

yam

yetanothermagazine filmtvmusic

feb2010

topten

ten actresses that should
get a show on cable

more award season

we review and point out who
could have been the best
pictures of the year

in this yam we review //

**avatar, the princess and the frog,
bright star, nine, kim jongkook,
sa dingding, 2am, snsds,
nurse jackie, modern family
and more //**



award season:

the films that should
or shouldn't have
been best picture//

I know reading is not everyone's forte, it isn't mine either. I know that reading an article that is longer than 500 words is scary and requires careful thought, this is why we try to keep things short here, but with enough sass, which Julz has loads.

I want to thank everyone who contributed this time around, specially Lindsay Penn who gave us permission to use her review, and Dorothy from ITG that is now over her new website FilmCheer.com.

We love to publish everyone's opinions, so if you've got an album you want to review and promote, a film, a tv show or something you read, just hit me up with an email.

**Just send them my way to:
amy@amy-wong.com**

amywong //

p.s.: Rojo will be writing a review for the next issue. How will that go?

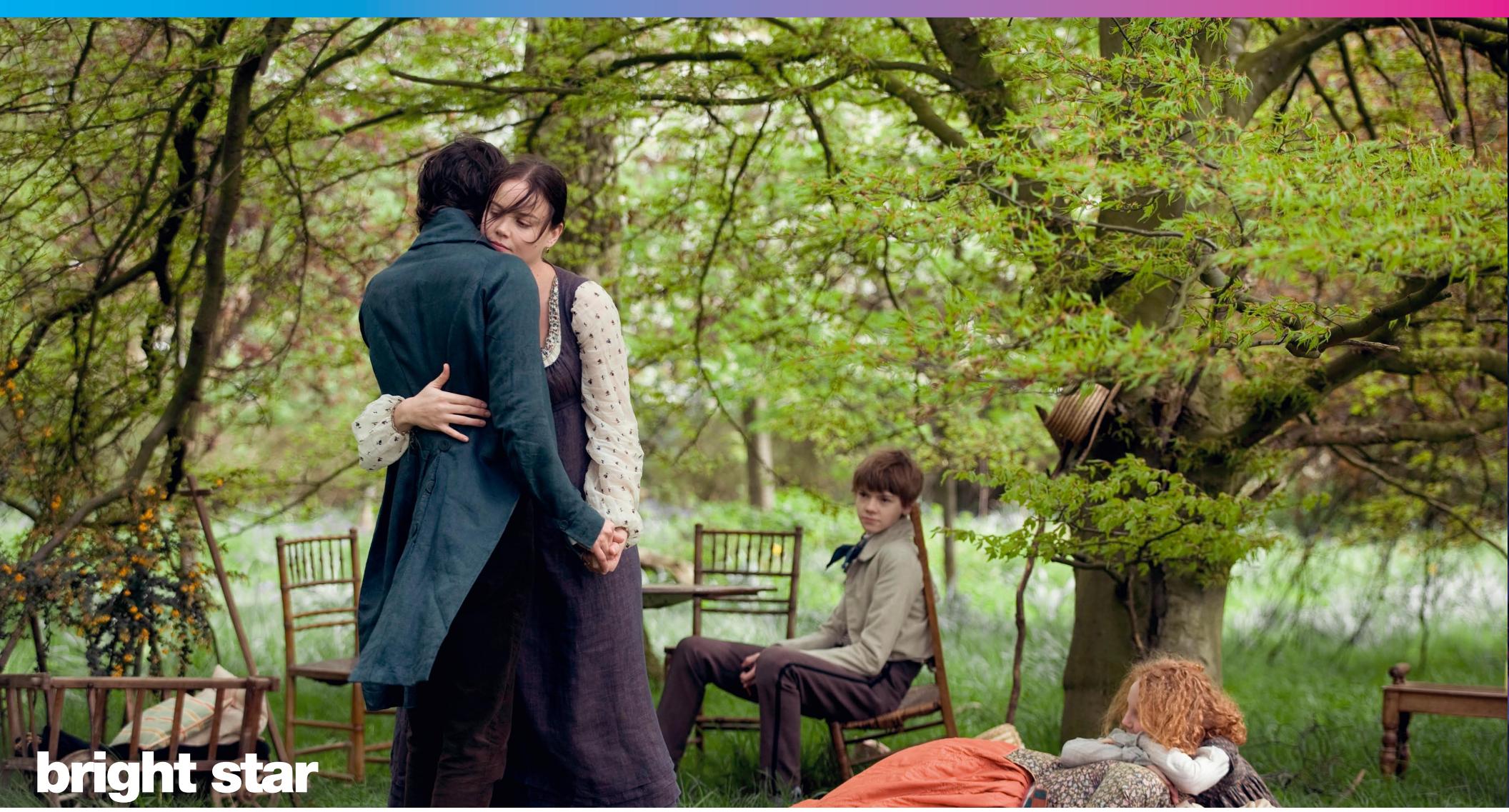
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Well, we got a **late** start on this issue, and we certainly beat around the bush a lot. However, I feel this turned out to be a strong **yam**, with variety and enough content.



bright star

Films about musicians, singers or actors must be godsends to filmmakers. I think of "Ray," "Walk the Line," "Great Balls of Fire" and the rest of the rock and roll biopics. But try making a film about a writer — think you can? Well, then try to make a film about a poet! Not too easy, I imagine. But that's precisely what master filmmaker Jane Campion set out to do with "Bright Star," and in doing so, she crafts cinematic poetry of undeniable beauty.

