

Tekst 10

The week's films

Mission to Mars

116 mins, PG

Brian De Palma's latest offering is flaccid, tedious, trite, clichéd, unintentionally funny, sadly camp, self-indulgent and utterly pointless. It's devoid of tension, visual flair, characters we care about, good dialogue, ideas or any reason to stay awake. Poor De Palma, may he and his movie rest in peace. CL

Up at the Villa

116 mins, 12

It's 1938, fascism is on the rise and for poor but beautiful Mary Panton (Kristin Scott Thomas), love is in the air. She lives in a beautiful villa in Tuscany, thanks to the generosity of friends. But she faces a difficult choice: should she marry stuffy but stable Sir Edgar Swift (James Fox) or go for good-time guy and ladies' man Rowley Flint (Sean Penn)? Here, Scott Thomas has nice teeth, awful outfits, zero sex appeal and terrible lines such as this one to Sir Edgar: "But India needs you!" Penn's character, thanks to Belinda Haas's leaden screenplay, doesn't seem any more of an exciting prospect. CL

Earth

101 mins, 15

Deepa Mehta's film is a worthy, unspectacular history lesson, set in India in 1947. Independence is imminent, but so is the creation of Pakistan, and the celebrations are soon replaced by bloody sectarian fighting. Mehta focuses on a group of friends — all civilised liberals in their twenties — who constitute a microcosm of Indian society. Sure enough, the changing political climate infects some of them with unwonted bigotry, while those who refuse to take sides are placed in jeopardy: a



Mission impermissible: Brian De Palma's Mars movie is a stinker

love affair between a Muslim and a Hindu becomes a rerun of Romeo and Juliet. Well meaning and well made, but it does not teach us anything new. EP

L'Ennui

120 mins, 18

Cédric Kahn's film lives up to its title: yet another yawn of a French film about a bourgeois intellectual going through a midlife crisis. A philosophy prof develops a crush on a fickle, voluptuous teenager (Sophie Guillemin), who is happy to sleep with him but refuses to make a commitment. He finds her sullenness boring, yet can't get her out of his head. Kahn believes this to be an amusing paradox, and insists on studying it at tedious length. The only spark is provided by Guillemin's performance (her debut). EP

Once Upon a Time in the West

168 mins, 15

A new Cinemascope print of Sergio Leone's 1968 masterpiece, with the 20 minutes of cuts restored. Everyone is familiar with the opening sequence, in which three desperados wait at a deserted train station for Charles Bronson, who shoots them down before Ennio Morricone's unforgettable theme rips through the silence like a dum dum bullet. The rest of Leone's story, co-written by Bertolucci, Sergio Donati and the horror master Dario Argento, is just as fine. This is where poetry meets entertainment. SG

**Cosmo Landesman,
Ed Porter and Steve Grant**

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Lees bij de volgende vragen steeds eerst de opgave voordat je de bijbehorende tekst raadpleegt.

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- 1p 39 Staat er een film bij waarover de recensenten enthousiast zijn? Zo ja, noteer de titel. Zo nee, schrijf op "Nee".