

PlanetOut names top ten movies

by Bryce Eberhart
Special to Q-Notes

SAN FRANCISCO — The PlanetOut internet portal has announced the results of the Fourth Annual PopcornQ Top Ten Movie Poll based on a survey of the site's members. The annual Top Ten Movie Poll asks visitors to vote for their favorite gay and lesbian movies released over the past year. The complete results are available at www.planetout.com/pno/popcornq/movienews by clicking the link "Year-end movie poll."

This year's top honor went to the Clea DuVall/Natasha Lyonne love story, *But I'm a Cheerleader*. The popular romantic comedy, directed by Jamie Babbit, follows the wacky

goings on at a homosexual rehab camp. Coming in at number two is the lesbian triptych HBO production, *If These Walls Could Talk 2*, starring Sharon Stone, Ellen DeGeneres, Chloe Sevigny, and Vanessa Redgrave (who won an Emmy for her portrayal of a widowed lesbian).

Other top ten winners are: Oscar-contender *Billy Elliot*; *West Hollywood*, ensemble comedy; *The Broken Hearts Club*, featuring Dean Cain and Timothy Olyphant; *Wonder Boys*, nominated for a Golden Globe; Christopher Guest's campy satire, *Best In Show*; John Schlesinger's *The Next Best Thing*, starring Madonna and Rupert Everett; Jon Shear's *Urbania*; 1999 Golden Globe nominee *Aimee & Jaguar*; and Margaret Cho's *I'm the One That I Want*. ▾

Showtime miniseries: the real Thing

by Lainey Millen
Q-Notes Staff

When I was asked to review *A Girl Thing* (airing on Showtime on January 20 and 27 at 8:00 pm), I assumed it would be like most such assignments: I'd sit there for countless hours waiting patiently for the end. Well, watch out! This one was a real exception.

From the moment I put the first of two tapes in my VCR (then searched in vain for the remote to adjust the sound and avoid scaring my cat when the introduction thundered from the speakers), I knew I was in for an incredible ride. I did not read the promotional material on purpose, because I did not want my vision clouded by someone else's impressions. I am so glad I waited.

This star-struck and star-studded miniseries features an ensemble cast of some of the finest female performers in the industry, complemented by a few first-rate male actors who blend in naturally.

The characters are brilliantly brought to life by Stockard Channing, Lynn Whitfield, Kate Capshaw, Rebecca De Mornay, Mia Farrow, Elizabeth Franz, Irma P. Hall, Linda Hamilton, Glene Headly, Allison Janney, Tina Lifford, Elle Macpherson, Camryn Manheim, Margo Martindale, S. Epatha Merkerson, Kelly Rowan, Peta Wilson, Scott Bakula, Bruce Greenwood, Brian Kerwin and Brent Spiner. The performance of each is solid and they work even better in tandem.

Stockard Channing, whom I first remember from her performance in *Grease*, has matured to such amazing levels. Her portrayal of psychiatrist Dr. Beth Noonan — in private practice — explains her ability to connect with each of her patients as the show's four segments unfold.

Dr. Noonan possesses an indelible beauty and a steet-tough demeanor, yet she is able to peel away the layers of her own life as she counsels her clients. Her witty administrative assistant, Lani, played by Lynn Whitfield, creates a good

balance for Channing's character.

Each of the four vignettes allows us to see a microcosm of life. Unless you are comatose, it would be difficult not to see portions of yourself in each of the cast members' roles. I am not going to reveal the story line because I don't want to prejudice your perceptions of the piece, but I will reiterate that this is one television program not to miss.

In the few spellbound hours that it took for me to watch, I gained new insights into my own life. I saw the joys, sorrows, pain, pleasure, trust, hopelessness and all the other emotional highs and lows one encounters in a lifetime played out honestly on screen.

Although the program is not totally GLBT related, it is a wide-reaching examination of the human condition and the common ground we find in other emotional issues. No one is free from experiencing loss, nor is there one of us who has not welcomed the release of forgiveness. Existence comes with a mixed bag of sensitivities, and this production hardly missed any of them.

For those of you who are Kate Capshaw fans, all I can say is hold on to your heart. Sexy, strong and provocative, her character (Casey), in tandem with Macpherson's (Lauren), is sure to warm up these cold winter's nights.

