

BY DEVIN D. O'LEARY

Opening This Week

Beauty Is Embarassing

Reviewed this issue. 90 minutes. (Opens Monday 11/5 at Guild Cinema)

The Films of Danny Lyon: A Retrospective 1969-2005

Guild Cinema presents a three-day retrospective featuring the work of award-winning Bernalillo photographer and filmmaker Danny Lyon. Lyon received a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship in 1969 and embarked on a long career of making experimental, Dadaist short films and documentaries. In all, 10 films will be screened—many for the first time in years. Several have been fully restored by the Anthology Film Archives, Watchmaker Films and the George Eastman House. Check out GuildCinema.com for a complete list of films and times. (Opens Friday 11/2 at Guild Cinema)

Flight

Denzel Washington headlines for director Robert Zemeckis (*Back to the Future*, *Forrest Gump*, *Cast Away*) as a heroic pilot who saves the passengers of a crashing airliner. Unfortunately, his media darling status is short-lived as an investigation turns up the fact that he had drugs and alcohol in his system at the time of the crash. So was he a hero or a villain? This complex, well-crafted character study takes the time to deal with a lot of issues—both personal and professional. It's a bit long-winded, ultimately, but Washington is riveting as always. 138 minutes. R. (Opens Friday 11/2 at Rio Rancho Premiere Cinema, Century Rio, Cottonwood Stadium 16, Century 14 Downtown, High Ridge)

Journeys to the Soul: Two Films with Jungian Analyst Robert Johnson

Local filmmaker and Jungian psychotherapist Steven H. Wong will be live on hand to present two short documentary films in which he interviews famed Jungian analyst Robert A. Johnson: "In Search of the Holy Grail" and "One-Two Man." (Opens Saturday 11/3 at Guild Cinema)

The Man With The Iron Fists

Wu-Tang rap star and kung fu aficionado RZA turns filmmaker to write, direct and star in this fantasy-filled action flick. In it, a band of warriors and assassins descend on a tiny Chinese village seeking a fortune in gold. It's up to one humble blacksmith (RZA, of course) to save himself and his fellow villagers. Russell Crowe and Lucy Liu costar—but martial arts fans should be on the lookout for Gordon Liu (*The 36th Chamber of Shaolin*) Chen Kuan-Tai (*Crippled Avengers*) and Bryan Leung (*The Shaolin Avengers*). 96 minutes. R. (Opens Friday 11/2 at Rio Rancho Premiere Cinema, Century Rio, Cottonwood Stadium 16, Century 14 Downtown)

Radio Unnameable

Legendary radio personality Bob Fass revolutionized the FM airwaves in the '60s and '70s with his freeform NYC broadcast "Radio Unnameable." This documentary profiles Fass' long-running, late-night program filled with culture, politics and music. Amid the extraordinary archive of audio recordings are interviews with Allen Ginsberg and Abbie Hoffman, as well as performances by Bob Dylan, Arlo Guthrie and Carly Simon. A vivid time capsule of American free speech. 90 minutes. Unrated. (Opens Monday 11/5 at Guild Cinema)

Reel Rock 7

Climbers and outdoor enthusiasts come together to celebrate the ultimate in adventure filmmaking. Check out adrenaline-filled sports shorts from around the world. (Opens Sunday 11/4 at SouthWest Film Center)

UNM Student Film Festival

Aspiring filmmaking students from the University of New Mexico offer up an annual selection of shorts. Subjects and styles run the gamut from comedy to animation to dark drama. The best films of the evening will be singled out for awards. (Opens Saturday 11/3 at SouthWest Film Center)

Wreck-It Ralph

This computer-animated Disney toon does for video games what *Who Framed Roger Rabbit?* did for cartoons. John C. Reilly voices the title bruiser, the villain from an old, 8-bit arcade game. Weary of hassling his game's wholesome hero, Ralph busts out and tries to become the good guy in a different type of game. Look for cameos by Pac-Man, Q*Bert and other arcade favorites. Sarah Silverman, Jane Lynch, Mandy Kaling, Ed O'Neill and Dennis Haysbert are among the voice cast. 108 minutes. PG. (Opens Friday 11/2 at Rio Rancho Premiere Cinema, Century Rio, Cottonwood Stadium 16, Winrock Theatre, Century 14 Downtown, High Ridge, Four Hills 10)

Still Playing

Alex Cross

Tyler Perry replaces Morgan Freeman as Dr. Alex Cross in this sequel/prequel/reboot of 1997's *Kiss The Girls* and 2001's *Along Came a Spider*. This is good news to no one other than

Tyler Perry. He's obviously trying to expand his non-Madea repertoire, and for that you've got to give him credit—but what the hell's he doing in a bloody serial-killer thriller? At least director Rob Cohen (*The Fast and the Furious*, *xx*, *Dragon: The Bruce Lee Story*) knows how to keep the action pumping. 101 minutes. PG-13. (Four Hills 10, Century Rio, Rio Rancho Premiere Cinema)

