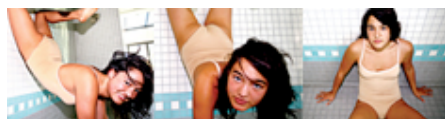


WORK ONLY 3-4 DAYS A WEEK
Start at over **\$25/hour**



Barely There
by American Apparel®

Dive in!
See 10 hot beach trips now

[HOME] [CLASSIFIEDS] [PAST ISSUES] [SPECIAL ISSUES] [ADVERTISING] [CONTACT] [SISTER PAPERS]

~ LATEST REVIEWS ~

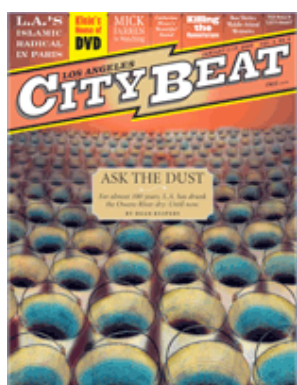
Alpha Dog

Set in the San Gabriel Valley in the dog days of 1999 and inspired by the real-life events leading to the death of 15-year-old Nicholas Markowitz, this latest from writer-director Nick Cassavetes takes its place – seizes, more like it – alongside movies like Kids, Thirteen, and Lords of Dogtown in the canon of rowdy, vulgar adolescent flicks that confirm (or even surpass) adults’ worst suspicions about teenagers. At the center of the film is cocky, headstrong Johnny Truelove (Emile Hirsch), a mid-level drug dealer who whiles away his days and nights in a heady blur of weed, alcohol, videogames, and partying, surrounded by sycophants (Shawn Hatosy, Justin Timberlake) and pliable women (Olivia Wilde). When strung-out acquaintance Jake (Ben Foster) welsches on a debt, Johnny impulsively snatches Jake’s younger stepbrother Zack (Anton Yelchin) to force his hand.

Cassavetes has attracted a notable ensemble cast and, in encouraging the enthusiastically unhinged performances of his often shirtless, tattooed actors, does a good job of capturing the charged, hormonal aggressiveness of youth. The result is stylish, adrenaline-charged, and quite insistent, qualities that initially serve it well in holding one’s attention. Still, the movie unfolds at only one pitch, and the heightened tone eventually reveals itself as more of a default position than a clever gambit. There’s no particular depth to the “pack of wolves” metaphor, no cautionary lessons to be gleaned – just broad, colorful strokes and a sugar rush of sweaty, nicely photographed delinquency. (Brent Simon) (Citywide)

Code Name: The Cleaner

Jake (Cedric the Entertainer), a janitor at a game company, is bonked on the head, wakes up next to a dead body, and realizes he has amnesia. He misinterprets all the clues around him – as well as his memory flashes of combat, which are in fact all from videogames – as proof that he is a highly trained government agent. His apparent girlfriend, waitress Gina



HOME

COVER STORY

Ask the Dust

In 1913, Los Angeles took the water from the Owens River as its own, and in the process both destroyed and preserved a pristine mountain valley. Now, 93 years later, L.A. is giving some of the water back

FRONTLINES

New 'Hood, Old Problem

Gang crime continues to rise, and has spread rapidly into the San Fernando Valley

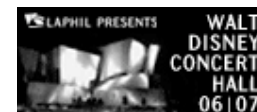
French Connection

The new face of Islamic radicalism in France claims



SOUTHLAND PUBLISHING
CLICK HERE

CITYBEAT
Classifieds
Weekly Download



his political and spiritual conversion happened in Los Angeles

3RD DEGREE

Abby Stoddard

The New York University researcher on why humanitarian aid workers are now political targets

EDITORIAL

GOP vs. GOP

LETTERS

STREET

New Year, New You, A River Runs Through It

LEFT COAST

Cartoon By Ted Rall

TAKE MY PICTURE

Photographs by Gary Leonard

7 DAYS

An Art Frontier

L.A.&E

The All-Seeing Eye
Who watches the watchers? Eventually, perhaps, everyone

LIVE

The Shakes Rattle and Roll

Silver Lake wisenheimers deliver a shambolic set in Hollywood

FILM

Asian Action and Aged Adolescents

Catching up with 'Oldboy,' 'Shogun Assassin,' and the Hardy Boys on DVD

'Black Gold' Blues

(Lucy Liu), doesn't believe him, but then: Why is a murderous threesome (Nicollette Sheridan, Mark Dacascos, Callum Keith Rennie) chasing after him?

Mr. the Entertainer is certainly capable of being very funny on stage. So why is it that he is so frequently unfunny on screen? In this case, it's not merely that the script is a sloppy, by-the-numbers action farce; it's more the leaden hand of director Les Mayfield, whose list of credits (Flubber, Blue Streak, The Man) put him in competition with Shawn Levy (Cheaper by the Dozen) for the title of Least Funny Comedy Director. (Where, oh where, is Savage Steve Holland when we need him?) Dacascos more or less reprises his role from Cradle 2 the Grave, with too much flat acting and too little spectacular fighting. It's pointless to nitpick the plot of this sort of mess, but it's also hard not to choke when we are asked to believe, with very little explanation, that a janitor with no engineering background somehow discovers that a computer chip has a second layer of programming, so well hidden that none of the company's programmers have detected it. (Andy Klein) (Citywide)

God Grew Tired of Us

Fleeing the brutal civil war that engulfed Sudan in the '80s, thousands of children braved starvation and other dangers to walk hundreds of miles to refugee camps in Kenya, where they stayed for a decade without knowing if their relatives and loved ones had survived. A few years ago, documentarians Megan Mylan and Jon Shenk made Lost Boys of Sudan, following two such young men as they emigrated to America. Similarly this new, highly engaging doc from filmmakers Christopher Quinn and Tommy Walker charts the truly mesmerizing odyssey of three more "Lost Boys" - Panther Bior, John Bul Dau, and Daniel Abol Pach - as they are granted visas to the U.S., settling into modern apartments and finding work in the utterly foreign landscapes of Pittsburgh and Syracuse.