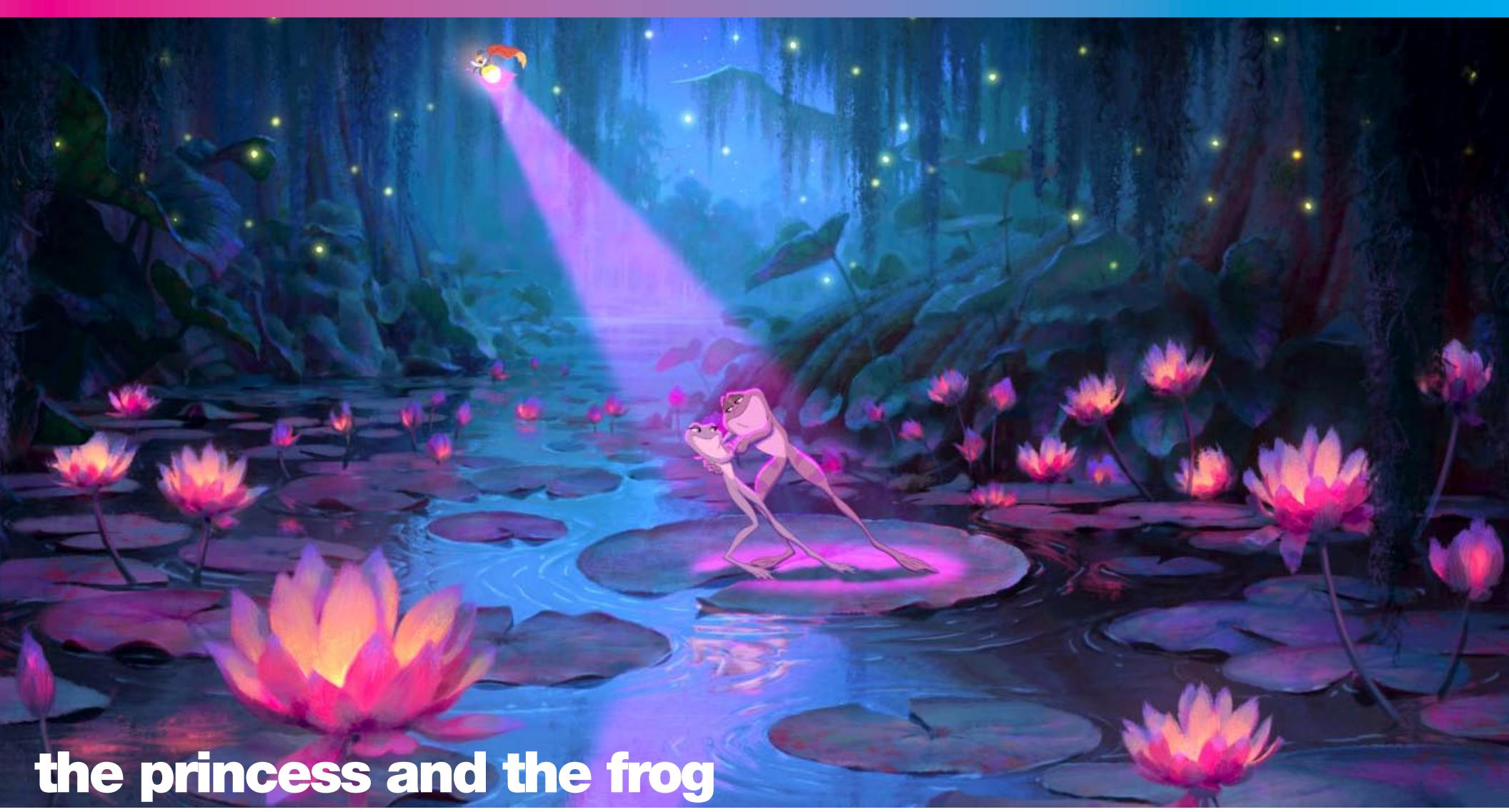
"Bright Star" takes its title from John Keats' poem ("Bright star, would I were stedfast as thou art . . .) and tells the

story of the doomed poet himself (Ben Whishaw) and his love affair with the young and feisty Fanny Brawne (Abbie Cornish). The story is, ostensibly, about the relationship between young people in love. But through Campion's lens, the story becomes more about two people in love with the idea of love and all it promises.

Despite the many enchanting moments, "Bright Star" at times suffers from a lack of traditional plot development. At times, I wish I knew more about Keats, of his upbringing and his family. This is, however, unsurprising, as the film deals with a difficult protagonist. I do realize this is not a biopic (thank God), but rather a snapshot of peoples' lives at a particular moment in time.

★★★★★

pg4



the princess and the frog

The Princess and the Frog, Disney's return to classic 2D animation, takes on the well-known story of the princess who kisses the frog, who in turn magically transforms back into a prince... and gives it a little spin. And it's obvious that the princess, who isn't really a princess, turns into a frog instead.

There's a lot of history-in-the-making on this one, sadly. Why sadly? It took Disney decades to finally have an African-American princess... who isn't really a princess at all, and who's not African-American for the most part of the film. The good thing? Well, Tiana is a feisty character with a backbone. She doesn't mope around, and get things done with hard-work.

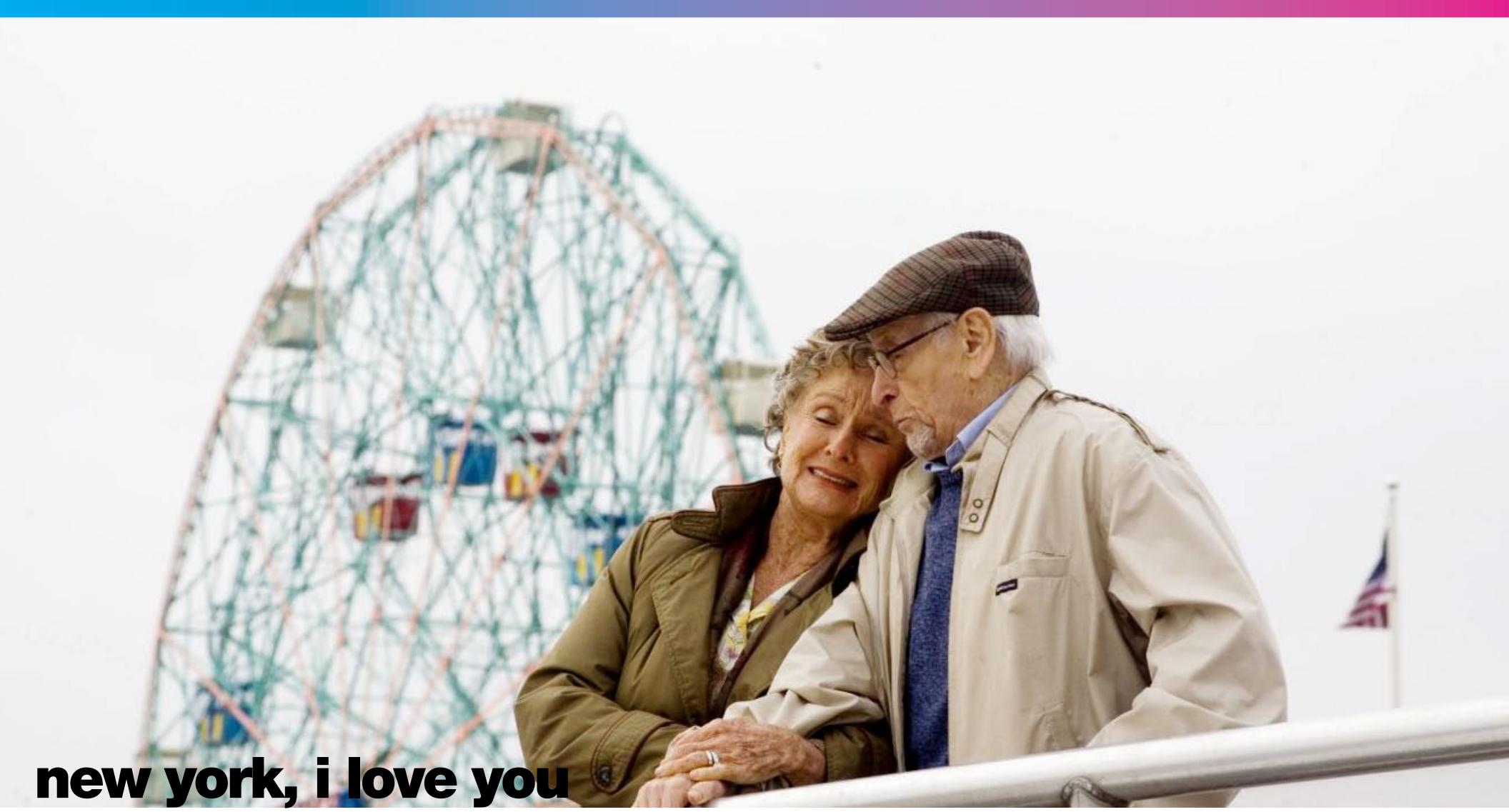
Prince Naveen, on the other hand, is the prince you never dreamed of. He's a bum that's been raised by his castle's staff, until mom and dad decided to cut him off. And check out Dr. Facilier, who actually got me thinking about being scared, but then I remembered kids nowadays watch a lot of other sick stuff on the TV. However, two side characters where the ones that made the film for me... Louis the crocodile, and Ray the firefly. Unlike Tiana and Prince Naveen's happy ending, I thought that there was such a bittersweet magical ending to Ray and Evangeline.

