

Ten Reasons to Stay Inside

PREVIEWS: An entire summer without Cruise, Carrey or gladiators? We're terribly vexed! Fortunately, there are still plenty of movies we're itching to see. BY DEVIN GORDON

A KNIGHT'S TALE

Watch closely during the jousting scenes in Sony's medieval fantasy starring Heath Ledger, and you'll notice something odd amid all that wood from the shattering lances. "Linguine," says writer-director Brian Helgeland. "It looked good." After an awful experience directing "Payback" for Mel Gibson, Helgeland itched for some big-screen payback. So he wrote a flick about knocking a guy off his (high) horse.



Anyone in particular? Helgeland laughs. "Oh, you know, 'The Man.'" Very diplomatic, good sir. **MAY 11**

Ledger saddles up

EVOLUTION

Another "X-File" for David Duchovny? Nope. This one's a sci-fi comedy from Ivan Reitman ("Ghostbusters"), starring Duchovny and Orlando Jones (Mr. 7Up) as professors who meet some way-out-of-towners. The aliens start as amoebas. In two weeks they're eight feet tall and, uh, oddly equipped. "We were taken with their genitalia," Duchovny says. "It looked hermaphroditic. So [costar] Julianne [Moore] came up with the wonderful nomenclature of testina." **JUNE 8**

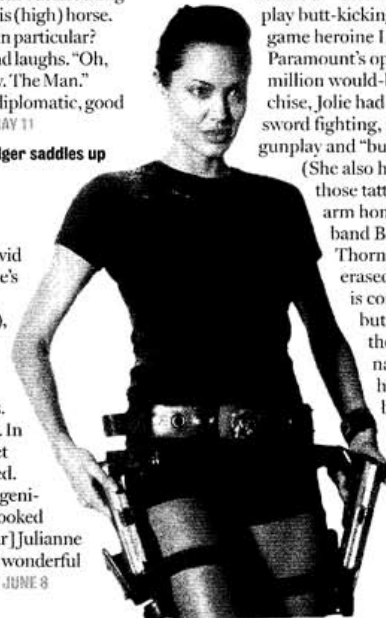
THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS

In auto-racing scenes, cameras are too fragile to withstand much more than 50mph speeds. Not bad, but this ain't "The Sort-of-Quick and the Furious." So director Rob Cohen invented a special rig that could film his actors doing 85. "That 35mph makes a big, big difference," Cohen says. Stars Paul Walker and Vin Diesel, who play a young racer and the head of a

Gentlemen, start your souped-up engines

TOMB RAIDER

Filming in Cambodia, Angelina Jolie was deeply moved by the exotic world around her. "We were in places like Angkor Wat, [where] you can just walk right up to the monks. There's a beauty and a peace to it," says Jolie. "It completely changed my life." And what better way to honor a spiritual awakening than by squeezing off a couple of thousand



bullets in "Tomb Raider"? To play butt-kicking videogame heroine Lara Croft in Paramount's opulent \$100 million would-be franchise, Jolie had to master sword fighting, martial arts, gunplay and "bungee ballet."

(She also had to have those tattoos on her arm honoring husband Billy Bob Thornton digitally erased.) The plot is complicated, but the fate of the world, naturally, hangs in the balance. **JUNE 15**

Jolie is a dead ringer for cyber-hero Croft

street-racing gang, were hooked. Walker even bought his own roadster after filming. But who's the better driver? According to Cohen: Walker, by a nose. "He said what? I'll kill him," jokes Diesel. "That's it. Won't see me at the premiere." **JUNE 22**



Affleck fights for love and country

PEARL HARBOR

De planes! De planes! Two best-buddy pilots (Ben Affleck and Josh Hartnett) fall for the same nurse (Kate Beckinsale)—and contend with a totally inconvenient Japanese sneak attack. When Affleck read the script, he says, "I thought it could be one of the seminal movies of my life where I could look back and go, 'I did this really huge, epic, classic movie that was about something substantive.'" Director Michael Bay ("Armageddon" and "The Rock") is attempting to make a "Saving Private Ryan"—or at least a "Titanic." "Pearl Harbor" is the most expensive movie budget Disney's ever authorized, and promises to be one of the most lavish, memorable movies of the season. **MAY 25**



Kidman swings as the sultry courtesan Satine

MOULIN ROUGE

So it's a musical set in *fin de siècle* Paris—you get that part. But the songs are from modern artists like Madonna, Nirvana and Elton John? And they're sung by Ewan McGregor and Nicole Kidman—the actors? Yes, we know how it sounds. But wait'll you see how it looks. Director Baz Luhrmann ("William Shakespeare's Romeo + Juliet") is a gleeful rule breaker, and that's precisely what intrigued him about the Paris club. "This was a time when women were covered head to feet," he says, "and a lot of the [club's] girls didn't even wear underwear." **MAY 18**