



Robin Williams stars in drama about 'Being Human'

Robin Williams stars in "Being Human," a unique and intimate series of interlocking tales written and directed by Bill Forsyth and produced by Robert F. Colesberry and David Puttnam. Opening this Friday exclusively at the United Artists Oakland Mall theater, "Being Human" is told as five experiences linked by a common theme: a man's need to find his place in the world.

In each tale, a different man named Hector is set on a journey. Collectively, the Hectors experience an odyssey that crosses thousands of years, from Bronze Age wilderness to contemporary metropolis. Along the way and with each journey, each Hector takes a few more steps toward what men search for the sense of belonging that we call home, and the closeness of relationships that give life meaning.

"I'm not playing every man," said Williams. "It's five specific men dealing with what life has handed them, but each character is to an extent taking up where the previous one left off."

From cave-dwelling hunter-gatherer to apartment-dwelling junk-food consumer, "Being Human" suggests we have

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changed little in our essentials, and that through the two hundred or so generations in the story of man, there are threats that connect us all.

An award-winning cast of supporting characters, including John Turturro, Vincent D'Onofrio, Anna Galiena, Hector Elizondo, Lorraine Bracco and Lindsay Crouse, populate the interlocking stories as they bring to life the universal qualities of the human heart.

In the first tale, a neolithic man (Williams) has his woman and two children, the safety of simple shelter and fire. Then, one day raiders abduct the woman and children. The man is left alone in a cold and empty world where the need simply to survive determines his actions.

In the second tale, Hector (Williams) is another man torn from his family. He's a slave to an unlucky merchant, Lucinius (John Turturro), in a provincial outpost of the Roman Empire. Fate allows Hector to seize a better life with his companion, Thalia (Grace Mahabes), once he has freed himself from an unwanted bond.

The third Hector is a medieval traveler fleeing war in Europe and

grateful for refuge with a tempting, fragrant woman (Anna Galiena). Despite their lack of a common language, their need for each other finds plenty of expression before he is compelled to continue his perilous journey homeward.

Four hundred years later, in the fourth tale, another Hector wakes up on a remote shore, a castaway with other survivors of a Portuguese shipwreck. Under the command of Dom Paulo (Hector Elizondo), the party fatally falls out among themselves. As they separate, Hector is reconciled with his one-time friend Francisco (Jonathan Hyde), with whom he has quarrelled bitterly over Ursula (Lizette McInerney). This Hector, like those before him, steps into another man's shoes and sets off into the dark unknown.

The fifth tale, set in modern-day New York, finds Hector in a gloomy midtown tunnel, unable to make a call on his mobile telephone. A harassed landlord and divorcee, Hector has two bridges, the island of Manhattan and an emotional gulf, to cross in order to reach the estranged children he hasn't seen in a long time.

Six thousand years have passed, but the cave-man, the slave, the wanderer, the adventurer and modern man have all been



Drama: Hector (Robin Williams) and Beatrice (Anna Galiena) in Warner Bros.' unique, heartwarming drama, "Being Human," in which Williams portrays five different characters.

connected by their shared desires for being loved, being wanted — being human.

"Being Human" is a Warner Bros. release of an Enigma Production. It is rated PG-13 (Par-

ents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for young children).

Enter our contest

Tell us about the "Bad Girls" you know — women who faced life challenges including divorce, illness, the death of a spouse, an accident, being fired or laid off from a job, or just plain bad luck, with a positive "I'll fight back and win," attitude.

We're extending the deadline for our "Bad Girls" contest to Monday, May 16. Here's your chance to something nice for the "Bad Girls" you know. The first 15 entries will receive a "Bad Girls" T-shirt, and there will be three grand prize winners.

The women you nominate as unsung heroes can be married,

divorced, widowed or single.

Include the "Bad Girls" name, address, phone number, and a brief description of why they are deserving of this award.

Send contest entries to: Keely Wygonik, Taste/Entertainment editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Inc., 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Call (313) 953-2105 if you have any questions.

"Bad Girls" is a movie about four women of the old west who become gunfighters to win back their money, their rights, and their dignity. It's now playing at metro Detroit movie theaters.