Of course, you can call this a review for the sappy viewer who misses Disney, but you can't deny that what makes Disney so successful is that it makes you feel home.

Nevertheless, am I the only one thinking that Tiana could have gotten her dream restaurant without actually falling in love with Naveen? Something like "wow, she doesn't have to get married to be happy!" Now, that would have been a progressive fairytale.

Oh, why! Did you watch that Chipmunks film more than once instead of this one... - amy

★★★½★



new york, i love you

Following the steps of Paris Je t'Aime, here comes the second installment of what seems to be a series of a cities' anthologies by the hand of various directors around the world.

New York seems to be a city very easy to love. It's got loads of people from a variety of cultural backgrounds, there's a prolific theater scene, there's modern art, street art, independent films, food from around the world and all sort of stuff, so it should make an interesting theme for New York, I Love You. However, the producers decided to not let its directors' visions go too far from the visual of the film.

pg6

The Result? A very homogenized, and sort of boring look at such a vibrant city, turning a wonderful short collection idea into a charmless piece.

Unlike Paris, New York shows its shorts as one (sort of) seamless piece that overlaps characters, so it seems it's one film by one writer and one director with a very messy story structure, instead of a group of writers and directors with different visions of the place. Not one piece stands out too much from the other, so it's no wonder why you begin blurring the lines between the characters and their stories, and in the end just put the whole film in the back of the mind.

If I had to highlight individual shorts, I feel like Joshua Marston's segment with Cloris Leachman was the most charming. Also... is NYC only Manhattan? - amy

★★★☆☆

anvil: the story of anvil

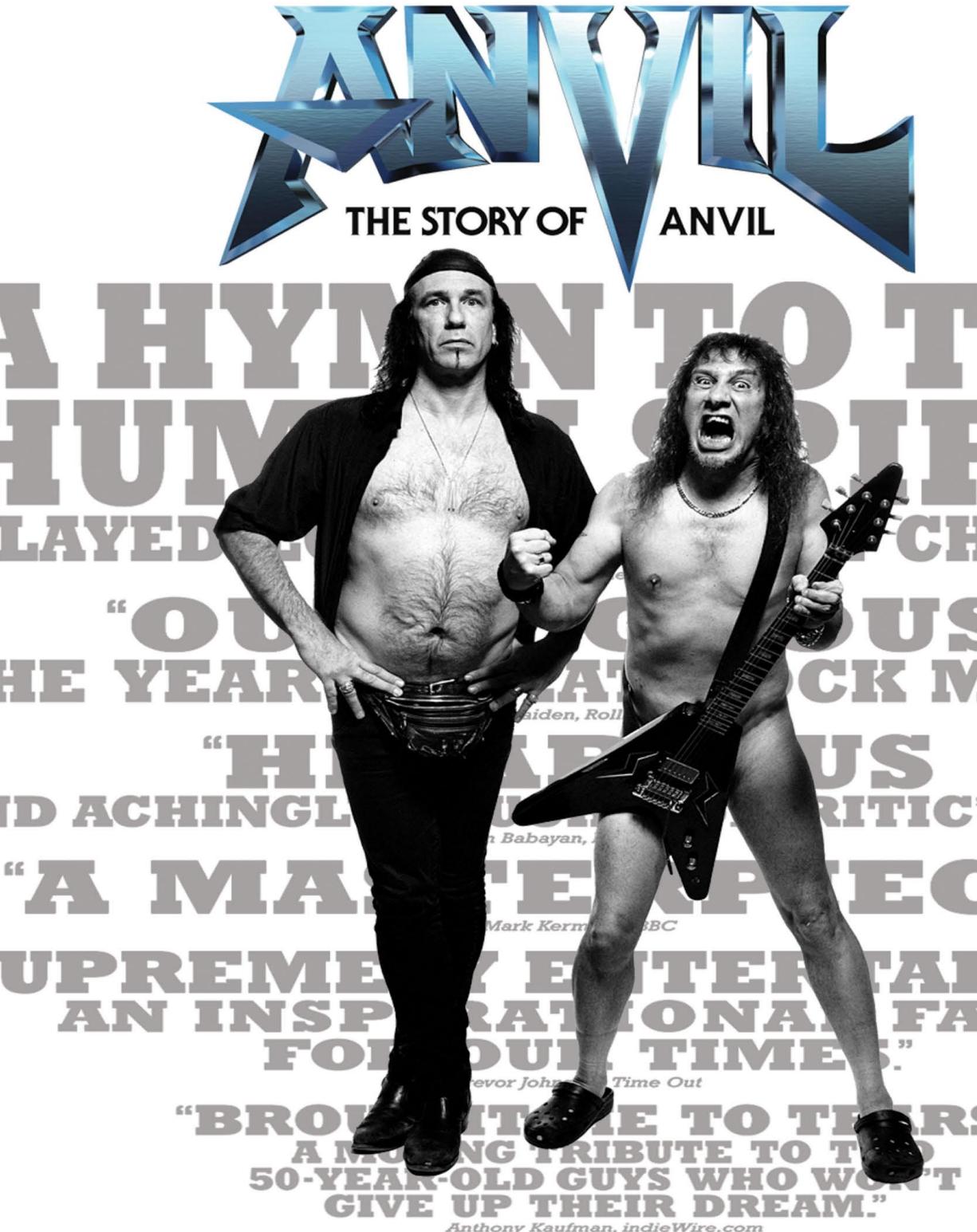
Anvil: The Story of Anvil is basically that, a documentary about the Canadian Heavy Metal band Anvil, moderately successful in the 80s, the band never saw the light of rock star stardom like the bands it seemed to have influenced such as Slayer, Anthrax and Metallica... the latter being the most iconic one.