Argo

Ben Affleck directs and stars in this based-on-a-true-story drama about a mad CIA plot to rescue six embassy workers from revolution-torn Iran, circa 1980. The idea was to sneak them out while pretending to be the crew from a high-budget science fiction film seeking to shoot in Tehran. Affleck gets the period details pitch perfect and spins the whole thing as a dry-mouthed, wet-palmed thriller. There are hints of Aaron Sorkin's patented walk-and-talk style dialogue, and the tension mounts to almost ridiculously high levels, but a firm directorial hand and a sly sense of humor keep things grounded. This one's an easy ticket to the Oscars for nearly everyone involved. 120 minutes. (High Ridge, Century 14 Downtown, Cottonwood Stadium 16, Four Hills 10, Rio Rancho Premiere Cinema, Century Rio)

Bless Me, Ultima

Carl Franklin (*One False Move*) directs the looong-awaited film adaptation of Rudolfo Anaya's much-beloved magical realist novel. In this spiritual drama, a young, northern New Mexico boy befriends an elderly medicine woman during the dark days of World War II. PG-13. (Century Rio, Century 14 Downtown, Cottonwood Stadium 16)

Chasing Mavericks

Michael Apted (*Nell*) and Curtis Hanson (*8 Mile*) tag-team direct this based-on-a-true-story drama about Southern California surf dudes. Newcomer Jonny Weston plays Jay Moriarty, a young Santa Cruz lad who dreams of surfing the legendarily large "Maverick" breakers off California. Gerard Butler plays a beach bum Mr. Miyagi who befriends the kid and teaches him the ways of the surfboard. 115 minutes. PG. (Cottonwood Stadium 16, Four Hills 10, Century 14 Downtown, Rio Rancho Premiere Cinema, Century Rio)

Cloud Atlas

The *Matrix*-making Wachowski siblings join forces with German auteur Tom Tykwer (*Run Lola Run*) to helm this epic adaptation of David Mitchell's epic sci-fi novel. Tom Hanks, Halle Berry, Hugh Grant, Hugo Weaving, Jim Sturgess and others take on a multitude of characters, races and genders in this complex, time-hopping tale about how our actions—good and bad—affect others. Miraculously, the six divergent storylines dovetail perfectly. The three directors have nailed the structure. If only they could have found a stronger emotional hook to the material. It's gorgeous and impressive, but the moral is way too simple. Reviewed in v21 i43. 172 minutes. R. (Cottonwood Stadium 16, High Ridge, Four Hills 10, Century 14 Downtown, Rio Rancho Premiere Cinema, Century Rio)

Frankenweenie

Back in the early '80s, Tim Burton launched his career by shooting a live-action short for Disney called "Frankenweenie." They thought it was too weird and fired him. Now, 30 years later, Burton helms a stop-motion-animated, feature-length version of his old short. In it, a morose young kid named Victor brings his dead dog back to life. Much like the original Frankenstein's monster, this reanimated pet causes much concern and confusion among the townsfolk. Old Burton pals Winona Ryder, Martin Landau, Martin Short and Catherine O'Hara provide some of the voices. The film is pure, unadulterated Burton—which will please some and frustrate others. 87 minutes. PG. (Cottonwood Stadium 16, Winrock Theatre, Century Rio, Century 14 Downtown, Rio Rancho Premiere Cinema)

Fun Size

Tween star Victoria Justice ("Victorious") stars as a gal who just wants to hang out with her pals on Halloween night. Unfortunately, she gets stuck baby-sitting her little brother. Naturally, the unruly tyke goes missing in a sea of trick-or-treaters, leading to a wacky all-night quest. Not much fun to be had here. 90 minutes. PG-13. (Cottonwood Stadium 16, Winrock Theatre, High Ridge, Four Hills 10, Century 14 Downtown, Rio Rancho Premiere Cinema, Century Rio)

Here Comes the Boom

Comedian Kevin James finds another genial, slapstick role in which to milk his *Paul Blart: Mall Cop* persona. Here, he plays



The Man with the Iron Fists

an everyman teacher who plans to save his high school's music program by becoming an MMA fighter. Sounds plausible. Henry Winkler, Salma Hayek and Joe Rogan (of course) costar. 105 minutes. (Cottonwood Stadium 16, Rio Rancho Premiere Cinema, Century Rio)

Hotel Transylvania

Adam Sandler, Kevin James, Andy Samberg, Selena Gomez, Fran Drescher, Steve Buscemi, Molly Shannon, David Spade and Jon Lovitz provide the voices for a plethora of old-time movie monsters in this CGI toon. Seems that Dracula has retired from the bloodsucking biz and is operating a hotel for monsters. But when an ordinary human tourist stumbles across the titular lodging, Drac must navigate some cross-cultural romantic troubles involving his young (118-year-old) daughter. Genny Tartakovsky ("Dexter's Laboratory," "Samurai Jack") directs. 91 minutes. PG. (Century 14 Downtown, Cottonwood Stadium 16, Winrock Theatre, Four Hills 10, High Ridge, Rio Rancho Premiere Cinema, Century Rio)

