

Sight and Sound: the international film monthly

2008 – 18:1

Articles

The Road Goes On Forever

Wim Wenders took the language of American film - in particular the rambling alienation of the road movie - and gave it a distinctly European spin. Nick Roddick travels the director's landscapes of the mind

Cruel Intentions: Ang Lee

Ang Lee's *Lust, Caution* portrays a lost world whose glittering surfaces mask sexual intrigue and political treachery. He tells Nick James how a midlife crisis prompted his triumphant return to the Shanghai and Hong Kong of the late 1930s

It ain't me, babe

In *I'm Not There* Todd Haynes turns his gift for precise recreations of the past to a portrait of Bob Dylan's early years that uses six different actors to personify aspects of the music legend. And it works, says Michael Gray PLUS Jonathan Romney talks to the director about gaining Dylan's approval and James Bell surveys the singer's journeys into cinema

Things fall apart

Southland Tales, the second feature from *Donnie Darko* director Richard Kelly, imagines an apocalyptic American near-future that's not far removed from our current political, economic and ecological collective insanity, says Amy Taubin. She talks to the director about

the Second Coming and the Terminator
in the White House

Mystery Trains

Trains in movies are claustrophobic microcosms that intensify class conflicts, criminal urges and sexual tension - and no one better exploited their potential than Alfred Hitchcock in *The Lady Vanishes*, says Graham Fuller PLUS Philip Kemp celebrates the career of star Margaret Lockwood

The sheltering sky

Mexican director Carlos Reygadas' *Silent Light* infuses its tale of a love triangle in a strictly religious Mennonite community with a sensuality and beauty that's near miraculous, says Jonathan Romney. He talks to the director about why real life always looks better than CGI

Selected reviews

Film of the Month: 4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days

Ben Walters applauds the way Cristian Mungiu's drama about abortion in communist Romania mixes profound sympathy for its characters' ordeals with an eye for the grim absurdities of the society they live in.

DVD review: O Lucky Man!

Malcolm McDowell and Lindsay Anderson's follow-up to *'If....'* is a film to see when you're young, says Tim Lucas

Don't Touch the Axe

The Killing of John Lennon

The complete list of films reviewed in
this issue:

30 Days of Night

Film of the Month: 4 Months, 3 Weeks
and 2 Days

American Gangster

Anna M.

August Rush

The Band's Visit

Bee Movie

Beowulf

The Brothers Solomon

Chromophobia

Code Name: The Cleaner

Daddy Day Camp

The Dark Is Rising

Don't Touch the Axe

Drawing Restraint 9

Enchanted

Feast of Love

Half Moon

He Was a Quiet Man

In the Valley of Elah

Interview

The Invasion

I'm Not There

The Killing of John Lennon

The Last Legion

Lions for Lambs

The Nines

DVD review: O Lucky Man!

Paranoid Park

Saawariya

The Savages

Saw IV

Sea Monsters A Prehistoric Adventure

Silk

Things We Lost in the Fire

We Own the Night

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Articles

Features

Burt Lancaster Charmer Chameleon
Whether embodying a roughened cowboy, a swashbuckling daredevil, a small-time crook or an Italian prince, Burt Lancaster brought a sharp intelligence and physical grace to his roles. Philip Kemp profiles a great actor, shrewd Hollywood player and the man who dangled Michael Winner over a cliff

Brothers In Harm

In Before the Devil Knows You're Dead
Sidney Lumet has made a heist thriller that plays like an elemental Greek tragedy transported to Manhattan. The veteran director talks to Geoffrey Macnab

Tarantino Bites Back

Quentin Tarantino tackles Nick James about the negative comments Death Proof received in Sight & Sound

Casualties of war

2007 saw cinema turn its gaze on the Iraq conflict, with hard-hitting films by Brian De Palma, Nick Broomfield, Paul Haggis and others. By Ali Jaafar PLUS How Iraqi film-makers see the war and Guy Westwell investigates a century of battles on screen

Norman inquests

A man kills his family, a film-within-a-film and a portrait of French bucolic life:

Back to Normandy may sound like fiction, but Etre et avoir director Nicolas Philibert weaves his ingredients into a powerful documentary, says Geoff Andrew