The environmental settings (that's "sets" for you drama queens) were well-designed and appointed. Each one represented a clear picture of the soul that lived within each character. Showtime also did well with the location shots, including the congested city replete with snarled traffic to add tension to the story line.

This miniseries should certainly be among the Emmy nominees of next year. It is short, sweet and to the point. It pulls no punches and speaks the truth, however painful at times.

Each evening's performance consists of two parts. Replay of Part One is on January 29 at 8:00 pm and Part Two is on January 30 at 8:00 pm. ▾

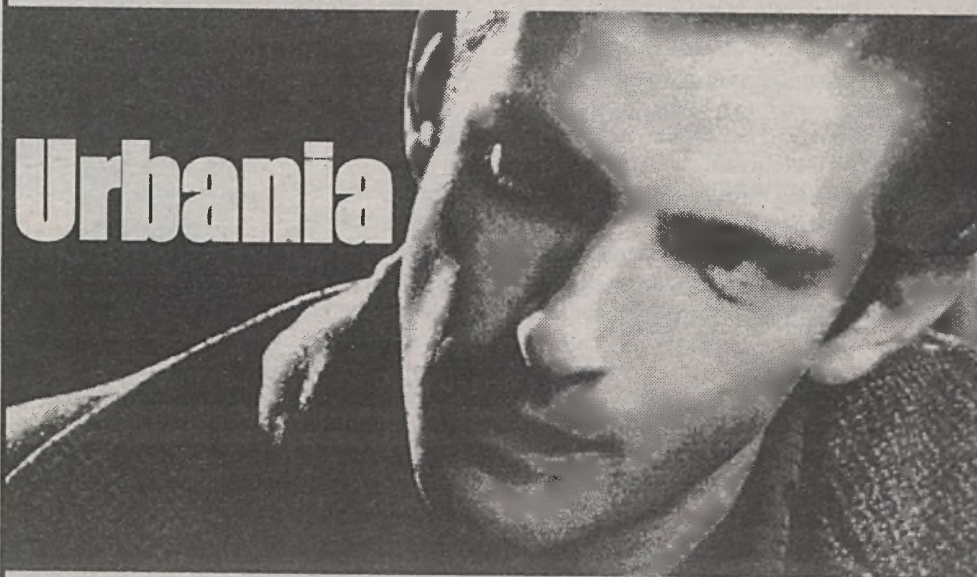


Sensuality and exploration are showcased by stars (l-r) Elle MacPherson and Kate Capshaw in Showtime's *A Girl Thing*.

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The 7:00pm showing is underwritten by



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Charlie has seen and survived incredible evil, and without letting on, he coolly plans for the day when his unspoken rage will erupt. A gripping psychological thriller of nightmarish beauty. Starring Dan Futterman of TV's *Judging Amy*. Best First Feature award from the San Francisco Lesbian & Gay Film Festival.

Thursday, January 25 • 7:00 & 9:15pm
Park Terrace Cinemas, Park & Woodlawn Roads
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FEBRUARY 22, 7:00 & 9:15PM, PARK TERRACE CINEMAS

Aimee & Jaguar

Aimee and Jaguar is underwritten by

PaperSkyscraper

Felice, a German Jew and member of the Jewish Underground, and Lilly, a German woman receiving awards for being a Nazi super-mom, have just met and fallen unexpectedly and passionately in love. *In German with English subtitles.*

MARCH 22, PARK TERRACE CINEMAS

CHUTNEY popcorn

7:00pm — A timely comedy that explores American life, East Indian Culture and the true meaning of life. Starring Jill Hennessey.

Big Eden

9:15pm — This heartwarming film contrasts stereotypes of small town busybodies with a poignant portrayal of people for whom love is elusive.

Big Eden is underwritten by Liaisons

APRIL 26, MINT MUSEUM OF ART

Paragraph 175

7:00pm — This graceful documentary reveals the tragic, untold stories of gay men and women living under the Nazi regime. *Narrated by Rupert Everett.*

Fun in Shorts I

9:15pm — A great collection of short films.

MAY 24, MINT MUSEUM OF ART

History Lessons

7:00pm — Barbara Hammer, prolific experimental filmmaker and documentarian continues her ongoing exploration of lesbian images in this compelling, humorous and empowering contribution to lesbian history.

Fun in Shorts II

9:15pm — A great collection of short films.

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