

# what's new



**Edward II** Annie Lennox and director Derek Jarman stir up the pan-historical stew in Jarman's latest flick.

**The Cutting Edge** Billed as "the ultimate love/skate relationship," this teen-jock-smooch drama won't disappoint pubescent members of your clan. Doug (D.B. Sweeney) is a tough hockey player who loses his peripheral vision and must settle for being a wimpy figure skater. But what a physical challenge it is! Doug's partner Kate (Moirá Kelly) is such a bitchy prima donna that he has to kick ass to win both her love and that damned Olympic gold medal, all while fending off come-ons from his horny fellow skaters, both male and female. Classic kitch from director Paul M. Glaser (of *Starsky & Hutch*). Opens Fri 3/27. S.F.: **Galaxy**, Sutter & Van Ness, 474-8700. Oakland: **Piedmont**, Piedmont & 41st, (510) 654-2727. Berkeley: **Shattuck**, 2230 Shattuck, (510) 644-3370.

MICHAEL ARAGO

**Edward II** England's Ramboyan, unrepentant queer filmmaker Derek Jarman is back with this highly-praised, erotically charged and extremely loose adaptation of Christopher Marlowe's bioplay about the gay 14th-century English monarch. Jarman, of course, is out to rehabilitate the long-reviled Edward, along with his lover Piers Gaveston, as athletic studs rather than the limp-wristed queens of history books. We've also got the usual Jarman pan-historical stew, what with Annie Lennox singing Cole Porter tunes and '90s-style queers-vs.-cops riots. Obviously a big event. Opens Fri 3/27. S.F.: **Castro**, Castro near Market, 621-6120.

**Funny Ladies** Documentary on women comic-strip artists takes us into the lives of four totally different examples: Dale Messick, the pioneering creator of *Brenda Starr*; Cathy Guisewite, whose inky alter ego is the weight-and-marriage-obsessed Cathy; Nicole Hollander, of the wry and delightful

*Sylvia*; and the altogether wonderful Lynda Barry, who probably deserves a movie — or perhaps a planet — of her own. Director Pamela Beere Briggs will attend on opening night. Plays Wed 3/25-Tues 3/31. S.F.: **Red Vic Movie House**, 1727 Haight, 668-3994.

**Ladybugs** Sucker Born Every Minute Dept.: Someone was convinced to invest in this formula comedy starring Rodney Dangerfield as an underappreciated employee who agrees to coach the company-sponsored girls' soccer team. Downright creepy. At least there's a touch of perversity: Since the team is hopeless, ol' Rod enlists a ringer — his fiancée's son, in drag. Yow. Opens Fri 3/27. S.F.: **Royal**, Polk near California, 474-0353. Oakland: **Century 8**, I-880 at Hegenberger, (510) 562-9990. **Piedmont**, Piedmont & 41st, (510) 654-2727. Berkeley: **California**, Kittredge & Shattuck, (510) 848-0620.

**The Power of One** Screen adaptation of Bryce Courtenay's best-selling autobiographical novel about a rural white South African orphan who grows up alone amid the stringent racial segregation of the 1830s and '40s. Young PK (Stephen Dorff) finds such diverse mentors as an educated German doctor (Armin Mueller-Stahl) and a Zulu prisoner (Morgan Freeman). Sir John Gielgud also co-stars as a school headmaster. John G. Avildsen (*Rocky*, *The Karate Kid*) directs. Opens Fri 3/27. S.F.: **Galaxy**, Sutter & Van Ness, 474-8700. **UA Emery Bay**, Emeryville, (510) 420-0107.

**Billy** Danny Aiello achieves the improbable in bringing warmth and compassion to this quasi-biographical account of Jack Ruby's life. Yes, the same Dallas strip-joint owner who put a BB slug into Lee Harvey Oswald before the alleged assassin could spill the beans on the JFK killing. Director John

Mackenzie (*The Long Good Friday*) rather clumsily pursues the CIA-mob conspiracy theory, but Aiello builds a believable portrait of an aging, insecure small-time hood ready to do anything to earn respect. *Twin Peaks* bombshell Sherilyn Fenn co-stars as Ruby's moll, Candy Cane, one of the numerous fictionalized elements to this script. Opens Fri 3/27. S.F.: **Kabuki**, Post & Fillmore, 931-9800.

MICHAEL ARAGO

**Shakes the Clown** Comic Bobcat Goldthwait, who originally rose to fame on the S.F. comedy scene, wrote and directs this perverse vision of life in Palukaville, USA, clown capital of the universe. Goldthwait is Shakes, a troubled clown who must battle his own boozing and philandering, not to mention the evil machinations of Binky (Tom Kenny), a coke-addicted rival clown who tries to frame Shakes for murder. With Julie Brown (of "The Homecoming Queen's Got a Gun" fame, *not* of *Club MTV*) as Shakes' loyal lady. Described by a *Boston Globe* critic as "the *Citizen Kane* of alcoholic clown movies." Opens Fri 3/27. S.F.: **Kabuki**, Post & Fillmore, 931-9800.

**White Men Can't Jump** Writer-director Ron Shelton (*Bull Durham*) invades another sanctuary of male mythology — playground pick-up basketball. Wesley Snipes (*Jungle Fever*) stars as Sidney, a hardcore L.A. hoops hustler who at first scornfully dismisses white interloper Billy (Woody Harrelson of TV's *Cheers*). When he finds out the white boy can actually play, Sidney devises a con game to exploit other players' racial stereotypes. Comedy also stars Rosie Perez (*Do the Right Thing*), Tyra Ferrell (*Boyz n the Hood*), Kadeem Hardison (TV's *A Different World*) and former NBA stars Marques Johnson and Freeman Williams. Opens Fri 3/27. S.F.: **Presidio**, Chestnut near Scott, 921-6720. Also other Bay Area theaters.

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