Black gold

Starring Daniel Day-Lewis in a role that confirms his status as the finest physical actor of our age, P.T. Anderson's *There Will Be Blood* captures the greed and danger that fuelled oil prospecting in 1890s California. By Nick James PLUS The director talks to Ben Walters about oil and fundamentalist religion and composer Jonny Greenwood of Radiohead talks to James Bell

Transformer

Fassbinder and Herzog apart, the pioneers of 1960s Young German Cinema have been largely eclipsed. So let's remember Alexander Kluge, whose political, formally innovative and funny films chronicle German life like no others, says Olaf Möller

Selected reviews

DVD review: *Alibi*

Tim Lucas watches while Roland West's 1929 Oscar-nominated jailbird drama goes gloriously over the top

Film of the month: *No Country for Old Men*

The Coens have turned their trademark humour and genre subversion to a thriller about guns, drugs and money in 1980s Texas. But at its heart is an interrogation of American manhood, say Ben Walters and J.M. Tyree

Our Daily Bread

Still Life

The complete list of films reviewed in this issue:

Ahlaam

DVD review: Alibi

Azur & Asmar

Back to Normandy

Balls of Fury

Before the Devil Knows You're Dead

Black Water

Bug

Closing the Ring

Dan in Real Life

The Diving Bell and the Butterfly

Earth

El violín

Fred Claus

The Golden Compass

The Good Night

Hitman

Infinite Justice

The Italian

Juno

The Kite Runner

Lady Godiva

Lust, Caution

A Comedy of Power

Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium

My Kid Could Paint That

Film of the month: No Country for Old Men

Om Shanti Om

Our Daily Bread

P.S. I Love You

Silent Light

Southland Tales

Still Life

There Will Be Blood

This Christmas

Underdog

A Very British Gangster

The Water Horse

The Wedding

You Kill Me

Youth without Youth

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Articles

Features

Boys' Own Stories

In the last decade a talented collection of players - including Wes Anderson, Charlie Kaufman, Ben Stiller, Will Ferrell and Owen Wilson - have brought their own brand of improvisational comedy and wry humour to the big screen. It's time we threw out the old categories of highbrow and lowbrow and settled down to enjoy what Indiewood - or the Frat Pack - has to offer, says Henry K. Miller

The Killer Inside

Bernardo Bertolucci's *The Conformist* is a movie that refuses to court its audience with easy offers of comfort or compassion. David Thomson explores its cold heart

Women Behaving Badly

Noah Baumbach has followed *The Squid and the Whale* with *Margot at the Wedding*, a caustic comedy of family disfunction starring Frat Packer Jack Black, Nicole Kidman and Jennifer Jason Leigh. He talks to Edward Lawrenson about putting intimacy on screen

Diy Hard

Michel Gondry's *Be Kind Rewind* and Garth Jennings' *Son of Rambow* reference film-making of the 1980s with a mix of nostalgia and humour. But cinema's power to provide a creative

outlet and sense of community is just as relevant to the internet age, says Ben Walters

Stand Up And Be Counted

The Frat Pack weren't the first offbeat TV comedians to pursue careers in the movies. Kim Newman traces their ancestry back to the 1950s via National Lampoon's Animal House and Saturday Night Live

The American Way

In My Blueberry Nights Wong Kar-Wai parlays his trademark concern with character and mood to track a woman's journey across the United States. He tells Tony Rayns about the problems and passions that informed his first English-language movie

Ruffs And Fumbles

The release of The Other Boleyn Girl demonstrates the enduring power of the Tudor costume drama. Is the genre just an excuse for sanctioned sex and savagery or do its characters still resonate, asks David Jays

Obituaries

Bob Mastrangelo recalls the men and women of cinema who died in 2007. PLUS Nick James, David Robinson, Duncan Petrie, Ginette Vincendeau and Guido Bonsaver pay their respects to Norman Mailer, Deborah Kerr, Freddie Francis, Jean-Claude Brialy and Carlo Ponti

Selected reviews

Film of the Month: Diary of the Dead

DVD review: The Naked Prey
The Naked Prey may not be politically correct, but it's a key piece of independent US film-making, says Tim Lucas

