

Opening This Week — Feb. 1

BIG BUDGET FILMS

Bullet to the Head (R for profanity, nudity, drug use, graphic violence and bloody images) Grisly revenge thriller, set in New Orleans, about a hit man (Sly Stallone) and a detective (Sung Kang) who form an unlikely



KAM'S CAPSULES
Movie Reviews by Kam Williams

alliance to track down the



Bullet to the Head

killers of their respective partners. Featuring Christian Slater, Jason Momoa and Jon Seda.

Warm Bodies (PG-13 for violence and profanity) Romeo and Juliet re-imagined as a romantic horror comedy set in a devastated, post-apocalyptic America and revolving around a zombie (Nicholas Hoult) who falls in love with the girlfriend (Teresa Palmer) of one of his victims. With John Malkovich, Rob Corddry and Cory Hardrict.



Warm Bodies

INDEPENDENT & FOREIGN FILMS

The Gatekeepers (PG-13 for violence and disturbing images) Oscar-nominated Best Documentary chronicling the exploits of Shin Bet, Israel's national security agency entrusted with the country's closely held top secrets. Includes archival footage, computer animation and in-depth interviews with all six surviving former

heads of the organization. (In English and Hebrew with subtitles)

Girls against Boys (R for nudity, sexuality, profanity and violence) Battle-of-the-sexes slasher flick about a

college coed (Danielle Panabaker) who embarks with a girlfriend (Nicole LaLiberte) on a retaliatory, man-hating killing spree

after a series of dates gone bad. With Liam Aiken, Andrew Howard and Michael Stahl-David.

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Open Letter to Our TriMet Passengers and Community

Over the past several years, TriMet's top management has repeatedly used budget woes as their excuse for raising fares and reducing transit service to this community. Then, they point the finger at the union workforce, blaming the costs of health benefits for workers and retirees. We believe that claim to be false; but, it is difficult to counter an agency spending over \$500,000 each year on PR to spread its version of the truth. **Now, it's time you heard the truth from TriMet's workers.**

We are the people who keep the system running. We watch how this bureaucratic agency works from the inside, we know where its skeletons are buried, and we are saddened by how dysfunctional it has become. Here are the serious consequences of that dysfunction.

TRIMET'S DYSFUNCTION PUTS SAFETY AT RISK. It's not just fatigued drivers, it's also buying new buses with enormous blind spots while forcing train operators to frequently drive without any side vision at all. It's a bus dispatch system programmed to cut off calls after two minutes, even when it's a driver reporting an angry man with a gun. It's buses and rail cars so filthy that they're making operators and passengers sick. And those are just a few of the many serious safety issues we deal with daily.

TRIMET'S DYSFUNCTION PUTS SERVICE QUALITY AT RISK. It's not just the reduced runs, it's also forcing us to issue fare evasion citations when we know the fare machines are down. It's making schedules so tight it's impossible to guarantee our passengers will make their connections. It's reducing the number of bus shelters in neighborhoods where we serve the highest number of elderly and disabled passengers.

TRIMET'S DYSFUNCTION PUTS PUBLIC FUNDS AT RISK. It's not just spending millions on new furniture, it's also signing what the *Portland Business Journal* calls "the biggest office lease of the year." It's spending nearly \$2 million dollars giving new buses a "nose job" so they'll look like trains. It's having 161 managers being paid a base wage of over \$75,000 a year, 55 of whom get over \$100,000. This is to supervise a schedule-driven transit system service that can essentially run itself.

TRIMET'S DYSFUNCTION PUTS WORKERS' HEALTH AT RISK. People think our jobs are easy, but the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Labor indicate transit operators become disabled earlier, die younger and get assaulted more than people working in other professions. Studies have called it the most stressful job, resulting in absenteeism, chronic illnesses and high medical costs well into retirement. We have a small pension plan (not PERS), and only a small minority of workers who have retired early with full health coverage.

We are public servants. We are not perfect. Some of us are far from perfect. But we are two thousand people whose work lives are dedicated to providing you with the best service we can. Meanwhile, TriMet's PR department is using your tax money to mislead us all, issue after issue. What we ask is that you consider our viewpoint in the months ahead and evaluate the facts for yourselves.

Sincerely,
THE PEOPLE WHO KEEP PUBLIC TRANSIT ROLLING

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