



Adrien Brody stars in Roman Polanski's *The Pianist*, opening in theaters on Friday, Jan. 4.

#### SCHEDULED TO OPEN FRIDAY, JAN. 3

##### THE PIANIST

Wladyslaw Szpilman, a brilliant Polish pianist and a Jew, escapes deportation. Forced to live in the heart of the Warsaw ghetto, he shares the suffering, the humiliation and the struggles. He manages to escape and hides in the ruins of the capital. A German officer comes to his aid and helps him to survive. Featured players include Adrien (Harrison's Flowers) Brody as Wladyslaw and Thomas (Blade 2) Kretschmann as the German officer. Roman (Jaws) Polanski directed the drama, marking his first since completing *The Ninth Gate* in 1999. (Focus Features) Not yet rated.

#### SCHEDULED TO OPEN FRIDAY, JAN. 10

##### INTACTO

There are those among us who are preferentially lucky. They are the survivors of the plane crash that kills everyone else, the ones who escape being victims of war and terror, the gamblers who win high-stake games and even life itself. Their gift is not only being lucky; however, it includes the power to rob others of their luck and leave them helpless in the face of misfortune. Frederico has been robbed of his luck and believes that Tomas, the survivor of a plane crash, will be the instrument of his vengeance. The two men embark on a voyage of initiation, a series of trials challenging others that will lead them to the summit of chance, but they must avoid the scrutiny of policewoman Sara, herself a survivor, to finally meet Sam, the master of the domain from which only one person will emerge intact. Stars Leonardo Sbaraglia, Eusebio Poncela, Monica Lopez, Antonio Dechent, Max Von Sydow. Directed by Juan Carlos Fresnadillo. (Lions Gate) Rated R. Running time: 100 minutes.

##### JUST MARRIED

Tom's a traffic reporter with blue collar roots. Sarah's a writer whose family is as wealthy as it is snobbish. Much to her clan's and ex-boyfriend's horror, Sarah and Tom fall in love and marry. Following their wedding, they set off on what they expect to be the perfect vacation, but thanks to her ex- and relentless bad luck, the happy couple experiences the honeymoon from hell. Directed by Shawn Levy. Starring Ashton Kutcher, Brittany Murphy, Christian Kane (20th Century Fox) This film is not yet rated.

##### 25TH HOUR

Montgomery "Monty" Brogan, a young war-heroic dealer about to serve a seven-year stint in prison, is forced to re-examine his life during his last day of freedom. He spends time with his old buddies reminiscing and partying, while trying to figure out who turned him in to the feds. Featured in the cast are Edward (The Score) Norton as Monty, Philip Seymour (Almost Famous) Hoffman as Monty's friend, and Rosario (Men in Black 2) Dawson as Naturelle, Monty's on-the-run girlfriend. Spike Lee directed the drama, marking his first since completing *Boyz n the City* in 2000. (Columbia Pictures) Rated R.

##### NICHOLAS WICKLEY

Based on the novel by Charles Dickens, the story centers on a boy's struggle to survive and find happiness in a hostile and unfeeling world by building a new and unconventional family. He is helped and hindered on his way by a host of suddenly evoked and well-known characters from his hapless uncle to the villainous and theatrical Crumple

family and the cruel-hearted Wackford Smeers. Featured among the ensemble are Jamie (Buffy) Elton Bull, Jim Broadbent, Tom (Last Orders) Courtenay, Alan (The Anniversary Party) Cumming, Charlie (Abandonment) Hinnam and Anne (The Princess Diaries) Hathaway. (MGU/UA) Not yet rated.

##### NARC

A story of suspended undercover narcotics officer, Nick Telis, who is reluctantly drawn back onto the force to find the truth behind the murder of a young police officer killed in the line of duty. He is teamed with Henry Oak, the slain officer's partner. A rogue cop who will stop at nothing to avenge his friend's death. As Telis and Oak unravel the case, the dark underbelly of the narcotics world reveals itself in surprising ways that are more twisted than either officer has seen before. Stars Jason Patric, Ray Liotta, Busta Rhymes, Cal McRide. Directed by Joe Carnahan (Paramount) Rated R. Running time: 107 minutes.