The Edge of Heaven

Helvetica

The complete list of films reviewed in this issue:

The 11th Hour

27 Dresses

Alvin and the Chipmunks

Annie Leibovitz Life through a Lens

Arctic Tale

Asterix at the Olympic Games

AVPR Aliens Vs Predator Requiem

The Bank Job

Battle for Haditha

Be Kind Rewind

The Boss of It All

The Bucket List

Change of Address

Charlie Wilson's War

Film of the Month: Diary of the Dead

The Edge of Heaven

Four Minutes

Freebird

Frontier(s)

Helvetica

I Am Legend

Intimate Enemies

Man of the Year

Margot at the Wedding

My Blueberry Nights

DVD review: The Naked Prey

National Treasure Book of Secrets

Penelope

Princesses

Sharkwater

Shot in Bombay

St Trinian's

Sweeney Todd The Demon Barber of Fleet Street

[U2 3D](#)

[The Ugly Duckling and Me](#)

[W?Z](#)

[Walk Hard The Dewey Cox Story](#)

[We Are Together](#)

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Articles

Features

Berlinale 2008: You Can't Always Get What You Want

It was a weak competition in which the artistry of Mike Leigh and Errol Morris raised the stakes - but did the unseasonable sunshine turn the jurors' heads, asks Nick James

Berlinale 2008: Golden Bear

Jonathan Romney reviews Golden Bear-winner Elite Squad

Berlinale 2008: Out Of Competition

Geoff Andrew ranges outside the competition

Berlinale 2008: Forum

Tony Rayns uncovers the treasures of the Forum

Mizoguchi Kenji: Artist Of The Floating World

The Japanese master is best known for tragic period dramas such as Sansho Dayu and Ugetsu Monogatari, which stirred western critics in the 1950s. But have his many films that comment directly on contemporary Japan been swept under the carpet, asks Alexander Jacoby

Selected reviews

DVD review: 4 by Agnès Varda

Tim Lucas on Agnès Varda, whose documentarian style constantly defies the trends and precepts of French cinema

Film of the month: The Orphanage

J.A. Bayona's feature debut 'The Orphanage' uses the conventions of horror and ghost stories to explore Spain's need to face up to its buried history. By Maria Delgado

California Dreamin' (Endless)

Flight of the Red Balloon

The complete list of films reviewed in this issue:

DVD review: 4 by Agnès Varda

The Baker

The Book of Revelation

Bunny Chow Know Thyself

California Dreamin' (Endless)

Children of Glory

City of Men/Cidade dos homens

Cloverfield

The Cottage

Definitely, Maybe

Drillbit Taylor

Escape from Luanda

The Escapist

Fade to Black

Flight of the Red Balloon

Funny Games

The Game Plan

GamerZ

Garage

Hannah Montana & Miley Cyrus Best of

Both Worlds Concert

I'm a Cyborg

Jumper

Lars and the Real Girl

Love in the Time of Cholera

Midnight Talks

Mister Lonely

My Brother Is an Only Child

Film of the month: The Orphanage

The Other Boleyn Girl

Out of the Blue

Over Her Dead Body

Rambo

River Queen

Shotgun Stories
Son of Rambow
Under the Bombs
Untraceable
Vantage Point
Water Lilies
You, the Living

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Articles

Features

Down In The Hole

HBO's cult series *The Wire* cuts across both sides of the law in its depiction of Baltimore's drug scene. Kent Jones celebrates a 60-hour epic that rises beyond the level of good TV

French Cinema Now: French Exceptions

The range of French film-making is much more extraordinary than the titles that turn up in an art cinema near you. Jonathan Romney unearths some of the riches we're missing

She comes in colours

Is Mike Leigh's *Happy-Go-Lucky* the fluffy comedy critics have hailed or does its portrait of a bubbly London primary-school teacher have a darker edge? Dave Calhoun asks the director about quitting the suburbs, politics and his desire to move on to bigger budgets and a wider canvas