After years of trying to make it into a business that doesn't seem to want anything that's not pre-packaged pretty people, Steve "Lips" Kudlow and Robb Reiner live their lives as normal as possible. "Lips" drives trucks for a catering service, and Reiner does construction work, and both have families to maintain.

When they find possible gigs across Europe, both decide to give it their all for the chance to play in front of an audience, trying to make ends meet with their music, as they leave their loved ones behind. As Anvil struggles to reach city after city to perform, their families wonder if the dream of making it big is enough, and if it's time to finally move on.

It doesn't matter if you're not into metal, Anvil is an engaging story that will keep anyone involved with the tricky blur line of art and business. It's kind of funny, it infuriates you, it's sad, it's everything you need in a compelling documentary. - amy

★★★½☆



nine

Based on the musical of the same name, which is in itself based on the semi-autobiographical film *8 ½* by Federico Fellini, *Nine* tells the story of Guido Contini, a successful film director facing a midlife crisis while leading a complicated romantic life, and dealing with his relationships with different women including his wife Luisa, his mistress Carla, his muse Claudia Jensen, his costume designer confidante Lilli, his deceased mother, the memory of a prostitute from his youth and an American fashion journalist.

Add to that lush musical numbers, great looking sets, and the star power of Daniel Day-Lewis, Penelope Cruz, Marion Cotillard, Nicole Kidman, Judi Dench and screen legend Sophia Loren, and I'm sold. Right? Well, it's more complicated than that. For example, those lush musical numbers went back and forth with the actors in the present, and you could end up in a flashback. It didn't work for me at all.

It's not like the film is bad, it just didn't live up to anyone's expectations. I am one of the few people left that actually says that enjoys Nicole Kidman on the screen, but I certainly didn't see her character adding anything to the table. I also could have done without Kate Hudson. It was surprising to not find Fergie as bad as I thought she could have been, she wasn't anything extraordinary, but her prostitute character added more to the story than Kidman's or Hudson's did.

While I have nothing to complain about Day-Lewis, Dench and Loren's interpretations, Marion Cotillard and Penelope Cruz were my favorites. One as the wife of a selfish cheating husband, and the other as his lover. Their interactions with Guido were exquisite, as they built the tension for their fleeting encounter with each other at the restaurant. And man, that luscious number for *Take it All*. - amy

★★★☆☆

pg8



avatar

So I recently had the displeasure of enduring James Cameron's preachy unoriginal over-indulgent sci-fi brain rapist, *Avatar*. I'd like to shake the hand of the netizen who named it *Avatar: The Last Samurai of the Ferngully Who Dances With Wolves*.

This is a movie about the evils of corporate greed... that cost 200 million dollars to make and has a promotion partnership with McDonalds, of all places. This is a movie that glorifies the triumph of a technology-free existence... that's about seventy percent CG. But beyond the ideological inconsistencies, let's look at the film-making.

The villains were poorly defined. The only thing that fleshed out their motivations was this generation's mass delusion that anyone who wants money or war is inherently evil. And let me clue you in on something. Truman did not giggle fiendishly after Hiroshima and Nagasaki alright? Don't get me wrong, I love Japan, but Google Nanking 1937 before

you fold your next paper crane. We fought for a reason, and the villains in this film should have had a reason too.

In the movie the Na'vi had something that the humans wanted, inventively named unobtainium, so they blindly and ignorantly rain their tyrannical terror over the innocent blue townsfolk, but there were no active attempts to trade with the Na'vi in this whole film. Jake comments that the human race had nothing that the Na'vi could ever want, since the Na'vi were so 'enlightened.' Bullshit. Like the Na'vi had no use for our helicopters? Our communication gadgets? Or even our weapons, surely to God they could have used a bow and arrow upgrade.

But no... they had harmony! You know who else had harmony? The Borg.

I don't understand why our culture geeks out about its latest iPhone apps, shares its ideas across oceans with resources

like YouTube, and still propagates this idea that we'd all be better off frolicking in the forest in loincloths. Human beings have done great things. My computer, my car, and my air-conditioned home are all amazing, and I applaud the technological innovation involved. And I'm sick of Hollywood using resources created by the very people they condemn to spread these guilt-mongering messages.

Yes, the movie looked great. But my sister put it best when she said it was like getting yelled at by a beautiful, desperately stupid girl for three hours. She might be good for a one night stand but are you really gonna call her again? - lindsay penn @ ChasingTaboo.com

★★★☆☆

the should have been best picture

1 It's always that time of the year. Nominations are in, and we never seem to be happy... now more than ever, since the Academy decided for ten Best Picture, instead of the usual five.

Instead of: Avatar

pg10



moon

Director: Duncan Jones

Starring: Sam Rockwell, Kevin Spacey

Moon tells the story of Sam Bell, a contract worker based at a lunar station, where he spends three years of his life away from his family and everyone he knows. Sam's only comfort is the intelligent computer GERTY, who becomes a sort of confidante.

If getting nominated for Best Screenplay, Best Technical Achievement, Best Actor and Best Director isn't enough, Moon also won Best British Independent Film and Most Promising Talent for Duncan Jones. Moreover, it also earned an Outstanding British Film at the BAFTA. Now, if only Sony had decided to give it a little push, the Academy could have not only considered Rockwell for Best Actor, but a possible nod for Moon on technical categories. With that, it could have easily gotten a Best Picture nod.



a prophet

Director: Jacques Audiard

Starring: Tahar Rahim, Niels Arestrup

A Prophet tells the story of Malik, a young French Arab sent to prison where he is chosen by Luciani, a feared kingpin leader of the Corsican gang, to kill a new prisoner key witness against a mob case. As Malik completes the task, he begins going up the ladder of prison control.

Jacques Audiard makes a film that is thrilling and engaging without any cheap tricks, no out of this world landscape scenes, little special effects or anything flashy. Instead, most

of the story is set inside this prison, painting a gruesome (yet somehow hopeful) reality for Malik, brilliantly played by Rahim who also should have been nominated as Best Actor.
- amy

Instead of: A Serious Man



mary and max

Director: Adam Elliot
Voices of: Toni Collette, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Eric Bana

Chronicling a very unusual friendship spanning 20 years, Mary and Max follows a lonely 8-year-old girl from the suburbs of Melbourne, and a 44-year-old Jewish man in New York suffering from Asperger syndrome who become friends by being penpals.

If people think animation is for children, then Mary and Max should be considered on the Best Picture category, if only for the depth Elliot brought to his clay-characters. By pushing forward, Mary and Max creates a story that could be pretty much be told in a live-action film, but does it with animation. The film brings a much desired "not just for kids"

to the genre, which is in itself pretty revolutionary for an English-speaking film.

The story deals with grown-up issues such as mental disorders, alcoholism, suicide and death much better presented than many other films dealing with the same themes.