Looper

In the near—but not too near—future, the mob controls time travel. When they want to whack somebody, they ship them back in time 30 years where a faceless assassin awaits. Joe (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) is one such killer. One day, though, his future self (played by Bruce Willis) is sent back in time. Will our man Joe do his job, committing high-tech suicide, or will his future self figure a way out of this mind-bending situation? This twisty action thriller comes to us from writer-director Rian Johnson—who gave Gordon-Levitt his best role in the 2005 cult film *Brick*. Reviewed in v21 i40. 118 minutes. R. (Century Rio)

Paranormal Activity 4

The masters of long, slow pauses and loud, startling "Boo!"s deliver the inevitable fourth outing of this popular, found-footage haunted house saga. This one actually takes place several years after the events of *Paranormal Activity 2*. So you'd better be up on your PA timeline. 88 minutes. R. (Cottonwood Stadium 16, Winrock Theatre, Four Hills 10, Century Rio, Century 14 Downtown, Rio Rancho Premiere Cinema)

The Perks of Being a Wallflower

Stephen Chbosky turns movie director to bring his much-loved teen lit novel to life on the big screen. Logan Lerman (*Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief*) stars as an introverted high school freshman who is taken under the wings of two seniors (Ezra Miller and Emma Watson). In addition to the ideal casting, Chbosky sticks closely to the emotional content of his book, exploring the loneliness, anxiety and day-to-day frustrations of being a teenager. 103 minutes. PG-13. (Century 14 Downtown)

Pitch Perfect

How much do you love "Glee"? Is it a lot? Like, a lotta lot? Well, here's the feature film version, more or less. Anna Kendrick (*Up In the Air*) plays a shy college freshman who gets recruited into her school's all-girl capella show choir. They have a rivalry with an all-male show choir at another school. Our lead character falls for one of the guys. The film gets credit for a little snarky humor (most of it delivered by Rebel Wilson from *Bridesmaids*), but damn the story is a worn-out retread. Oh well, at least you get lots of sing-offs featuring Madonna, Pat Benatar, Toni Basil and other '80s icons. 112 minutes. PG-13. (Century Rio, Cottonwood Stadium 16, Winrock Theatre)

Seven Psychopaths

Filmmaker Martin McDonagh (*In Bruges*) reunites with Colin Farrell for this Tarantino-esque crime comedy. Farrell plays a struggling screenwriter who becomes embroiled in the seedy L.A. underworld after his crazy pals kidnap a gangster's beloved Shih Tzu. Woody Harrelson, Sam Rockwell, Christopher Walken, Tom Waits, Abbie Cornish and Olga Kurylenko round out our six other nut jobs. 111 minutes. R. (High Ridge, Century Rio)

Silent Hill: Revelation

French director Christophe Gans' 2006 adaptation of the popular video game series *Silent Hill* doesn't make the slightest damn sense, but it might be the most freakishly beautiful nonsense you're likely to encounter. Sadly, Gans has departed, leaving Michael J. Bassett (*Solomon Kane*) to take the reins. Sean Bean and Radha Mitchell return as a couple wandering around a smoky town encountering all sorts of weird demons and crap while trying to find their missing daughter. 94 minutes. R. (Cottonwood Stadium 16, Winrock Theatre, High Ridge, Four Hills 10, Century 14 Downtown, Rio Rancho Premiere Cinema, Century Rio)

Sinister

Ethan Hawke lends some acting credibility to this found-footage(ish) haunted house drama from the producers of *Paranormal Activity* and *Insidious*. If you've seen those, you know what you're in for. Hawke plays a struggling true crime novelist who moves his family into a home where some notorious murders took place. Conveniently, he discovers some old home movies in the attic, which appear to show a serial killer stalking his victims. Eventually, the supernatural intrudes, and Mr. Hawke and his family find themselves dodging a creepy, cinematic boogyman. 109 minutes. R. (Cottonwood Stadium 16, Century 14 Downtown, Four Hills 10, Rio Rancho Premiere Cinema, Century Rio)

Taken 2

Last time we looked in on Liam Neeson's badass, ex-CIA operative, he was hunting down and killing the evil men who kidnapped his daughter in Paris. Now, he's hunting down and killing the men who kidnapped his wife in Istanbul. Man, I hope this guy doesn't have a dog. 91 minutes. PG-13. (Cottonwood Stadium 16, Four Hills 10, Century Rio, Century 14 Downtown, Rio Rancho Premiere Cinema)

Trouble With the Curve

Cranky old Clint Eastwood is cranky old Gus Lobel, a Major League Baseball scout whose eyesight (along with everything else) is failing. In order to close out his longtime contract with the Atlanta Braves on a high note, our aging protagonist talks his estranged, power attorney daughter (Amy Adams) into being his eyes and ears on his last tour through the minor league parks. What follows is exactly the sort of tear-jerking, daddy-daughter bonding you were expecting. 111 minutes. PG-13. (High Ridge)

Second Run

Bachelorette

Kirsten Dunst (*Spider-Man*), Isla Fisher (*Wedding Crashers*) and Rebel Wilson (*Bridesmaids*) star in one of those raunchy new female-centric comedies inspired by *Bridesmaids*. This one's about three friends asked to become bridesmaids for a girl they used to ridicule back in high school—so, more raunchy wedding hijinks. 87 minutes. R. (Movies West)