French cinema now: Unbelievable but real: the legacy of '68

Forty years on, the legacy of May '68 is still a topic for heated debate - and who better to line the barricades than France's leading directors and critics? S&S discusses French cinema past and present with Catherine Breillat, Michel Ciment, Jean-Michel Frodon, Eugène Green, Nicolas Klotz and Agnès Varda PLUS Chris Darke puts the events into perspective and Penelope Houston

reports on the year the Cannes
competition entered meltdown

French cinema now: Abominable glory

Catherine Breillat is the last director you
might expect to turn to costume drama -
but helped by Asia Argento, she brings
sex and sensuality to *The Last Mistress*.
By Jonathan Romney

French cinema now: Intimate
connections

Parisian chic or Provençal shtick - how
has the French cinema that reaches the
UK reflected and shaped our view of life
across the Channel? By Lucy Mazdon
and Catherine Wheatley

French cinema now: Children of the
revolution

Funded and made in France, Marjane
Satrapi's film of her graphic novel
Persepolis presents a poignant picture of
growing up in revolutionary Iran. She
talks to Ali Jaafar

Selected reviews

DVD review: *The Delirious Fictions* of
William Klein

Tim Lucas tunes in and turns on to the
kaleidoscopic imagery and multi-layered
delirium of William Klein

Private Property

Ginette Vincendeau celebrates an austere
family drama that opens a new chapter
in Belgian social realism and features a
keynote performance by Isabelle
Huppert as a mother caught between
duty and desire

The Go Master
Manufactured Landscapes

The complete list of films reviewed in
this issue:

10,000 BC

The Accidental Husband

The Assembly

Awake

Beaufort

Captain Eager and the Mark of Voth

Caramel

Cashback

DVD review: The Delirious Fictions of

William Klein

The Devil Came on Horseback

Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who!

The Eye

The Go Master

Happy-Go-Lucky

Heartbeat Detector

Honeydrinker

Hope

The Hottie & the Nottie

In Bruges

Jodhaa Akbar

Joy Division

The Last Mistress

Lonesome Jim

Manufactured Landscapes

Meet the Spartans

P2

Persepolis

Private Property

Protégé

Redacted

Ruby Blue

Semi-pro

Shine a Light

Smart People

Son of Man

The Spiderwick Chronicles

Step Up 2 The Streets

Stop-loss

Terror's Advocate

XXY

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Articles

Return Of The Cool

Nick James talks to Bruce Weber about his stylish 1988 portrait of Chet Baker

Cinema Of The New Europe: Lest We Forget

Veteran Polish film-maker Andrzej Wajda's new film Katyn is a powerful account of a World War II massacre. The director talks to Michael Brooke and Kamila Kuc

The smiler with a knife

Barbet Schroeder's new documentary is on French lawyer Jacques Vergès, a controversial figure alternately lauded as a defender of unpopular liberation struggles and vilified as an apologist for repressive regimes. The director talks to Geoffrey Macnab

Wild white yonder

Werner Herzog and Terence Davies talk about their new work in our preview of the Edinburgh film festival. PLUS we look forward to a major Shirley Clarke retrospective. By Geoffrey Macnab, Kieron Corless and Brad Stevens

Cinema of the new europe: Out of the past

To introduce our special focus on resurgent East European cinema, Shane Danielsen celebrates the resilience of film-makers who have prospered during two decades' of change and turmoil;

Demetrios Matheou reports from Hungary; and Sheila Johnston speaks to veteran Czech auteur Jirí Menzel. PLUS ten key films from the New Europe

Cinema of the new europe: On the road again

Non-fictional film-makers from Eastern Europe are playing with documentary conventions to tackle the legacy of their countries' communist past. By Adina Bradeanu

Cinema of the new europe: Eastern promise

What next from Romanian cinema? Nick Roddick reports from Bucharest

Cinema of the new europe: Home and away

Jerzy Skolimowski is to return to Polish cinema after a 17-year exile. It's a homecoming that promises much, says Richard Combs. PLUS Michael Brooke profiles the director

Selected reviews

Colossal Youth

Featuring the residents of a Lisbon slum, Pedro Costa's 'Colossal Youth' is a mesmeric, visually stunning portrait of a deprived community that confirms its director as one of Europe's major talents. By Jonathan Romney

DVD review: French Documentarian Chris Marker

Tim Lucas relishes the work of French documentarian Chris Marker, the 'best-known author of unknown movies'