Western: Andie MacDowell is Eileen (left), Mary Stuart Masterson is Anita, Madeleine Stowe is Cody and Drew Barrymore is Lilly in "Bad Girls."

'The Inkwell' was OK

REVIEW

Show your comments about any newly released movies with your friends and neighbors on our movie page.

We're interested in hearing from readers of all ages — your comments are important to us. See Reel to Reel for information on how to leave comments about movies.

Suzanne Tiernan of Livonia goes to the movies every Wednesday. She saw "The Inkwell," and said it was "all right, nothing exciting, sort of a coming of age film. You might love it."

Parents, how do you decide if you'll let your children see a movie? Do you call other parents? Do you agree or disagree with how movies are rated? What movies have you seen lately and recommend? I'm looking forward to hearing from you.



If you've seen a new movie lately, either good or bad, we want to hear from you. Call Keely Wygonik, Entertainment editor, 953-2105, to comment on newly released movies. If you reach her voice mail, leave your comments, name, city and daytime phone number. To fax comments, dial 591-7279. Or write: Entertainment Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150.

Film looks at how women cope with 'Babyfever'

Henry Jaglom's film "Babyfever" opening Friday, exclusively at the AMC Maple in Birmingham, is to women and their biological clocks what his 1991 hit film "Eating" was to women and their relationship with food. The subtitle to "Babyfever" tells it all: For Those Who Hear Their Clock Ticking.

Once again we are offered an intimate view of women revealing their thoughts and feelings about an issue of great contemporary importance. This time, however, a woman today balance her desire to have a baby with all of the complex challenges women now face (including demanding careers and unstable relationships with men) when at the same time she is up against her ever-narrowing biological time-table.

In "Babyfever" we meet Gena

Winstrom (Victoria Foyt) who is in the midst of a confusingly romantic struggle with her boyfriend, James (Matt Salinger), with whom she feels "safe," talks of babies, marriage, houses and meshing yuppie careers. But just as she may commit to him, a dynamic old flame, Anthony (Eric Roberts), suddenly reappears with a surprising proposition.

Thinking that she might be pregnant and struggling with James' offer of unexciting security versus Anthony's unstable erotic appeal, Gena arrives at a co-worker's baby shower in a state of profound uncertainty.

As in "Eating," we encounter a diverse group of women in their 30s and early 40s who open up their hearts and expose their most intimate feelings, this time on the universal subject of babies.

With the startling honesty and poignancy which has become the trademark of Henry Jaglom's films, these young women express the longings, hopes and fears which affect so many young women today: Will they ever have a baby? Who could be the father? Should they do it alone? Should

they adopt or have on with a friend?

And how will Gena resolve her dilemma? Foyt and Jaglom keep us guessing all the way to photo-finish.

"Babyfever" is a Rainbow release.

UPCOMING MOVIES

There's something for everyone at the movies. Here's a list of what's in the wings:

Opening Friday, May 6

■ "3 Ninjas Kick Back" — In their first screen adventure, the three ninjas saved the honor of grandfather and defeated an evil

arms dealer. Now they must help their baseball team, the Dragons, beat their archrivals the Mustangs.

■ "Clean Slate" — A comedy-drama about a cop-turned-private eye suffering from a rare type of amnesia and the woman with a

mysterious past who arrives at his doorstep.

■ "32 Short Films About Glenn Gould" — Exclusively at the De-

troit Institute of Arts Film Theater, portrays the life of the late controversial and eccentric pianist, Glenn Gould.

Cookie Cutter Housing

This is where you'll find block after block of gingerbread architecture. Where an unhumored stroll takes you through quiet Victorian neighborhoods. And the only similarity of the homes is their elegance. Call for lodging information. Then, make the simple choice. **Petsbury-Harbor Springs-Boyne Country Visitors Bureau, Petsbury, Michigan. 1-800-845-2828.**

AMERICA'S FAVORITE NINJAS ARE BACK!

Colt, Rocky and Tum Tum Are Back in An All New Adventure

3 NINJAS KICK BACK

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AMC WONDERLAND	AMC WOODS	AMC TOWN CITY
GUO VADIS	SHOWCASE	SHOWCASE
SHOWCASE	STAR CATION	STAR LINCOLN PARK
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