And isn't it all about variety? What better way to expand into ten nominations than adding an animated drama from Australia? - amy

Instead of: Up



the white ribbon

Director: Michael Haneke
Starring: Christian Friedel, Ulrich Tukur, Ursina Lardi, Burghart Klaußner

When strange events begin happening in a small village in the north of Germany just before World War I, eyes turn to a group of children who are being abused and suppressed.

The first time you set eyes on the film, you can't help but think of it as an instant classic film which will be seen for years to come. Done in black and white, strong contrast and killer visuals, Haneke weaves an intricate mystery that is so easily explained with the dark side of human behavior. It keeps you quiet and chills you to the bone.

Instead of: An Education



bright star

Director: Jane Campion
Starring: Abbie Cornish, Ben Wishaw

"Bright Star," named after John Keats' poem and tells the story of the doomed poet (Whishaw) and his love affair with the feisty Fanny Browne (Cornish). The story is, ostensibly, about two young people in love but through Campion's lens, it becomes more about the idea of love and its promises

Campion unabashedly throws herself into a world of romanticism and longing and doesn't look back. She captures how finding love affects not only the two people in love, but those around them. The performances are sublime. Cornish makes an indelible impression as the spirited Fanny, the type of young woman who longs for happiness but remains drawn to the tragedy of longing. Whishaw is magnetic as Keats. Gaunt and reserved, he is a brooding bundle of emotions, always on the verge of imploding. Even when tackling one of the greatest Romantic poets, if not the best, Campion still finds a way to communicate Keats' artistry and personality in a way that is rarely seen on the screen. She has taken an impenetrable art form and made it relatable to audiences that may or may not be familiar with the work. This alone makes the film worthy. - dorothy porker @ FilmCheer.com

Instead of: The Blind Side

coming soon



maca's r★atings

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Ninja Assassin | ★½★☆☆ |
| New Moon | ★★★☆☆ |
| The Blind Side | ★★★½☆ |
| It's Complicated | ★★★★☆ |
| All About Steve | ★½★☆☆ |
| Up in the Air | ★★★★☆ |
| Did You Hear About the Morgans | ★½★☆☆ |
| Avatar | ★★★★☆ |
| Couples Retreat | ★★★★☆ |
| The Princess and the Frog | ★★★½☆ |
| Love Happens | ★★★★☆ |
| New York, I Love You | ★★★½☆ |

amy's r★atings

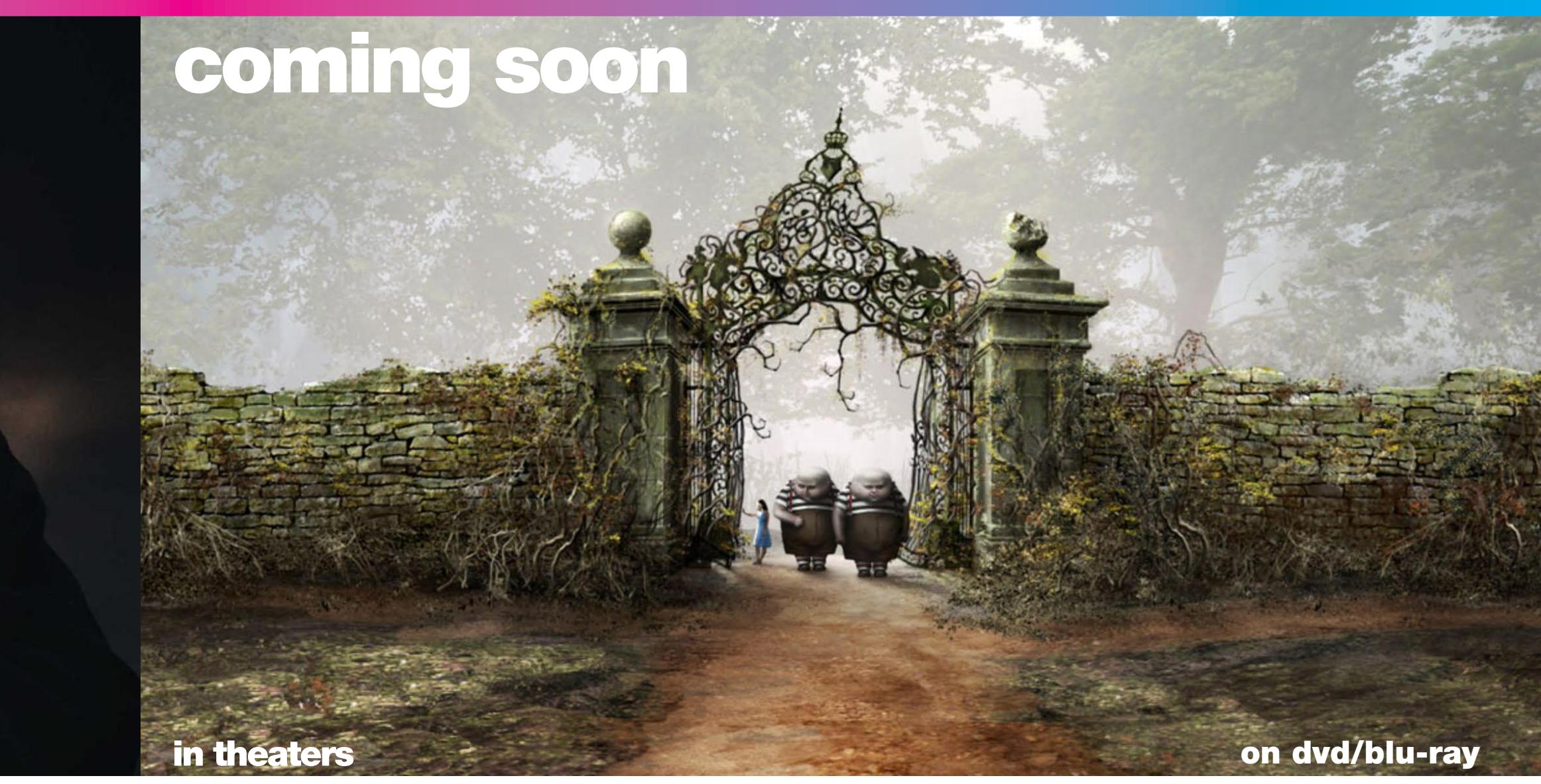
| | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| The Blind Side | ★★★½☆ |
| Avatar | ★★★½☆ |
| Hua Mulan (Mulan) | ★★½☆☆ |
| An Education | ★★★½☆ |
| Invictus | ★★★☆☆ |
| Adam | ★★★½☆ |
| Brothers | ★★★☆☆ |
| Whip It | ★★½☆ |
| The Lovely Bones | ★★★☆☆ |
| Up in the Air | ★★★★☆ |
| I'Heure d'Ete (Summer Hours) | ★★★★☆ |
| Amreeka | ★★★½☆ |

