THE ARTS

ON THE SCREEN

BY THE TECH ARTS STAFF

****: Excellent
***: Good
**: Average
*: Poor

Blown Away
Despite a Boston setting and a cameo by MIT, Blown Away is almost a complete disappointment. Jeff Bridges in James DOE of the Boston Bomb Squad who tries to catch bad guy Ryan Gaerity (Tommy Lee Jones), an escaped prisoner who can make "bombs from Bisquick," and uses his culinary talents to exact revenge on Dave. Jones is a disappointment as Gaerity, though it is interesting to watch the interaction between the father/son combination of Jeff and Lloyd Bridges on the screen. The only highlights of the film is the special effects in the explosion sequences, which are done well. Unfortunately, this doesn't compensate for the weak story and flimsy characters. —Evelyn Kao. LSC Saturday.

Only You
This is an amusing, enjoyable film for people who haven't given up on old-fashioned romance. Explaining fish as a romantic basis, this film recalls a film like Roman Holiday. Marisa Torni is Faith, a quirky schoolteacher an age of illusions and of testosterone-dominated action flimsy characters. —Evelyn Kao. Excel-

Flim-

***: Poor has been paid off to take a dive in the ring, Health. A married couple, played by a buck-toothed Anthony Hopkins) and Robert Redford doesn't compensate for the weak story and story basis (originally written by the surest setup, but did not commit, and he is forced to face the changing face of moral-

Winners of the Cannes Film Festival, this movie combines orchestrates this tale of American-Italian relations just beneath the surface. —EK.

Pulp Fiction
Winner of the Palma d'Or at this year's Cannes Film Festival, this movie combines standard plots of hit men, junkies, and criminals, with an amazing facility with storytelling. The plot consists of three principle stories. First, the daily experiences of two hit men (John Travolta and Samuel L. Jackson); second, Travolta’s character involved with his gangster boss's wife (Ursula Thurman) as an enemy; and third, the plans of a boxer, who has been paid off to take a dive in the ring, instead choosing to win the fight and take off with the money and his girlfriend. Although these film noir concepts may seem a bit tired, writer-director Quentin Tarantino infuses his characters with cracking dialogue and a sense of purpose (i.e., Jackson's hit-man character quoting Bible verses as a prelude to execution). Tarantino’s career may still be young, beginning with the cult hit Reservoir Dogs (1992) and recently surfacing in his scripts for True Romance and Natural Born Killers, but his latest film confirms his mission to shake up the current course of cinema. —Bob Marcato. Loew’s Ochre.

Quiz Show
The quiz-show scandals of the 1950s forced America to probe the changing face of reality. Robert Redford directs this fresh look at television and honesty in an age of illusions and image-making. Excellent performances by Ralph Fiennes and Brad Pitt, make this reality-based drama worth the contemplation and dissection of ethical issues and the phomo-

Road to Wellville
Director Alan Parker (The Commitments) orchestrates this tale of comic and social mishaps at an American turn-of-the-century health spa. The spa owner, Dr. Kellogg (played by a back-touched Anthony Hopkins) preaches his gospel of once-a-day enemas and strict dieting in the confines of his "Temple of Health." A married couple, played by Matthew Broderick and Bridget Fonda, seek a new way of living that will improved the husband’s health and solve their marital problems. This may sound like a good setup, but there is a nominal comic payoff, and the actors are unable to extract much from the mediocre script, although Danus Carvey, as Dr. Kellogg’s created, estranged son, provides a few laughs. However, the pretty location and bathroom humor can’t support the rest of the film on their own. —Carrie Perlman. Loewes Nickelodeon.

The Specialist
The latest film in a long line of television-dominated action flicks has a lot more going for it than its plot. It’s a movie of magnitude, whether the scenes marvellous at the modern-day sensi-

Coney Island Redemption
This extraordinary movie about hope, friendship, and renewal in the face of suffering in life is much more heartfelt than its title suggests. Tim Robbins embodies the classic protagonist in Andy DuFresne, a banker who is imprisoned for two murders he swears he did not commit, and he is forced to face the abrasive reality of prison life. He eventually comes out of his shell and cultivates a friend-

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LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY
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Brooklyn, New York 11201

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