I Served the King of England

Savage Grace

The complete list of films reviewed in this issue:

The Air I Breathe

La Antena

Badland

Botched

Charlie Bartlett

Chemical Wedding

DVD review: French Documentarian

Chris Marker

Colossal Youth

Dangerous Parking

Death Note

First Sunday

Flashbacks of a Fool

Fool's Gold

Forgetting Sarah Marshall

Garbage Warrior

Gone Baby Gone

How She Move

I Served the King of England

In Search of a Midnight Kiss

Irina Palm

Leatherheads

Mongol

Never Back Down

Night Bus

One Missed Call

Outpost

Priceless

Savage Grace

A Secret

Strange Wilderness

Street Kings

Three and Out

Tovarisch I Am Not Dead

Vexille

The Waiting Room

Welcome to the Sticks

Where in the World Is Osama Bin

Laden?

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Articles

Cannes 2008: A royal rumpus
British cinema held its head high at this year's Cannes, with remarkable debuts from Steve McQueen and Duane Hopkins, and a moving return from Terence Davies. By Nick James

David Lean

To many he is the embodiment of British cinema. In this issue's two-part celebration of David Lean, Charles Drazin looks at how the director learned his trade in the editing room and Sonia Genaitay explains the processes used to restore some of his earliest films

Blues people

Charles Burnett's 1977 debut film *Killer of Sheep* is a landmark of American independent cinema directed by one of black cinema's most visionary talents. As a BFI Southbank retrospective arrives, Burnett talks to James Bell

Beyond the frame

Much of Errol Morris' documentary output probes the nature of photographic 'truth' - a theme with profound political resonance in new film *Standard Operating Procedure*, about the infamous images of prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib. The director talks to Howard Feinstein

Cannes 2008: He who dares
If Cannes 2008 failed to match the brilliance of last year's festival it was still full of promising works-in-progress, shifts in direction for name auteurs and a handful of films of rare quality. By Nick James
PLUS Rose Pastille's hot gossip

Cannes 2008: Canned heat

Kieron Corless celebrates the continuing tradition of radicalism of the Directors' Fortnight

Cannes 2008: Young guns

Jonathan Romney is shaken by the intense *Johnny Mad Dog*, a brutal and brilliant account of child soldiers in war-torn Africa

Couscous

Abdellatif Kechiche's perfectly paced story of a North African family's struggle in coastal France is told with the wit and warmth of classical cinema, yet with a very modern take on identity. By Ginette Vincendeau

DVD Review: Pied Piper

Jacques Demy's interpretation of the Pied Piper fairytale is deeper and darker than you might expect, says Tim Lucas

The Edge of Love

My Winnipeg

The complete list of films reviewed in this issue:

Adulthood
Banquet
Cassandra's Dream
The Chronicles of Narnia Prince Caspian
A Complete History of My Sexual Failures
Couscous
Deception
Doomsday
The Edge of Love
Female Agents
The Forbidden Kingdom
Her Name Is Sabine
In Memory of My Father
Iron Man
Made of Honour
Married Life
The Mist
Mouth to Mouth
My Winnipeg
Nim's Island
Numb
The Oxford Murders
Pathology
DVD Review: Pied Piper
Prom Night
Rebellion The Litvinenko Case
RFK Must Die The Assassination of Bobby Kennedy
The Ruins
Shutter
Speed Racer
Superhero Movie
Taxi to the Dark Side
Teeth
Timber Fall
21
The Visitor
What Happens in Vegas

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Articles

Dream Tickets

With their inventive double bills, repertory cinemas once entertained and challenged their audiences. *Sight & Sound* asks 52 critics and programmers to do the same by choosing their own fantasy pairings. Introduction by Jane Giles

Family ties

The resurgence of French family dramas such as Olivier Assayas' *Summer Hours* reflects an anxiety about the modern family rather than optimism about its future, says Ginette Vincendeau. PLUS Nick James talks to Assayas about fine art, and the fracturing of French culture

The perils of strip mining

Comic books such as *Batman*, *Spider-Man* and *The Incredible Hulk* are a rich source for Hollywood blockbusters but what has Hollywood done for comics and what will the creators of comics do when the adaptation booms ends, asks Roger Sabin

