

'Spy Kids' kicks April b.o. past \$500 million horizon

By Brian Fuson

Dimension's "Spy Kids" was by far the most popular movie in April as the family actioner helped power the national boxoffice to an all-time high. April showed receipts totaling \$509.9 million, a 5% increase on 97.3 million ticket units were registered. April 1990 turned in the last year's record \$483.9 million and the first time the month has surpassed the \$500 million level.

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"Spy Kids" led the competition in the April boxoffice race.

'Queer,' 'Will,' 'Billy' nab top GLAAD awards

By Boris Kit

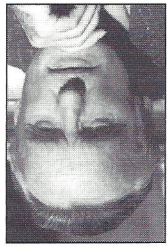
Showtime's "Queer as Folk" was named outstanding drama series and NBC's "Will & Grace" outstanding comedy series at the Los Angeles portion of the 12th annual Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation Media Awards.

On the feature film side, "Billy Elliot" was named outstanding film in wide release, and "The Broken Hearts Club" took home the award for outstanding film in limited release.

The GLAAD Media Awards celebrated last year's 90.6 million. This year's admission tally for April will have to settle for third-best all-time. The difference between the box-

Wright to helm 'Unspeakeable'

By Ian Mohr



Hopper

NEW YORK — Television helmer Thomas Wright has been tapped to direct "Unspeakeable" for producers Ron Ciemmer ("A League of Their Own") and Lee Friedlander. The \$2 million-to-\$3 million-

L.A. Film School hands out nods

By Boris Kit

An arty science fiction movie and its writer-director swept the Los Angeles Film School's inaugural Industry Screening and Awards on Thursday night. The school, on Sunset Boulevard in Hollywood, was started 18 months ago. Steve Denny and his digitally shot sci-fi thriller "Cosmopolis,"

Pacifica takes cruise on 'Nile'

By Ian Mohr

NEW YORK — IMF-backed Pacifica Film Development has acquired film and television rights to author Bartle Bull's novel "A Cafe on the Nile" for Wallis Nicita's La Luna Films to produce under its first-look deal with Pacifica. "Nile" will be adapted for the screen by Joe Battaer and John Rice, the duo who co-penned the upcoming John Woo actioner "Windtalkers," starring Nicolas Cage, for MGM. The "Nile" deal comes less than

Coachella 2001

By Darryl Morden

INDIO, Calif. — Scaled down from 1999's two-day event, this year's Coachella festival was staged on the Empire Polo Field. This resulted in a "day-in-the-park" atmosphere and coming together of musical cultures, with no major incidents; even the bathroom lines seemed manageable enough, local law enforcement was friendly, and most performances stuck to the printed schedule booklet except for headliners Jane's Addiction, arriving on the main stage a half-hour late and delivering equal parts bombast and brilliant like the Zeppelin-esque thunder of "Mountain Song." Dressed in a tight white outfit

Concert review

Coachella 2001

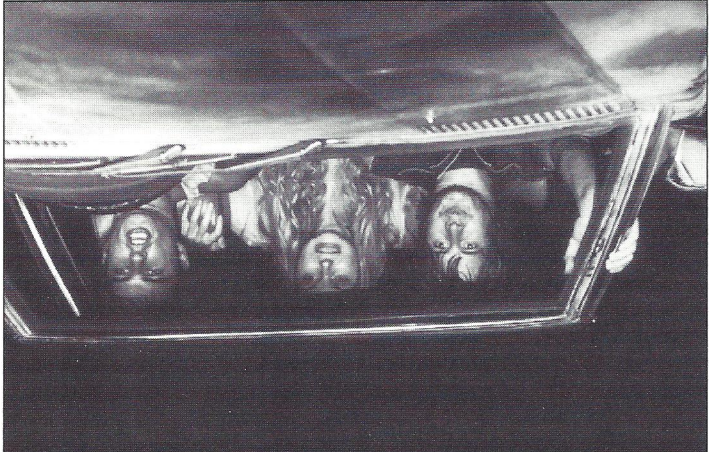
topped by a hat with a feather in the brim, frontman Perry Farrell looked like a pimp, especially when surrounded by hoochie cheerleader-dancers. But his carnival nature — Farrell was seen joyriding with a driver and a gaggle of friends on a golf cart in the late afternoon — is balanced by a big heart and sincere concerns. He supports iabollsh.com, whose goal is to end slavery, which still afflicts 27 million people in many Third World nations.

Coachella's mix of music, proactive politics and spiritual awareness carries on Farrell's vision he launched with Lollapalooza a decade ago, before it turned into just another marketed tour.