in theaters

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| The Road | ★★★½☆ |
| Fantastic Mr. Fox | ★★★½☆ |
| It's Complicated | ★★½☆☆ |
| A Serious Man | ★★★★☆ |
| The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus | ★★★★☆ |
| The Vicious Kind | ★★★½☆ |
| The Messenger | ★★★½☆ |
| Un Prophète (A Prophet) | ★★★★☆ |
| Creation | ★★¼☆☆ |
| Easier with Practice | ★★★★☆ |
| Oorlogswinter (Winter in Wartime) | ★★★★☆ |
| The Secret of Kells | ★★★½☆ |

on dvd/blu-ray

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| February | - The Girl with the Dragon | - Nurse Jackie - Season 1 | [Single Disc Blu-Ray] | - Red Cliff Part I & II |
| Tattoo | - Shutter Island (19th) | - Coco Before Chanel (16th) | [3-Disc Blu-Ray] | [Blu-Ray] |
| It's Complicated | - Ghost Writer | [DVD][Blu-Ray] | - Broken Embraces | - Alice (2009 Miniseries) |
| A Serious Man | - A Prophet (26th) | [DVD] | [DVD][Blu-Ray] | [DVD][Blu-Ray] |
| The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus | - Good Hair | - Greenberg | [DVD] | - Brothers |
| The Vicious Kind | - Art of the Steal | - I Love You Phillip Morris | [2-Disc DVD] | [Toy Story (23rd)] |
| The Messenger | - The Yellow Handkerchief | - Hot Tub Time Machine | [2-Disc Blu-Ray] | [DVD][Blu-Ray] |
| Un Prophète (A Prophet) | - Revanche Criterion | March | - Lola Montès Criterion | - Toy Story 2 |
| Creation | - Where the Wild Things Are | - Alice in Wonderland (5th) | [DVD][Blu-Ray] | - An Education (30th) |
| Easier with Practice | - Hunger Criterion | - Green Zone (12th) | [DVD][Blu-Ray] | [DVD][Blu-Ray] |
| Oorlogswinter (Winter in Wartime) | - Secret of Kells | - Precious (9th) | [DVD][Blu-Ray] | - Mad Men - Season 3 |
| The Secret of Kells | - She's Out of my League | - Kick-Ass (16th) | [DVD][Blu-Ray] | [DVD][Blu-Ray] |
| | - The Runaways (19th) | - Ran | - The Princess and the Frog | - Fantastic Mr. Fox |
| | | [Blu-Ray] | [Single Disc DVD] (16th) | [DVD] |





cn blue

Bluetory (January 14th 2010)

This rookies to the Kpop scene are actually not wet behind their ears. Debuting in Japan last year, they have gained the stage confidence that are making them clearly stand out among other popular music groups. And it does not hurt that they play their own instruments; which very few groups in the Korean music popular scene do, so that makes them stand out a bit.

They have the vocal talent and they are

cute as hell, so everything speaks for them gaining a lot of popularity inside out of Korea and around Asia.

Their first mini album in Korean is a solid, comfortable production. The title song stands out and is very in touch with the trends of Korean music nowadays. The rest is good but not outstanding. However, that does not mean that it has to be bad. - julili

★★★☆☆



trax

Trax (January 25th 2010)

After being away for a very long time, SM's only rock duo are back with a sound that is almost rock-ballad but less dramatical.

I really have no clue as to where to categorize this group and I wonder if it is even needed. I am more and more walking away from the heavy produced, easy to listen pop music that is the heart of Kpop; far from that is where TRAX comes

★★★☆☆



u kiss

in. From have being a visual key group the sound is now light rock, perhaps. All I know is that I like to listen to it. - julili

Only One (February 3rd 2010)
After receiving some well earned popularity after their hit "Man-ha-ha-ni" this seven member group release their first album since their debut.

I have just come to love this group but it is mostly cus they are adorable and cute. Their music is not that extraordinary and all their songs sound the same. So I am giving them points because of the singles they have released are good in the

★★★☆☆



sa dingding

"hear-them-once-and-have-them-stuck-in-your-head-forever-because-they-are-so-catchy".

Only One (February 3rd 2010)
After receiving some well earned popularity after their hit "Man-ha-ha-ni" this seven member group release their first album since their debut.

I love my Kpop like that so I guess I shouldn't complain. - julili

★★★☆☆

Harmony (January 26th 2010)
If there's interesting talent coming out of contemporary Chinese arts, Sa Dingding leads the pack with Chinese folk electronic music. She grew up a nomad, travelling around eastern China with her family until they arrived in Beijing and was signed to Universal.

No wonder the album topped iTunes World Music downloads in some countries.

Highlights: Ha Ha Lili, Hua, Pomegranate Woman, Famous Friends [Remix], Xi Ran Ning Bo - amy

★★★☆☆



where is the cpop scene going?

Idols. We love to love them, we love to hate them. However, before China's scene exploded with musical acts, there were the traditional stars. Those that got to where they are not only because of hard work, but also for their vocal ability, talent writing their music, and their natural charisma.

Take Han Hong as an example. I've seen more than one person raising an eyebrow when they see her on a video. Sporting short hair, sparkly suits or maybe a tracksuit. She's short and chubby, and not your typical star, yet when you hear her sing, you can't deny that she's got a marvelous voice. Her performance for her song Road to Heaven (or Heavenly Road) is one of the most beautiful vocal experiences I have ever heard.

It's also not hard to imagine why she's won Favorite Mainland Female Singer before, and recently at the 2009 Beijing Pop Music Awards, even beating out current idol Li Yuchun (Chris Lee).

So what do pop acts pushed by production companies to be the embodiment of sexy and cool, package over talent mean for artists like Han Hong? Does it mean China's music machine that thrived in talent and variety will begin deteriorating like other music scenes around the world? Will variety soon be extinct as only one genre becomes popular solely based on image and that famous "it" factor? As the Cpop scene begins churning pop acts that begin singing modern songs, which Han Hong calls "vulgar," I

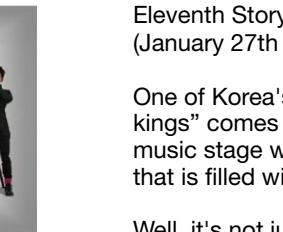
wonder if Han Hong ever thought of herself as a pop act. What is pop music, anyway? There are so many people that hate the Pop label, but isn't pop music only music that is popular? So that would mean Kanye is Pop, just as much as Lady Gaga, Taylor Swift and Beyoncé are. Or is there a specific thing that makes something Pop and something not Pop. Is it about selling out like old school rocker Cui Jian says? After all, aren't most musicians making ends meet with their sponsoring deals, while giving away music to their fans?

Will poetic songs about one's city, or one's memories of a season be chucked out in favor of songs about feeling funny inside when seeing the person you like, humping someone, kissing a girl and liking it just for the fun of seeing a guy making funny eyes?