David Lean

In the second part of our David Lean celebration, Nick James examines how Lean's attempt to reconcile his origins with his time resulted in the epic cinema of *Lawrence* and why he minded the critics so badly

Film of the Month: *El baño del Papa*
The Pope's visit to a small town in Uruguay inspires unlikely get-rich-quick schemes among the locals in Fernández and Charlone's understated comedy about crime and catering. By Michael Brooke

DVD Review: *Houdini The Movie Star*
Dismissed as folly and very nearly destroyed, Houdini's films escaped oblivion - but only just, writes Tim Lucas

Man on Wire
WALL•E

The complete list of films reviewed in this issue:

Angus, Thongs and Perfect Snogging
Baby Mama
Before the Rains
Berlin
Bosta
Buddha Collapsed out of Shame
Cass
Crazy Love
Death Defying Acts
Death Note The Last Name
Donkey Punch
Film of the Month: El baño del Papa
The Fox and the Child
Hancock
The Happening
Harold & Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay
DVD Review: Houdini The Movie Star
The Incredible Hulk
Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull
Kamikaze Girls
The King of Kong A Fistful of Quarters
Kung Fu Panda
A Letter to True
Mad Detective
Man on Wire
Memories of Matsuko
Mes amis Mes amours
Origin Spirits of the Past
Paris
Puffball
Sex and the City
Standard Operating Procedure
Substitute
Summer Hours
The Unwinking Gaze
WALL•E
Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins

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Articles

Popcorn Patter

Terrence Malick's *Badlands* now seems less a study of alienated youth and more like a screwball Western, argues David Thomson

Reflections In A Golden Eye

Frederick Wiseman's dedication to chronicling American civic life should not distract us from his great artistry. By Nicolas Rapold

The quiet american

On the eve of a major retrospective and the release of *Changeling*, his latest film, Clint Eastwood gives a career interview to Geoff Andrew, who wonders if this successor to John Ford and Howard Hawks just might be the best director in America today PLUS Nick James on 'the man with no name' and the origins of his poncho

The metropolis mystery

Decades after scenes from Fritz's Lang's *Metropolis* disappeared, and were thought lost for ever, they have turned up on a print in Argentina. Karen Naundorf follows the trail to Buenos Aires

Waking life

Carl Theodor Dreyer's *Vampyr* was a horror movie ahead of its time, says Casper Tybjerg PLUS Michael Brooke on Dreyer's life and career

Seasons in the sun

Reha Erdem's *Times and Winds* is a winning portrait of village life that earns him a place in the front rank of Turkish directors, says Nick James

Film of the Month: The Banishment

Andrey Zvyagintsev's visually powerful and haunting second film explores the themes of family and masculinity in crisis says Julian Graffy and confirms the director's place at the forefront of the new wave of Russian cinema

DVD Review: Handmade Magic

Kawamoto Kihachiro's stop-motion animations are brimming with life, breath and soul. Tim Lucas is captivated

Hellboy II The Golden Army

Somers Town

The complete list of films reviewed in
this issue:

Angel
Film of the Month: The Banishment
Ben X
Blindsight
College Road Trip
CSNY
Dance Party, USA
Daylight Robbery
The Duchess
Eden Lake
Elegy
Elite Squad
Get Smart
DVD Review: Handmade Magic
Hellboy II The Golden Army
Journey to the Center of the Earth
The Love Guru
Mamma Mia! Man
from Plains Meet
Dave Miss
Pettigrew Lives for a Day
Quiet City
The Rocker
RocknRolla
Routes Dancing to New Orleans
Sakuran
Somers Town
Space Chimps
Times and Winds
The Wackness
Wanted
Wild Child
You Don't Mess with the Zohan

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Articles

Who needs critics?

Critics need to show more passion and conviction if they're still to matter in the internet age, argues Nick James PLUS our panel of leading critics select examples of the great writing that inspires them; Mark Fisher on the vital role of the blogger; Mark Cousins on the necessity of critical advocacy; and Amy Taubin celebrates the life of the great critic and artist Manny Farber

Critics On Critics

Sight & Sound asked leading critics to choose the works of criticism which have had the greatest impact on them, inspiring them to become critics themselves, and which make a case for criticism as a minor art form in itself.