See "FORSAKEN" on page 15

'The Forsaken'

By Frank Scheck



Brendan Fehr, left, Izabella Miko and Kerr Smith race against time.

Film review

Film school

Continued from page 6 —

son for his body of work.

Judges for the awards were

director Jon Amiel ("Entrap-

ment"), cinematographer William

Fraker, actress Faye Dunaway,

LA Weekly writer Paul Cullum,

and playwright-novelist Emory

Holmes picked the winning

movies.

The school also handed out

"educator awards" to representa-

tives from companies that have

supported the school. They

included Brian Sprill from the

Eastman Kodak Co., Bob Harvey

from Panavision, George Hutchi-

son from CFI and Tom Atkin

from the Visual Effects Society.

Harvey was greeted by thun-

derous applause and cheers by

the 160-plus students, educators

and film professionals when he

said that the best way to get along

in the industry is to help young

filmmakers.

"If you people who are getting

this education are ever in a position

to help newer filmmakers after

you've gone down that road and

you're all very, very successful, my

Jane's set clearly illustrated the

dividing lines between rock

explorements and electronic

music, the latter more passive

and more a sonic invitation than a

demand, as was the case for pro-

ducer-remixer Paul Oakenfold.

The U.K. DJ's offerings had hyp-

noted as live act, the reggae

go with it.

Touted as live act, the reggae

music seems in search of a film to

rendering in abandon, but his

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Pacifica

Continued from page 6 —

a week after Pacifica, sister com-

pany to Los Angeles-based Inter-

media, acquired motion picture

and television rights to Michael

Blake's upcoming novel "The

Holy Road," the sequel to the

1990 Oscar-winning "Dances

With Wolves" (HR 4/23).

"Nile" is set in Africa, circa

1935, when Mussolini's forces are

marching to Ethiopia. Dashing

safari guide Anton Rider is forced

to aid his now-married ex-girl-

friend and her husband by usher-

ing the couple from Africa to

Devil's Oasis" and "The White

Rhino Hotel."

□

Continued from page 6 —

Wife," "Dream Lover," "Drop

Zone" and "Six Days, Seven

Nights." Dubrow will oversee

development of the project with

Nita.

The "Nile" deal was brokered

for Pacifica by co-president Linda

Benjamin. Attorney Linda Lichter

brokered the deal for Nita. Bull

was reped by ICM and literary

agent Carl Brandt. Bateer was

reped by WMA, and Rice was

reped by the Gersh Agency.

Bull, a former publisher of New

York newspaper the Village

Voice, has written the novels "The

airplane hangar-sized Insomniac;

if the music set you in motion, it

was move where you are, whether

"The X-Files" and "CSI: Crime

Scene Investigation." He is

reped by Susan Sussman from

Diverse Talent Group.

Hopper will be featured in the

upcoming indie feature "Ticker,"

opposite Steven Seagal and Tom

Sizemore. Meyer will next be

seen in the indie feature "The

Devil Wore a Skirt" starring Craig

Michelle Hicks. Henrikson

recently wrapped a role in the

indie feature "The Untold" for

writer-theaterman Jonas Quastel.

Hopper is reped by Artists

Management Group. Meyer is

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'Unspeakable'

Continued from page 6 —

suit, she wonders whether the

killer is really human.

The film was financed indepen-

dently through the producers,

"It is so exciting to be in control of

such a high-caliber project both

above and below the line," Friedlan-

der said. "We all feel that 'Unspeak-

able' is such an interesting, exciting

and challenging project."

"Unspeakable" will be shot in an

abandoned Santa Fe prison, among

other New Mexico locations.

Wright has directed episodes of

the sci-fi series "Dark Angel."

□

Continued from page 6 —

into sheer rave momentum.

The 12-hour-plus event ranged

from the punky pop of Weezer,

almost old-fashioned in context but

certainly hummable, to such star

DJs as the splatter-platter work-

ings of Ubezone and Doc Mart'n,

who issued chertny, often vocal-dir-

meanit jockeying from one stage to

another across the field, including

moving from ragging, middle-aged,

lean-as-ever Iggy Pop — with twice

the energy of those half his age —

of Ozomatli.

It was certainly a varied menu.

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Coachella

Continued from page 6 —

The visceral nature of the

turned-pop hero Fatboy Slim

filled the Insomniac tent to over-

appearances by electronic act the

Orb and DJing from the Chemical

Brothers as the festival moved

into sheer rave momentum.

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Director Ken Hughes, 79, dies

Continued from page 6 —

about a world that's moving back-

ward while good and bad govern-

ment agents move forward,

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