## 'The Beach' is hardly a paradise for film-goers.

The greans of the girls said it all. Not means of desire, mind you, but greans of bewilderment and disappointment. Thir is the project the "Titanic" one waited two years to make? "What was Leo thinking?" said one young film-goer, hurrying off as if the memory would fade more quickly that way.

Well, what, indeed, was Leonardo DiCaprio thinking when he committed to "The Beach"? And why such reaction from its audience?

After all, they'd just seen Leo

from its audience?

After all, they'd just seen Leo as Richard (no one has a last name in this movie), an aimless

American who, by a stroke of luck, winds up traveling in the company of a beautiful girl and her company of a beautiful girl and her company in a beautiful girl and her companion. In due course, his natural charm wins the girl away from her jeulous beau. And not long after that, he and the girl end up underwater together. Sounds like an unsinkable story, doesn't it? It worked for Leo once before, didn't it? "The Beach," however, is anchored down by its vapid characters, sonaeless plot and lame humor. Charm alone can get you just so far.

In this hybrid of "Apocalypse Now," "Lord of the Flies," "Blue Lagoon" and, if unintentional, "Titanic," too, Richard runs away (from what?) to Bangkok, seek-

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ing "something more beautiful and exciting and dangerous." Before his first night in town is over, he drinks snake blood with some local lowlifes, checks into a fleabag motel and smokes pet with the guy in the next room, a flamed-out druggie named Daffy, as in the duck.

Daffy tells Richard about a hidden island paradise. The next morning Daffy slashes his wriste, but not before he's taped a map to this super secret hideaway onto Richard's door. Not slipped it under the door, you understand, but right there out in the hall. You can't expect anyone called Daffy to think of such things.

Richard persuades the young

Richard persuades the young



Paradise lost: Etienne (Guillaume Canet) and Francois (Virginie LeDoyen) watch Richard (Leonardo DiCaprio) burn the map to a secret island paradise in "The Beach," now playing in theaters.

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Paradia: thus come to realize

Paradise, they come to realize, is good for maybe a week, ten

Scheduled to open Friday, Feb. 18

PITCH BLACK
When a police officer, present and
pilot crash land on a nightless, lifeless planet, the group finds its a
stroggle to survive when an eclipsebrings night to the planet for the first
time in 22 years — giving life to lethe
nocturnal creatures. Stars Vin Diesel
and Cole Houser.

DETERMINE

DETERMINE THIS political thriller is set in 2008 and tells the story of a incumbent, president of the United States who becomes trapped in a Colorado snowstorm when and international incident occurs. Stars Kevin Politack.

DELIMINATE AND POSSER.

A retired prize fighter embarks on a journey with his son and grand-on to search for 13 long-jost diamonds.

Stars Kirk Douglas, Leuren Sacal and Dan Ackroyd.

measible suits set.

Rung Fu mosts hip hop on the socy
waterfront of Cakund California, when
a shaky truce between Asian and
African American crime gargs disintegrete, Sters Jet Li and Delroy Lindo.

Pitch Black: Stars (left to right) Keith David, Rhiana Griffith, Rhada Mitchell and Vin Diesel.

days tops. DiCaprio's descent into his own personal 'Heart of Darkness' includes imagining himself in a video game and imagining he's as good an actor as Martin Sheen in 'Apocalypse Now.' Delivering narration lines inke, 'I tred to remember the person I used to be, but I just couldn't doesn't help his cause.

DiCaprio as action here still genes a stretch, but he does for the proof of the proo

DiCaprio as action hero still seems a stretch, but he doos have a convincing way as an international girlfriend-stealer. British actress Tilda Swinton is the atrongest presence on the It's hard watching the screen when you're so busy rolling your eyes.

## **COMING ATTRACTIONS**

THE WHOLE MINTE YARDS
Nicholas "Oz "Oserankey is a nico dentist living in suburban Montreal. His new neighbor, limmy "The Tulip"
Tudeski is a nit man in hiding. Oz and Jimmy find thomselves with something them and thousands with sometime in common, someone's trying to kill them and they have to find a way to work together to avoid untimely end Stars Matthury Perry, Bruce Willia.

