

Debut spikes drama with laughs

TURNING PAIGE. Starring Katharine Isabelle, Nicholas Campbell, Torri Higginson, Brendan Fletcher, Philip DeWilde.

A dramatic film that leans towards comedy on one side and dangles over tragedy on the other, *Turning Paige* is a clever and surprising effort from first-time Canadian director Robert Cuffley. Centred on Paige (Isabelle), a promising young novelist with a big chip on her shoulder and a giant shovel to bury the past strapped to her head, it's no wonder some of the scenes in Cuffley's film play more like comedy than serious drama. Paige is a classic teenager, full of angst in the wake of her mother's death, so it's hard to tell just when we should feel sympathetic and when we should throw a shoe at the screen — and that's all for the best. It's to Cuffley's credit, as well

as Isabelle's, that Paige is as engaging as she is annoying. Successfully manipulating those around her with her martyrdom — particularly her dad (Campbell) — Paige meets her mental match when her long-absent brother Trevor returns with a driving desire to set the record straight. Cuffley turns in a unique and very solid debut. *Today, 10 a.m. Tinseltown.*

— Katherine Monk

RARE BIRDS. Starring William Hurt and Molly Parker.

When the lights came up following a preview screening of this made-in-Newfoundland comedy, a woman turned to her friend and said, "Well, that was a silly movie." Couldn't say it better myself.

Rare Birds, directed by Sturla Gunnarsson (*Such a Long Journey*), has a charming first half but it goes

to pieces in the closing half hour with a ludicrous story arc.

For once, William Hurt's tranquilized screen persona fits his character in the person of a separated and lonely Newfoundland restaurateur who's going out of business. His buddy (the energetic Andy Jones) has him falsely report sighting a bird thought to be extinct, and suddenly business booms at the restaurant as bird-watchers arrive from parts unknown. Molly Parker becomes Hurt's love interest, though there isn't much chemistry there. As the story keeps getting sillier with cocaine caches and submarines and RCMP SWAT teams, you wish the film would go back to its humble roots. *Today, 2 p.m., Vancouver Centre 1; Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Vogue.*

— Marke Andrews

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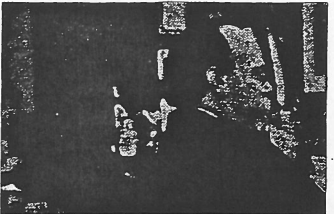
Sleeping Beauties
(Spain/Great Britain, 120 min.)
Based on a novel by Japanese Nobel laureate Yusunari Kawabata, Eloy Lozano's film, set in Spain with an English-speaking cast, is a fable-like tale of love, death and innocence in a transcultural world where boundaries—physical, psychological, sexual—are constantly transgressed.

<SLEEP>
Tue, Oct. 9, 7:00pm, VC1
Wed, Oct. 10, 4:00pm, VC1



La Ciénaga (Argentina, 103 min.)
A revelation when it premiered at the Berlin festival, Lucrecia Martel's remarkable debut gives us two families living out the swampy (and boozy) dog days of their vacation in a remote corner of northwestern Argentina. Suffused with a sense of dread and propelled along by a humid undercurrent of ripe sexuality... A Special Presentation. Winner, Alfred Bauer Prize for best first feature, Berlin 2001.

<SWAMP>
Tue, Oct. 9, 7:00pm, RID



Resin (USA, 87 min.)
Winner of the Audience Award at Chicago's edgy Underground Film Festival; Steve Sobel's riveting feature uses the principles of the Dogma 95 manifesto—natural lighting, improvised acting, and digicam cinematography—to create a verité-style drama about a small-time marijuana dealer victimized

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<p>SERENDIPITY / No Passes (PG sexually sugg. scenes, coarse language) Tue. 3:00, 5:05, 7:10, 9:20 Wed. & Thu. 7:10, 9:20</p> <p>TRAINING DAY / No Passes (18A explicit violence, coarse language) Tue. 3:50, 7:05, 9:50 Wed. & Thu. 7:05, 9:50</p> <p>JOY RIDE / No Passes (14A violence, coarse language) Tue. 4:10, 6:45, 9:10 Wed. & Thu. 6:45, 9:10</p> <p>MVP 2 / (G) Tue. 4:55, 7:15, 9:25 Wed. & Thu. 7:15, 9:25</p> <p>MAX KEEBLE / (G bullying) Tue. 3:10, 5:15, 7:30, 9:35 Wed. & Thu. 7:30, 9:35</p> <p>DON'T SAY A WORD / No Passes (14A violence, coarse language) Tue. 4:05, 7:00, 9:40 Wed. 9:40 Thu. 7:00, 9:40</p>	<p>HEARTS IN ATLANTIS / (PG violence, coarse language) Tue. 4:00, 7:15, 9:35 Wed. & Thu. 7:15, 9:35</p> <p>ZOOLANDER / (PG coarse language, violence) Tue. 4:20, 7:30, 9:45 Wed. & Thu. 7:30, 9:45</p> <p>HARDBALL / (PG coarse language, violence) Tue. 3:40, 6:55, 9:25 Wed. & Thu. 6:55, 9:25</p> <p>GLASS HOUSE / (14A violence, coarse language) Tue. 3:55, 7:25, 10:00 Wed. & Thu. 7:25, 10:00</p> <p>THE OTHERS / (PG may frighten young children) Tue. 3:45, 6:40, 9:15 Wed. & Thu. 6:40, 9:15</p> <p>RUSH HOUR 2 / (PG violence, coarse language, nudity) Tue. - Thu. 6:50, 9:00</p> <p>PRINCESS DIARIES / (G) Tue. 4:15</p>
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