Late liberty

Eric Rohmer's *The Romance of Astrea and Celadon* may be the last film in a remarkable career that stretches back to the origins of the French New Wave. He's been very lucky, he tells Geoff Andrew

Brideshead reloaded

Evelyn Waugh and his peers at Oxford in the 1920s were among the first British intellectuals to take cinema seriously as an artform, writes Henry K. Miller PLUS Philip Kemp talks to director Julian Jarrold about his new film adaptation of Waugh's great novel *Brideshead Revisited*

Grandmother's Russia

Alexander Sokurov's latest film *Alexandra* tells of a grandmother's journey into war-torn Chechnya, but is it politically sensitive, Ian Christie asks its director?

Diamonds are forever

As the British Film Institute celebrates its 75th birthday, Geoffrey Nowell-Smith looks back at its history, and what it reveals about the challenges of public arts funding in Britain PLUS Charles Whitehouse selects ten classic films from the now defunct BFI Production Board

Europa Europa

Ulrich Seidl has been accused of exploiting the amateur actors in *Import Export*, his brilliant and unsettling vision of a troubled contemporary Europe. Not true, he tells Catherine Wheatley

Ashes of Time Redux

The definitive new version of Wong Kar-Wai's complex and visually stunning martial-arts epic in which east meets West sees the film at last fulfilling its sizeable creative and commercial potential, says Mark Sinker

DVD Review: *The Garden of Earthly Delights*

Polish director Lech Majewski uses modest means and big ideas to create a camcorder masterpiece, writes Tim Lucas

Jar City

A Walk into the Sea

The X Files I Want to Believe

Linha de passe

The complete list of films reviewed in
this issue: Alexandra

Ashes of Time Redux

Babylon A.D.

Black White + Gray

Brideshead Revisited

The Chaser

The Cool School

The Dark Knight

Face Addict

Faintheart

The Fall

The Foot Fist Way

Free Jimmy

Garden of Earthly Delights

DVD Review: The Garden of Earthly
Delights

The Girl who Leapt through Time

Good Dick

Heavy Load

Heavy Metal in Baghdad

Import Export

I've Loved You So Long

Jar City

Linha de passe

Little Box of Sweets

Live!

Love Story 2050

Make It Happen

The Mummy Tomb of the Dragon

Emperor

Partition

The Putin System

The Romance of Astrea and Celadon

Sarah Silverman: Jesus Is Magic

Star Wars The Clone Wars

Steep

Step Brothers

Swing Vote

Then She Found Me

Triangle

Unrelated

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Articles

The London Film Festival: Liverpool - A trilogy of closely observed characters
In his latest film the Argentinian director Lisandro Alonso varies and expands on his unique realist vision, argues Quintín

The London Film Festival: Liverpool - Interview
Lisandro Alonso talks to Maria Delgado about his unusual working methods and his new film 'Liverpool'

The London Film Festival: Quiet Chaos - No sex please, we're Italian comedians
Geoffrey Macnab examines the effects on Italian filmgoers of Nanni Moretti's latest starring role and a controversial sex scene

The London Film Festival: The Class - Interview
Ginette Vincendeau talks to director Laurent Cantet, whose 'Entre les murs' ('The Class') was the surprise winner of the Palme d'Or at the 2008 Cannes festival

The London Film Festival: Rachael Getting Married - Ensemble stars shine
Robert Altman meets 'My Best Friend's Wedding' in Jonathan Demme's fun yet insightful drama, says Nick James

The London Film Festival: Ah, Liberty! - Ben Rivers at the Edge of the World
A programme of six shorts showcases the work of Ben Rivers and his investigations of Britain's hinterlands, says Kieron Corless

The London Film Festival: 'S&S' 20 Further Recommendations
There's plenty more to see at the London Film Festival, says Nick James. Here are some more highlights of the programme

That's camorra
The Camorra network rules Naples in *Gomorrah* but Silvia Angerani delves deeper into reality. PLUS Guido Bonsaver on Mafia films

Lagoon Blues
There were few stars and fewer great films at this year's Venice Film Festival. By Nick James