What musician Ding Wei says is true, that only those with a strong skill set can be popular forever. However, it's not only writing songs and performing them, it's about integrity as an artist. It's about finding your own voice and your own path to follow. Maybe Ding Wei does say it better "*I do not follow any trend. I just want to follow my own path for myself. I want to do something different and not follow others.*" You will do nothing with writing a song that everybody is already singing, you gotta write the song of the rhythm of your heart.

2am

Can't Let You Go, Even If I Die (January 21st 2010)



After always being behind 2PM's shadow, finally this vocal group get the recognition they deserve.

Because they do, although this mini-album consists of four songs, dammit in my life if I have ever heard such a perfect mini-album.

They are the ballad group of JYP for all the right reasons and, even though there is just four songs, the variation of the genre is soothing.

I have yet to stop listening to the mini-album and I am craving for more from this group. All I have known of them before is their dorky behaviour in variety shows.

Finally they get to sing! - julili



kim jongkook

Eleventh Story (January 27th 2010)



One of Korea's "ballad kings" comes back to the music stage with an album that is filled with just that.

Well, it's not just ballads, there is also something else for his fans in the album, but it is definitely not dance music.

Also known as "mosquito" voice, Kim JongKook does have a voice that needs some time to get used to. It is very soft and high, but it does make him and his music stand out.

The album, as a whole, is a very well produced piece. All the songs work well on their own and everything sounds okay to the ears. - julili

more albums

Yuguo - Live in Shanghai

★★★★★

John Mayer - Battle Studies

★★¾★☆

CoLor - CoLor

★★½★☆

SOUR - Water Flavor

★★★¼★

JJ Lin - 100 Days

★★★¼★

Mayday - Mayday World Tour Live

★★★¾★

@ Taipei Arena - DNA LIVE!!

★★★¾★

Sodagreen - Daylight of Spring

★★★¾★

Sodagreen - Fever

★★★½★

Alicia Keys -

★★★½★

The Element of Freedom

★★★¼★

Pink Martini - Splendor in the Grass

★★★½★

Mary J. Blige -

★★★★★

Stronger with Each Tear

★★★★★

Vampire Weekend - Contra

★★★½★

Ayaka - MTV Unplugged

★★★★★

snsd

Oh! The Second Album (January 28th 2010)

After a very successful year SNSD is back in the spotlight with their cutesy style that seems effortless.

I have finally given up about being frustrated about mature, sexy women sometimes doing music and dances that are perhaps more suitable for teenage girls. Yes, it is the way they are being sold and damn I am buying it. So I better shut up and just go with the flow.

Thankfully this album is not as bad as the mini-albums that were released last year. It is a decent album all in all, sure, you find some retarded songs but the ballads more than make up for it. So does the title song, even if it's retarded as hell, it's damn catchy. This is really produced pop in all its glory, skin over music! - julili

★★½★☆

coming soon

February 15th

Chayanne - No Hay Imposibles

Massive Attack - Heligoland

March 2nd

Sade - Soldier of Love

Lifehouse - Smoke and Mirrors

Dave Matthews Band - Live in Las Vegas

Joaquin Sabina - Vinage y Rosas

Aleks Syntek - Metodos de Place Instantaneo

Emma Pollock - Law of Large Numbers

February 16th

March 8th

Peter Gabriel - Scratch my Back

Gorillaz - Plastic Beach

March 16th

White Stripes - Under Great White

Tété - Le Premier Clair de l'Aube Northern Lights

February 20th

February 23rd

March 23rd

Johnny Cash -

Goldfrapp - Head First

American VI: Ain't no Grave



ten actresses that should move to cable

It's always been tough to be a working actress on the big screen, as you turn a little older, offers often seem to be linked to "being someone else's mother," but cable television seems to be becoming more and more attractive to not only writers – because they get to write more challenging stories and skip censors – but also to women who were movie actresses and have found new complex roles to take on.

Actresses like Mary-Louise Parker (2 Golden Globes), Eddie Falco (2 Golden Globes), Toni Collette (1 Oscar nomination), Glenn Close (5 Oscar nominations), Anna Paquin (1 Oscar), and Holly Hunter (1 Oscar) can now be seen regularly on Showtime's Weeds, Nurse Jackie and United States of Tara, as well as FX's Damages, HBO's True Blood or TNT's Saving Grace.

Add to this list of remarkable women, Laura Linney (3 Oscar nominations) for her newly picked-up comedy The Big C, which will be airing on Showtime this year.

Here's 10 actresses from around the world that should get a show on cable – preferably, Showtime. Come on! Make it happen!

1. Maggie Cheung

"Because I've done so many different roles, I don't want to repeat myself. It's getting harder and harder to find something interesting." That's what Maggie Cheung stated in an interview, so what could be better than to give her the reigns of a cable show to do as she pleases – especially if she could do it with Wong Kar-Wai at the helm.

Cheung has over 70 films under her belt, but she's been out of the business since she became the first Chinese actress to win Best Actress at Cannes Film Festival for her role on Clean (2004). Give this woman a show on cable already, and people won't be disappointed. Believe me, fans are dying to see her back.

2. Julianne Moore

Granted, Moore seems to be pretty busy with her children book, as well as the release of The Kids Are Alright, and a couple more projects that are in production. However, it would be a great idea to give this four-time-Oscar-nominee her own cable show.

3. Juliette Binoche

After winning an Oscar for The English Patient in 1996, starring on Haneke's Caché in 2005, and participating in over 40 films during her career, La Binoche has more than proved she's a great actress. So imagine, if she were given the chance to lead a cable series full of complex characters and situations.

If she can leave you wanting more after a 2hr film, imagine watching her on what you could call 13-very-intense hours of really great television.

4. Monica Bellucci

Bellucci's got a few projects that are about to get released, and that have just been announced. However, after such films as Irreversible, I could picture this Italian actress giving very intense performances on a show for HBO.

5. Kou Shibasaki

After playing insane Mitsuko on the cult hit Battle Royale (a favorite of Tarantino), Shibasaki has shown a broad range of talent throughout different genres. Give her a challenging role on a cable TV show, and you'll see flocks of J-Film lovers lining up to get a subscription.

6. laura dern
7. maribel verdú
8. gong li
9. miki nakatani
10. cecilia roth



tv



modern family - season 1

They say television should reflect the society we live in, so it's no wonder someone came up with the idea for Modern Family. This ABC comedy is basically that, a show about a modern-day family, starting with Jay (Ed O'Neil) and his second wife Gloria (Colombian actress Sofia Vergara), and her kid... old-soul Manny.

Then there's Jay's eldest daughter Claire (Julie Bowen), her loser husband but "cool dad" Phil (Ty Burrell), their 3 kids... not so bright Haley... not so bright Luke... and the one picking on them for not being bright, Alex. And finally, there's Jay's younger son Mitchell (Jesse Tyler Ferguson), his "mother bear" boyfriend Cameron (Eric Stonestreet), and their newly-adopted Vietnamese baby Lily.

