THE ARTS

ON THE SCREEN

BY THE TECH ARTS STAFF

*****: Excellent
****: Good
***: Mediocre
**: Poor

**** Blade Runner: The Director's Cut

The classic film Blade Runner celebrates its 10th anniversary with the release of the director's cut, originally wanted to make, without the censoring voice-over and the upfront ending. The result is a wonderful, Kubrickian film with a meditative mood and a soaring Vangelis score. Harrison Ford, Rutger Hauer, and Sean Young give career performances in an apocalyptic urban nightmare of the future that was and may still be sore ahead of its time. More worthwhile seeing than almost any "new" movie currently playing. Loews Nickelodeon

***** Bob Roberts

Funny and disturbing, this satire of American politics written and directed by Tim Robbins, uses a mock documentary style to chronicle the rise to power of the fictional Bob Roberts. Roberts is a right-wing entertainer, entrepreneur, and political candidate who goes to Hollywood as a medium for his conservative attitudes, and whose only clear beliefs are that individuals should be able to gain as much wealth as they can and that the liberal programs of incumbent Sen. Faife (Gene Vidal) are a waste of money. The film's searing indictment of candidates' campaigning in the era of entertainment is accurate and hilarious, but troubling. Loews Nickelodeon

**** Captain Ron

Though genuinely funny, this film is poorly written and badly acted, outside from Kurt Russell's performance as the title character. Captain Ron sails a boat belonging to Mr. Harvey (Marlon Brando) and his family from a remote Caribbean island to Florida where the boat is to be sold, encountering a few problems along the way. The characterization of the Captain is delightful, but the plot is mawkish and the supporting acting is awful. The amusing parts are truly funny, but what is left after the humor is badly done. Loews Copley Place

**** Howard's End

The filmmaking trio of James Ivory, Ismael Merchant, and Ruth Prawer Jhabvala have translated E. M. Forster's novel of class struggles in 20th-century England into a brilliant film that is an astonishing achievement. The screen is filled with contrasting elements such as the rich and the poor, the romantic and the pragmatic, and the urban and the pastoral. The alternately funny and moving story considers which group will ultimately inherit the nation. Anthony Hopkins, Helena Bonham Carter, and Samuel West are excellent, while Vanessa Redgrave and Emma Thompson are outstanding. Loews Charles

**** Husbands and Wives

Blind and powerful, Woody Allen's new film examines the state of relationships today and decides that everlasting love is little more than a myth. Shot as a documentary, it follows the members of two marriages as they grow disillusioned with one another and begin to look for happiness elsewhere. Judy Davis gives a wonderfully searing comic performance. Sydney Pollack is amazing as a man with truthful familiarity. Loews Cheri

***** School Ties

This is an amazing film dealing with anti-Semitism in the 1950's. Brenda Fraser delivers a powerful performance as David Greene, who is recruited from a poor town to play football for an elite preparatory school. David at first hides the fact that he is Jewish and fits in well with his new group of friends. When they find out that he is Jewish, each reacts differently. The movie examines different forms of prejudice in the actions of David's friends after their discovery. Overall, the acting is convincing, the story is feasible, and the moral is presented well. The film propels audiences to a humorous and serious side, yielding a final product that is as meaningful as it is enjoyable to watch. Loews Cheri

**** Singles

This light and entertaining film focuses on the struggles of six singles in their 20s as they try to understand love and relationships. Steve Campbell, Kyra Sedgwick, Bridget Fonda, and Matt Dillon are all good, the script by director Cameron Crowe is often extremely funny, and Seattle locations and music provide an interesting backdrop. Although it is not as realistic as Crowe's Say Anything, the movie contains wonderful isolated moments that are filled with truthful familiarity. Loews Cheri

**** Unforgiven

Bleak and powerful, Woody Allen's new film examines the state of relationships today and decides that everlasting love is little more than a myth. Shot as a documentary, it follows the members of two marriages as they grow disillusioned with one another and begin to look for happiness elsewhere. Judy Davis gives a wonderfully searing comic performance. Sydney Pollack is amazing as a man with truthful familiarity. Loews Cheri

**** Wind

Visually spectacular sailing sequences at the beginning and end of this film combine the drama of being in the America's Cup with the excitement of controlling the boats on the open seas. What takes place between the two races are the true telling points of the movie, though. The plot is incoherent and the main characters, played by Matthew Modine and Jennifer Grey, are poorly developed. The story about attempts to reclaim the Cup has its charming moments, but overall it is never as convincing as the phenomenal sailing scenes. Loews Cheri

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