Scheduled to open Friday, Feb. 25

A shewly-released convict sets out to start a new life when he finds himself against a team of criminals who believe he has information on a job they're planning. Stars Bon Affeck, Gary Sinise and Charlies Theron.

Gary Sinke and Charlier Theron.

Rain-ArcO

Psychological thriller takes place in
the fast-paced world of thoroughbred
horse rocking. Three friends hatch a
plant to execute the ultimate score.
But the plan gooze wery when two of
them run off with their take. Partners
in crime, the three find themselves
bound by a eccret and yet divided by a
betrayal of the heart. Stars Sharon
Store, Jeff Bridges and Nick Noite.

WOMER BOYS
Film adoptation of the Michael Chabon
novel stars Michael Douglas, Francis
McDomand and Katle Hotmes. Douglas plays English professor, and novolist Grady Tipp who is struggling with
proteins caused by a stolen cit, a
doed dog and an unfinished 2,600page novel.

## 'Boiler Room' a wild journey into unethical money-making scam

evil, don't have any.'

Brary warras Imini@oe.homecomm.net Midway into the "Boiler Room," an arrogant gang of money-crazed stockbrokors guzzles beer, and together recite lines from the movie "Wall Street" as it plays on a hig screen television.

The scene initially makes sense that unethical stockbroker/telemarketers hold Michael Dougles' seedy "Wall Street" character as their inspiration to scam a quick million bucks. But a later scene in "Boiler Room," where the mewic's main characters ruin a restaurant's pleasant atmosphere ala "Goodfellas style" — with loud profanity, Mafina-tyle suits and even a Joe Peaci character who's ready to beat up anyone at any moment gives a cheap twist to a script with a fascinating concept: the fast world of illegal, fly-bright-stockbroker firms.

tast world of illegal, ily-by-night-stockbroker firms. While it's true that a group of young, wild, disrespectful, money-grubbing men willing to suck anyone of their life's sav-ings could in fact behave as rudely as a "Goodfellas" charac-ter, most of "Boiler Rooms" charac-ter, most of "Boiler Rooms" charac-ters assend to provide the acters seemed too predictable.

But Giovanni Ribisi, who plays
lead character Seth Davis, not

# 'Those who say that money is the root of all

only adde depth to the movie, but also makes it erdoyable.

Ribisi portrays Seth, a culleg-dropout who runs an efficient illegal casino from his small Queens apartment. His clionts are neighborhoad teenagers whom Seth treats with sympathy while sucking their meager college funds and lunch more conforted with free fadel sand inches and the state of the st

Seth decides to become a stock-broker.

Instead of working his way slowly up the corporate ladder, Seth lands a job at the smarmy J.T. Marlin company, where his boss (Ban Affleck) talls the new crew of telemarketing/brokers that they will earn a cool million dollars within three years.

Those who say that move is the root of all evil, don't have any, is the line Affleck uses to woo his new employees.

What he doesn't tell them is the business is illegal – and unothical – and forces Seth to

only adds depth to the movie, but also makes it enjoyable. Ribisi portrays Seth, a college-drapout, who runs ap efficient

"Roller Room"

Those attending New Line Cinema's Boiler Room because of Ben Affleck will be disappointed as his role in the movie is minimal.

Written and well directed by Written and well directed by Ben Younger, the movie takes viewers on a wild ride into the immoral lives of get-rich-quick scam artists who care more for new Ferraris than the families they destroy. The romance between Soth and Abby (Nia Long) is undeveloped and unnecessary, but the plot of the lucrative brokerage scam—and the well-shot fast scenes of the scam artists working their cruel morio

well-shot fast scenes of the scam artists working their cruel magic - is intriguing.

A huge illegal business, the struggle for approval between son-and-father, and charismatic churacters like Seth and sneaky mentor Chris (played by Vin Diesel) make "Boiler Room" worthwhile.