Film of the Month: Of Time and the City
Terence Davies takes a fresh look at his home city and himself in 'Of Time and the City', his elegiac yet prickly documentary, a hymn to the culture of Liverpool's past and a critique of its development. By Ryan Gilbey

DVD review: Sweden, Heaven and Hell
Tim Lucas looks back on a fascinatingly twisted investigation into Sweden's supposedly permissive society

Love Letters and Live Wires Highlights from the GPO Film Unit

The Women

The complete list of films reviewed in
this issue:

88 Minutes

Afro Saxons

Bangkok Dangerous

Bigga than Ben A Russiann

Guide to Ripping Off London

A Bloody Aria

The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas

Burn After Reading

CJ7

Disaster Movie

El Cantante

Fear(s) of the Dark

Flawless

Gomorrah

Gunnin' for That #1 Spot

The House Bunny

How to Lose Friends & Alienate People

Hunger

Love Letters and Live Wires Highlights
from the GPO Film Unit

Mirrors

Film of the Month: Of Time and the City

Outlanders

Pineapple Express

Quiet Chaos

Rock On!!

Stone of Destiny

The Strangers

DVD review: Sweden, Heaven and Hell

Sweet Land

Sydney White

Taken

Tropic Thunder

Tuesday

The Wave

What Just Happened?

The Women

Young@Heart

Zero An Investigation into 9-11 La Zona

Sight and Sound: the international film monthly

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Articles

#Radical Chic

Is The Baader Meinhof Complex a thoughtful examination of Germany's recent past or does it glamorise terrorism? By Andrea Dittgen. PLUS James Bell talks to producer Bernd Eichinger

#Game for a century

As the great Portuguese director Manoel de Oliveira turns 100, Jonathan Romney celebrates his life and champions his work

#The DVDs of 2008

Our critics choose their personal favourite DVDs from 2008
The greatest story of our time

Oliver Stone talks to Nick James about W., his portrait of the most destructive American president in history. PLUS Michael Atkinson on the cinema of the Bush era

A soldier's tale

Ari Folman's Waltz with Bashir, Israel's first animated feature, is a hallucinatory account of the 1982 invasion of Lebanon. Here Folman describes his unusually haunting imagery in detail to Ali Jaafar

Emotional rescue

The Dardenne brothers take a surprising new plot-driven direction in their immigration drama The Silence of Lorna explains Geoff Andrew
Sketches of the ghost

What ever happened to Abel Ferrara, the director who made Bad Lieutenant and The King of New York, and why are his recent films so hard to see? By Brad Stevens

Selected reviews

#Film of the Month: To Get to Heaven First You Have to Die

The Tajik director Djamshed Usmonov's latest film, 'To Get to Heaven First You Have to Die', is a darker work than its predecessors but confirms its creator as a bright talent of post-Soviet cinema, says Michael Brooke

#DVD Review: How the West Was Won
It packed movie theatres in the 1950s and now it's back: Tim Lucas on the panoramic Cinerama effect

#Body of Lies

#Choke

The complete list of films reviewed in this issue:

- * Año uña
- * Appaloosa
- * The Baader Meinhof Complex
- * Belle toujours
- * Blindness
- * Body of Lies
- * Chocolate
- * Choke
- * Choking Man
- * City of Ember
- * Conversations with My Gardener
- * Death Race
- * Eagle Eye
- * Easy Virtue
- * Fly Me to the Moon
- * Ghost Town
- * High School Musical 3 Senior Year

* DVD Review: How the West Was
Won

- * Igor
- * Incendiary
- * Lakeview Terrace
- * Let's Talk about the Rain
- * Mutant Chronicles
- * Nights in Rodanthe
- * OSS 117 Cairo, Nest of Spies
- * Patti Smith Dream of Life
- * Quantum of Solace
- * Redbelt
- * Righteous Kill
- * Rivals
- * Saas bahu aur Sensex
- * Scar
- * The Silence of Lorna
- * Sisterhood
- * Special People
- * Film of the Month: To Get to
Heaven First You Have to Die
- * Waltz with Bashir
- * Zombie Strippers!
- * 'Tis Autumn The Search for Jackie
Paris