about a mob hit man (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) who has no qualms about time-traveling to carry out contracts until he is ordered to assassinate his future self (Bruce Willis). With Emily Blunt, Paul Dano, Jeff Daniels and Piper Perabo.

Won't Back Down (PG for mature themes and mild epithets) Fact-based, female empowerment saga, set in



KAM'S CAPSULES

Movie Reviews by Kam Williams

Pittsburgh, about a jaded teacher (Viola Davis) and a frustrated single-mom (Maggie Gyllenhaal) who join forces to turn around an underperforming public school. A-list cast includes Ving Rhames, Academy Award-winner Holly Hunter (for *The Piano*), and Oscar-nominees Rosie Perez (for *Fearless*) and Marianne Jean-Baptiste (for *Secrets & Lies*).

INDEPENDENT & FOREIGN FILMS

American Autumn (Unrated) Occupation Wall Street-inspired documen-

tary speculating about what the world would look like if capitalism were replaced by an economic system that put human need above corporate greed.

Bear City 2: The Proposal (Unrated) Homoerotic sequel reunites the hirsute, gay gang from Manhattan in Provincetown, Mass., for a wild, week-long bachelor party in anticipation of two pals' (Joe Conti and Gerald McCullouch) same-sex wedding. With Kevin Smith, Kathy Najimy and Richard Riehle.

Bringing Up Bobby (PG-13 for profanity, sexuality and drug use) Famke Jansen makes her writing and directorial debut with this dysfunctional family comedy about a European con artist (Milla Jovovich) on the run from the law who settles with her son (Spencer List) in Oklahoma hoping to escape her shady past. Co-starring Bill Pull-

man, Marcia Cross and Rory Cochrane.

Headshot (Unrated) Revenge thriller, set in Thailand, about an honest cop (Nopachai Chaiyanam) who turns vigilante after being framed for a crime he didn't commit. Plot thickens when he's shot in the head and emerges from a coma seeing the world upside-down. With Sirin Horwang, Chanokporn Sayoungkul and Apisit Opasaimlikit. (In Thai with subtitles)

The Hole (PG-13 for violence, profanity and frightening images) Haunted house horror flick about a single-mom (Teri Polo) who moves with her kids (Nathan Gamble and Chris Massoglia) from New York City to a new home in the country only to unwittingly open a gateway to hell when they unlock a hatch over a bottomless hole in the basement. With Haley Bennett, Bruce Dern and Quinn Lord.



Viola Davis and Maggie Gyllenhaal in 'Won't Back Down'

My Life as Abraham Lincoln (Unrated) Surreal, dark comedy about a blushing bride (Caroline Luft) whose life spirals out of control after she murders her fiancé (Trevor Nelson) on their wedding day. With Gerry Birnbach, Jennifer Lynn Malloy and Wendy Taylor.

The Other Dream Team (Unrated) Hoops documentary recounting the unlikely triumph of the Lithuanian Men's Basketball Team at the 1992 Olympics with help from the Grateful Dead. Featuring Bill Walton Chris Mullin and Mickey Hart.

Celebrity

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successes. But when you hit a wall in your personal life, and you screw up, people don't give you a chance to navigate your way through it and tap into what's extraordinary about you. I think this movie tackles that subject in a beautiful way, and I think it's the best message you could give to a child. And, hey, you can even bring your kids to the film because it's rated PG. [Laughs]

KW: Harriet Pakula-Teweles says: "Won't Back Down" is not only the title of your new film, but that same sort of spirit was also part of your character's persona in "The Help." How much of that strength we see up on the screen is you and how much of it is great acting?

VD: [Chuckles] Well, I'd like to say that it's all great acting. That's what I'd prefer to say, but I suppose I do have that same quality in real life. I guess they say, "Necessity is the mother of invention" because you have two stark choic-

es when you find yourself in a really desperate situation. You can either fold and cave-in to it or you can become really passionate about getting out of it. When you're really passionate, you're going to grab hold of every rope you see, and wrap them around your arms and legs to claw your way out. And that's the way I've felt in my life.

KW: Harriet has another question: Is there a classic film you'd like to star in the remake of?

VD: You know what? Playing Norma Rae would be great, too, although I don't whether that would work. I'd also like to play Harriet Tubman.

KW: Patricia is also wondering whether there's any truth to the rumor that you'll be playing Barbara Jordan in an upcoming biopic about the late congresswoman.

VD: Yes, my husband [Julius Tennon] and I started a pro-

duction company out of necessity, the need for great narratives for actors of color, and we are currently developing that script with some great producers.

KW: Kate Newell says: I loved your performance. Did you have a teacher who especially inspired you?

VD: I had several teachers who inspired me, in both the public school system and the Upward Bound program. I needed several, because I lived in such abject poverty and dysfunction. And they're still in my life today, because I consider them to be friends, actually.

KW: Thanks again for the time, Viola, and best of luck with *Won't Back Down*.

VD: Thank you, Kam



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This Week's Edition