

Winter

continued from 7
will give John Dahl widespread success. But for now, he has earned the respect of critics all over the country.

Little Women
(1994, Drama)

Cast
Winona Ryder
Claire Danes
Susan Sarandon
Christian Blake

Directed by Gillian Armstrong
Adapted from the book by Louise May Alcott

(out of 10 possible)
Cinematography: 7
Acting: 8
Character Development: 8
Musical Score: 7
Sound Quality: 8
Overall Rating: 89%

tion crew had taken more time in making the story more natural, the screen play would have been more loyal to the book. In any case, the film was superb, considering that it was placed within a hundred and twenty minute block.

Hoop Dreams
(1994, Documentary)

Cast
Arthur Agee
William Gate

(out of 10 possible)
Cinematography: 7
Acting: n/a
Character Development: n/a
Musical Score: 7
Sound Quality: 7
Overall Rating: 93%

Hoop Dreams
A Brilliant Tale of Two Lives
Taking years to shoot, *Hoop Dreams* certainly delivered a powerful message. Yes, the film focuses on basketball, but unlike *Blue Chips*, *Hoop Dreams* contains depth. No instant replay, no slow motion . . . just a pure documentary. Although it is difficult to believe that *Hoop Dreams*, or any societal documentary is unstaged, the collaboration of the three directors results in an incredible story of two aspiring basketball players heading in different directions. The film begins with the two subjects, Arthur Agee and William Gates, choosing which high school they will attend. They both choose St. Joseph's, a private high school from which NBA superstar, Isiah Thomas graduated from. Gates makes the varsity team in his freshman year, while Agee joins the junior varsity team. Gates is depicted as somebody headed in the right direction, while Agee eventually has to leave St. Joseph's because of financial difficulties. Agee transfers to Marshall High

School, while Gates continues to prosper at St. Joseph's. This three hour documentary captures the anguish and triumph of basketball; the most powerful moments reverberate strongly because the shots that Gates and Agee take are real life. By the end of the film, a deeper meaning has been conveyed; a message which extends far beyond that of the mere game of basketball. I strongly recommend that you watch this film; rarely can films, documentaries at that, thrill and evoke genuine feelings of concern from an audience.

Legends of the Fall
(1994, Drama)

Cast
Brad Pitt
Anthony Hopkins
Julia Ormond

(out of 10 possible)
Cinematography: 10
Acting: 8
Character Development: 8
Musical Score: 9
Sound Quality: 8
Overall Rating: 94%

Legends of the Fall
A Darkhorse In the Pack
Reading the remarks from critics directed towards the recently released *Legends of the Fall*, I was inclined not to watch it. Gene Siskel is one of few critics who gave this film an 'A' rating, with Roger Ebert giving it a 'B'. However, it seems as though Peter Travers of the Rolling Stone and the rest of the critical mass has opted to denounce *Legends of the Fall*. The actual film, in my mind, proved to me one thing. Even if everyone in the entire world pans a film, still watch it if you want to. *Legends of the Fall* is one of the best movies I've seen in 1994-95. The cinematography was spectacular; absolutely fantastic. Cin-



Richard Linklater, famed director of *Slacker*, has his new film *Before Sunrise* premiering this Friday at Sundance.

ematographer John Toll made the most of the on location shooting in Montana. Scenes included snow-capped peaks towering over clear, sparkling lakes down below, and grassy cliffs overlooking vast clearings. The scenery was shot with a consistent and vivid artistry throughout the entire film, from the bustling city life to oceanic voyages. The original score, composed by James Horner, is appropriately rich and sweeping. The score certainly deserves a nomination at next years' Oscars.

The cast stars Brad Pitt (*Kalifornia*), Anthony Hopkins (*Remains of the Day*, *Silence of the Lambs*), and Aidan Quinn (*Blink*). The excellent supporting cast includes Henry Thomas (*E.T.*) and Julia Ormond. In one of his best performances to date, Pitt plays the wild and free-spirited Tristan, one of Colonel William Ludlow's three sons. Anthony Hopkins makes his presence felt, adding a spark and anger most fitting for his role as the Colonel. Unfortunately, Hopkins' acting digresses, impressing much less after his character undergoes a stroke and his speech becomes impaired. Aidan Quinn bravely undertakes an unpopular role as Alfred, Tristan's jealous and bitter brother. One of the problems with this film was the hazy character of the Indian who spiritually raised Tristan. Had we known more of the similarities between the Indian and Tristan, both their characters would have been more interesting.

Legends of the Fall will probably flop in the box office, but this piece deserves praise. I thought that *Legends of the Fall* was going to overdose on Brad Pitt, but

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Rock Avenue Top 10 Play List

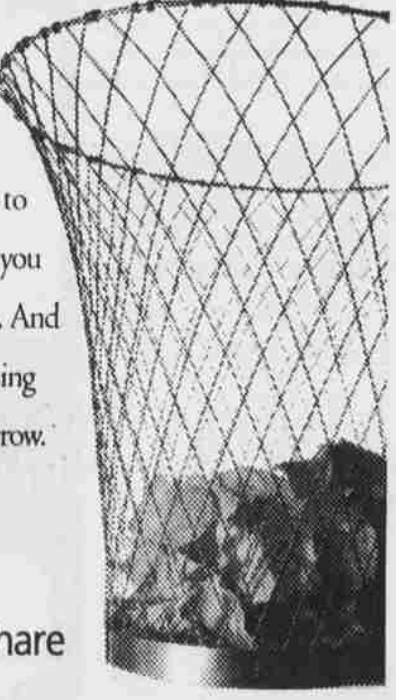
1. **Lords of Acid**
Voodoo-U
American
2. **Various Artists**
Clerks
Chaos
3. **Veruca Salt**
American Thighs
Geffen
4. **The Mighty Mighty Bosstones**
Question The...
Mercury
5. **Smashing Pumpkins**
Pisces Isocriot
Virgin
6. **Heavenly**
The Decline and Fall of...
K-Records
7. **Ween**
Chocolate and Cheese
Elektra
8. **Soul Coughing**
Ruby Vroom
Slash
9. **Various Artists**
All Virgos Are Mad
4AD
10. **Korn**
Korn
Immortal
11. **Dink**
Dink
Capital
12. **Various Artists**
Red Hot and Cool
GRP
13. **Cranes**
Loved
Dedicated
14. **Treepeople**
Actual Re-Enactment
C/Z Records
15. **The Cramps**
Flame Job
Medicine
16. **Catherine**
Sorry
TVT
17. **Front Line Assembly**
Milenium
Roadrunner
18. **Wedding Present**
Watusi
Island
19. **Dead Can Dance**
Toward the Within
4AD
20. **Pegboy**
Earwick
Quarterstick

as easily the production crew could have done that, they did not, which was definitely for the better.

Little Women
Great Adaptation, Good Performances
While Winona Ryder (*Reality Bites*) is the only actress with a chance of receiving an Oscar nomination, many of the other cast members are equally deserving. Based on the beloved classic novel by Louise May Alcott, *Little Women* boasts many well-known young actors, including Claire Danes (*My So-Called Life*), Kirsten Dunst (*Interview With a Vampire*), Samantha Mathis (*Pump Up the Volume*), Eric Stoltz (*Pulp Fiction*), and Christian Bale (*Empire of the Sun*). I found that the story was a bit too compressed; everytime mailbox or door opened, every conversation that took place, an exaggerated result was produced. The family seemed unnaturally happy, if you know what I mean. I believe that if the story had been expanded, and the produc-

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