In a lesser film, scenes of these fish out of water figuring out how to operate light switches and indoor plumbing would be comedic fodder, but God Grew Tired of Us allows us to see these conveniences for the minor miracles they are through the Africans' eyes. The trio's early observations of American capitalism are innocent yet insightful, their inquisitive questions and expressions of wonderment at the power of wealth utterly heartbreaking. Kind, stable John, emotional and optimistic Daniel, and pragmatic Panther toil away at low-paying jobs, send their money home, and learn to live what their coworkers teach them to call "the American dream." It is their steadfast resolve to some day reunite with their families - and to help those left behind in their country - that ultimately makes this an uplifting experience of the first order. (Joshua Sindell) (Laemmle's Sunset 5, Laemmle's Playhouse 7).

Romántico

Director Mark Becker's fascinating and moving documentary starts out as a portrait of illegal immigrant mariachi singers in San Francisco - in particular Carmelo and Arturo, a pair of paunchy, hard-bitten minstrels who wander from bar to restaurant, working for tips. It's a hard life, and both singers, who frequently squabble personally but have a tight professional partnership, make enough cash to send home to their families in Mexico. Yet, a few short weeks into filming, Carmelo gets homesick and decides to move back home. From this point, the story shifts into a sort of rags-to-even-more-raggy-rags tale, as he is reunited with his wife and daughters but slips into a downward mobility



Ads by Google

The Family Law Attorney

Family Law Practice for LA-Ventura
Custody/Divorce Attorney
www.westlakelaw.com

Safe Tattoo Removal

Schedule A Free Consultation In Los Angeles Area. Call Us Today!
www.DrTATTOFF.com

Los Angeles Zippy Shuttle

SoCal Airports/Residences/Anyw Door to Door / Clean, Safe Vans
zippyshuttle.net

Los Angeles Sightseeing

Tours of Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Movie Stars Homes and much more.
www.lasightseeing.net

Los Angeles Auto Loans

Auto Loans For All Credit Types Find The Perfect Lender. Start Now!
www.DriverLoans.com

Advertise on this site

New documentary looks into inequities of the global coffee trade

~ SHOWTIMES ~

~ LATEST REVIEWS ~

~ NOW PLAYING ~

~ SPECIAL SCREENINGS ~

SONIC NATION

A 'Place' Out of Time

Dark and gorgeous, Catherine Howe's obscure '70s album is still an oddity

STAGE

Youth, for the Young

CTG's middle-school musical '13' is energetic, witty, and cool

LISTINGS

~ DANCEBEAT~

~ ROCK, POP, ACOUSTIC ~

~ GIVE IT UP! ~

~ READINGS, ETC. ~

~ CONCERTS ~

~ CLASSICAL/DANCE ~

~ CABARET ~

~ JAZZ, BLUES, LATIN ~

~ GALLERY ~

~ STAGE ~

EAT

Sushi Yotsuya

that will inevitably force him to try to cross the border again. Becker's film has an intimacy, an unvarnished truthfulness, and a real-world sense of unpredictability that make for an unusually engrossing experience. By the end, Becker has made Carmelo and Arturo feel like our personal friends. With his paunch and pitted, jowly face, Carmelo makes for an unusual leading man, but his story is gripping and his dignity as he faces appalling travails puts those of us who are better off to shame. (Paul Birchall) (Nuart)

Thr3e

Christian thriller novelist Ted Dekker is evidently a fan of screenwriter Charlie Kaufman: Viewers of *Adaptation* may recall that fictional twin Donald Kaufman makes it big by selling an equally fictional screenplay entitled *The Three*, featuring an absurd climactic plot development. Dekker's novel, coincidentally or otherwise, came out a year after *Adaptation* and has now been turned into a movie with more or less the same title and ludicrous final twist, courtesy of screenwriter Alan B. McElroy (*Left Behind* and the *Spawn* animated series) and director Robby Henson (*Pharaoh's Army*).

The first release from Fox's new Christian-themed subdivision Fox Faith, *Thr3e* is actually the least proselytizing religious film in recent memory, with nary a mention of Jesus. Protagonist Kevin (Marc Blucas) - a seminary student, but not a very pious one - hides a deep, dark secret that is exploited by a serial bomber (the ever-reliable Bill Moseley), who pledges to keep killing until Kevin gives a full confession. If you happen to be a sheltered religious kid who's dying to see a serial-killer movie but is barred by parental authority from seeing any film containing profanity, gore, or sexual tension, this is your chance. (Everyone else: Be warned that the acting is sinfully bad.) Curiously for a flick aimed at fundies, though, the villains include a cracked couple who idolize Eisenhower and insist on home-schooling their children to protect them from the evil outside world. (Luke Y. Thompson) (Citywide)

ALSO OPENING THIS WEEK

Primeval. Michael Katleman directed this tale of a news team (Dominic Purcell, Orlando Jones) going up against both a 25-foot killer crocodile and a warlord in South Africa. (AK) (Citywide)

Stomp the Yard. A young man (Columbus Short) from Los Angeles goes to a black university in order to avoid a stint in juvie. Sylvain White directed; Megan Good and Ne-Yo costar. (AK) (Citywide)



01-11-07