

Kam's Kapsules: Movies Opening This Friday, July 24

BIG BUDGET FILMS

Paper Towns (PG-13 for profanity, sexuality, underage drinking and partial nudity) Adaptation of John Green's young adult novel, set in Orlando, about a teenager (Nat Wolff) who enlists the help of his friends to solve the mysterious disappearance of the next-door neighbor (Cara Delevingne) he has a crush on. Cast includes Halston Sage, Austin Abrams, Jaz Sinclair and Justice Smith.

Pixels (PG-13 for profanity and suggestive content) Sci-fi comedy revolving around a trio of retro-gamers (Adam Sandler, Peter Dinklage and Josh Gad) recruited by the President of the United States (Kevin James) to save the day when the planet is attacked by aliens who fight like the monsters in classic arcade games like Space Invaders, Pac-Man and Donkey Kong. With Michelle Monaghan, Jane Krakowski, Dan Aykroyd and Affion Crockett.

Southpaw (R for violence and pervasive profanity) Jake Gyllenhaal plays the title character in this bitersweet tale of redemption



Kam's Capsules
Movie Reviews
by Kam Williams

about a disgraced boxer who attempts to win back his championship belt with the help of a crafty veteran trainer (Forest Whitaker). Support cast includes Rachel McAdams, 50 Cent, Naomi Harris and Oona Laurence.

INDEPENDENT & FOREIGN FILMS

Capital C (Unrated) Crowdfunding documentary exploring the benefits and pitfalls of financing an entrepreneurial enterprise by pitching a plethora of potential investors via social networking.

Five Star (Unrated) Gangsta saga, set in Brooklyn, inspired by the real life story of a member of the Bloods (James Grant) who decided to adopt the son (John Diaz) of his murdered mentor. With Wanda Nobles Colon, Jasmine Burgos, Larry Bo-



'Five Star' stars James Grant (left) as a member of the Bloods who decides to adopt the son (played by John Diaz, right) of his murdered mentor.

gad and Richard Bird.

A Gay Girl in Damascus (Unrated) LBGT-themed documentary exposing an Arab blogger who falsely claimed to be kidnapped and persecuted by Syrian authorities for being a lesbian. (In English, French and Arabic with subtitles)

Lucky Stiff (Unrated) Ad-

aptation of the Off-Broadway musical comedy revolving around a bachelor (Dominic Marsh) who ventures to Monte Carlo to claim an \$8 million inheritance from the recently-deceased, rich uncle (Don

Amendolia) he never knew he had. With Jason Alexander, Dennis Farina and Pamela Shaw.

The Outrageous Sophie Tucker (unrated) Reverential biopic chronicling the life and times of the

legendary vaudeville icon (1887-1966) who wowed audiences from the turn of the 20th Century through the mid-Sixties. Featuring

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Book Review: 'Talking Back: Voices of Color'

Talking Back: Voices of Color
Edited by Nellie Wong
Red Letter Press
Paperback, \$15.00
240 pages, Illustrated
ISBN: 978-0-932323-32-3

by Kam Williams
For *The Skanner News*

"As a feminist of Chinese-American roots, my disrespected skin color and low-paid status as a secretarial worker shocked me into a realization that I've embraced now for many years: the knowledge that racist, sexist, anti-queer, anti-trans, anti-worker discrimination leveled against one is leveled against all.

"We must seek integration into revolutionary change, not into business-as-usual capitalist America that puts people of color and women in chains. That's what's necessary. Through this collection, readers are given a rare jewel: a gem ablaze with the colors of working-class voices, rather than abstractions from lofty academic towers.

"The offerings... speak out [about] the fight for quality public education, reproductive justice and freedom of expression, and an end to police violence and war... and much more. To whom do we talk back? To those who will silence us... These voices of color matter. They need to be heard."

-- Excerpted from the Introduction (page 10)

Nellie Wong was born in Oakland, Calif., at a time when Chinese women and girls were uniformly raised to obey rather than question au-

thority. Consequently, she would dutifully marry, have kids and take employment as a secretary, all in accordance with narrowly-defined cultural expectations.

However, Nellie finally started to shed society's shackles in the 1970s when she started taking courses in writing and feminist and Asian-American studies at San Francisco State University. Curiously, that path in pursuit of personal liberation simultaneously made her very aware that members of other minority groups were also marginalized, whether Black, Brown, indigenous, lesbian, gay or transgender.

Nellie subsequently not only found her voice as a politically-motivated poet, but she got involved in the liberation movement as an organizer and activist. And over the ensuing decades she has remained an unrepentant advocate for social justice.

So, it only makes sense that at 80 years of age, she'd serve as editor for *Talking Back: Voices of Color*. The book is a collection of enlightening essays authored by a rainbow coalition of next generation firebrands exploring a litany of hot-button issues ranging from racism and feminism to terrorism and immigration to education and sexual preference.

Global in scope, the opus not only addresses the concerns of the oppressed in the U.S. but of folks as far afield as the Middle East, Australia, Central America, Europe, Asia, Canada, South America and even Australia. Leave it to Nellie to sum up the tome's simple aim ever so eloquently by quoting the late James Baldwin who, as she's quick to point out, was both Black and gay: "You write to change the world." Hear, hear!

Film Review: 'Tango Negro' Examines the African Roots of the Tango

by Kam Williams
For *The Skanner News*

The word "tango" means "sun" in Congolese. Given that derivation, it comes as no surprise that the dance thought of as South American might be traced back to Africa.

That explains the mission of *Tango Negro*, a labor of love marking the writing and directorial debut of Dom Pedro. What makes the project of educational value

country, immigration was encouraged by settlers from Italy, France, Lebanon and Syria.

Thus, it is argued in *Tango Negro* that "the history of the Americas is an absolute lie, from the extermination of the indigenous peoples to the destruction of African cultures." And it is further stipulated that this shameful legacy "will have to be acknowledged for reconciliation to occur."

Besides the revisionist lessons, this informative documentary includes nu-

tedly hard to find any dark-skinned citizens. Ole! Ole! Ole!

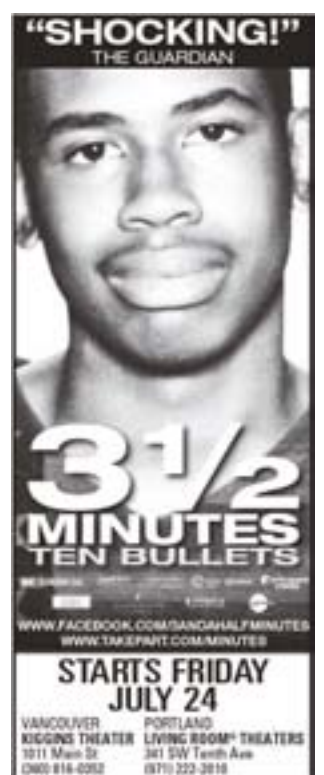
Very Good ★★★
Unrated
In Spanish, French and English with subtitles
Running time: 93 minutes

'The history of the Americas is an absolute lie'

is the fact that Argentina, the country most closely associated with Tango, has generally been averse to admitting its African heritage.

Truth be told, a post-slavery purge of Blacks there resulted in a whitening of the region by the early 20th Century. For, while the descendants of Congolese slaves were being slaughtered or run out of the

merous songs and performances of the Tango. Unfortunately, the music proves to be the low point of the picture, due to its woefully low production values. Nevertheless, three "Ole's" to director Dom Pedro for daring to raise the taboo subject right in Buenos Aires, an ethnically-cleansed environ where it's admit-




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