With a few episodes of the first season left, and an early renewal for its second season, no other show that I remember has had me laughing out loud like a total maniac like this one. It's not like the show it's a complete mockery of families nowadays, as it does have a ground on reality, which makes it even funnier.

Take for example O'Neil's character's dry "I know more than thou" humor, and his interactions with his loser "I'm cool" son-in-law, or the spicy Latina wife and her Colombian traditions, and her son's "as a matter of fact" humor.

★★★☆



nurse jackie - season 1

On Showtime's Nurse Jackie, we follow Jackie Peyton struggling to balance the insanely busy hours as a nurse at a New York City hospital, and her personal drama. Sharing her personal drama, and lending support whenever possible is her doctor friend Eleanor O'Hara, her nurse friend "Momo" de la Cruz, and to some extent her protégé newly-hired nurse Zoey.

The show is labeled as a comedy, but it's more like a dark dramedy. You have to like laughing at dead people, and every other person that might cross your path regardless of anything. Jackie can be a super nurse whenever she gets her fix... think of her as a sort of Dr. House, but nicer to the patient. Unlike him, Jackie can be the most accommodating person, the most efficient, and the most caring. It's hard not to forgive all the not-so-ethical things she does. After all, she is just a person trying to help.

My favorite moments are the interactions at the hospital, or chilling with her hospital friends. Dr. Eleanor O'Hara cracks me up with her British dry humor, as well as Zoey's chirpy personality. However, I haven't warmed up to Jackie's love life, even though I do find her daughters adorable.

★★½☆

the nikopol trilogy

by Enki Bilal
Sci-fi
★★★½★

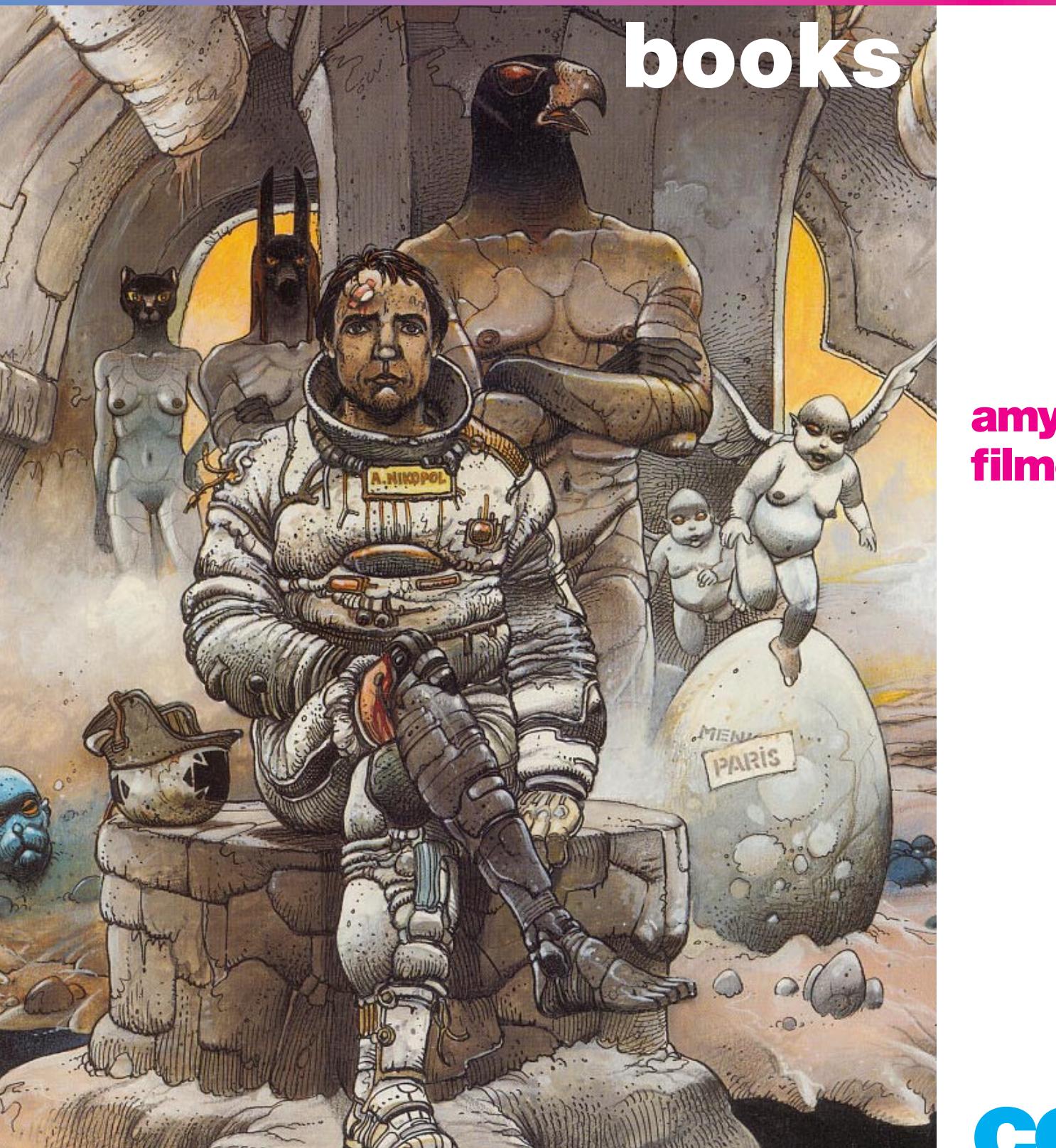
Set in 2023, this trilogy follows the return of Nikopol after spending 30 years orbiting the earth, who finds France under fascist rule after two nuclear wars. The result? It's a cold scary world out there with aliens, deformed human beings, and total chaos.

The trilogy is divided into La Foire aux Immortels (Carnival of Immortals), La Femme Piège (Woman Trap) and Froid Équateur (Cold Equator), which chronicle a period of a few years beginning with a weird floating pyramid inhabited by Egyptian gods, who in turn are having their own internal war as renegade god Horus wants more of immortal life. Feeling all messed up, Nikopol agrees to let Horus take over his body, when more chaos ensues.

Everything seems to happen in this story, there are murders, hallucinations, talking animals, Egyptian gods, terrorism, Somalian pirates, sex, fights for freedom, and long lost sons. The art is pretty awesome, even though it was done some 30 years ago. However, I didn't think the story was that good. Woman Trap does pick up the pace, but Carnival of Immortals just feels long... especially because of those monologue dialog boxes.

I guess I liked Woman Trap the most because it centers around Jill Bioskop instead, and her story is just so messed up and weird that it keeps you reading so you can just know. Nevertheless, when you get to the last page on that chapter, you're not left without that urge to continue reading.

books



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