#### SCHEDULED TO OPEN FRIDAY, JAN. 17

##### A GUY THING

Paul Morris is a good guy. When his friends show him a wild bachelor party, he just wants to keep his conscience clear, which is why he's shocked when he wakes up in bed with a beautiful girl named Becky and can't remember the night before. Worse than that, she also happens to be his fiancée's cousin. Desperate to keep his fiancée from finding out, he tells her a teeny lie, which turns into a bigger lie. From the bachelor party to the wedding, soon his lies are spiraling out of control and his entire life is a series of comical misunderstandings. Featured players include Jason Lee, Julia Stiles, Selma Blair and James Brolin. Chris Koch directed the comedy marking his first since completing *Snow Day* in 2000. (MGU/UA)

##### NATIONAL SECURITY

The story follows a young rookie security guard, Earl Montgomery, who is forced to team up with ex-cop Hand Rafferty as they seek the men who are out to kill them both, and unravel a smuggling operation. Featured players include Martin Lawrence as Earl, Steve Zahn as Hank, Eric Roberts as the leader of the smuggling operation and Colin Ferris as a corrupt police officer collaborating with professional criminals. Dennis Dugan directed the action, marking his first since completing *Saving Silverman* in 2001. (Columbia Pictures)

##### SIN EATER

A conflicted, rebellious priest travels to Rome to investigate the strange death of his mentor. The young priest, a troubled artist with whom he shares a turbulent past, and his closest friend and colleague to discover the mysterious death may be the work of the Sin Eater, an ancient figure who binds God on Earth by absorbing the unforgivable of their sins outside the Church, allowing great evil to go unpunished. The film stars Heath Ledger as Father Bernier, Mark Addy and Shanyn Sossamon. Brian Koppelman directed the thriller, marking his first since completing *A Knight's Tale* in 2001. (20th Century Fox) This film is not yet rated.

##### CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND

This is a fictitious story about the secret life of Gong Show host Chuck Barris. Including the time he spent as CIA assassin "Sunny Sixkiller," making his wife under the guise of chaperoning the game show contestants who have won vacation prizes. Stars Sam Rockwell, Drew Barrymore, George

Clooney, Julia Roberts, Chuck Barris (cameo), Matt Damon (cameo), Rutger Hauer, Brad Pitt (cameo), Fred Savage, Jerry Weintraub (cameo) (Leonard Goldberg), Kristen Wilson. Directed by George Clooney. (Miramax Films) Rating TBD

##### THE HOURS

The story of three women searching for more polished, meaningful lives. Each is alive at a different time and place; all are linked by their yearnings and their fears. Stars Meryl Streep, Julianne Moore, Nicole Kidman, Ed Harris, Toni Collette, Claire Danes, Jeff Daniels, Stephen Dillane, Allison Janney, John C. Reilly, Miranda Richardson. Directed by Stephen Daldry. (Paramount) Rated PG-13. Running time: 110 minutes.

##### KANGAROO JACK

Two friends from Brooklyn are forced to deliver mob money to Australia. Their misadventures begin when one of them places his red jacket on a kangaroo while attempting to snare a picture. When the kangaroo bounces off, they realize the mob money is in the jacket and they are forced to chase him into the outback. Stars Jerry O'Connell, Anthony Anderson, Estella Warren, Christopher Walken, Ryan Cannon, Michael Shannon, Martin Csokas, David Ngombujara. Directed by David McNally. (Warner Brothers) Rated PG. Running time: 84 minutes.

#### SCHEDULED TO OPEN FRIDAY, JAN. 24

##### DARKNESS FALLS

Kyle Walsh (Cherry Kley) must return home to confront his troubled past and save his childhood sweetheart Caitlin (Emma Caulfield) and her younger brother Michael (Lee Corneil) from an unrelenting evil that has plagued the town of Darkness Falls for over one hundred and fifty years. Directed by Jonathan Liebesman. (Columbia Pictures) This film is not yet rated.

##### CITY OF GOD

Welcome to the world's most notorious slum Rio de Janeiro's "City of God." A place where combat photographers fear to tread, where police rarely go and residents are lucky if they live to the age of 20. This is the true story of a young man who grew up on these streets and whose ambition as a photographer is the world's window in and ultimately may be his only way out. Stars Alexandre Rodrigues, Mathias Nachtergaele, Alice Braga, Seu Jorge, Leandro Firmino de Hora. Directed by Fernando Meirelles. (Miramax) Rated R.

#### SCHEDULED TO OPEN FRIDAY, JAN. 31

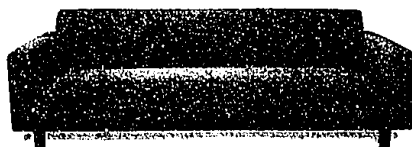
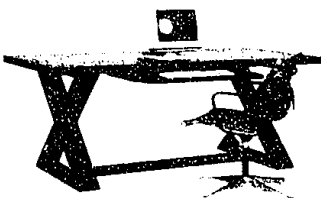
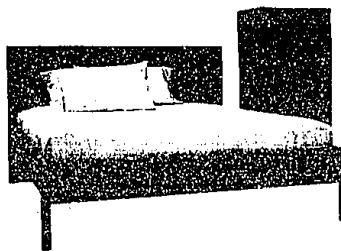
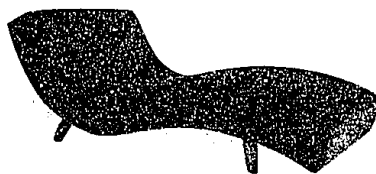
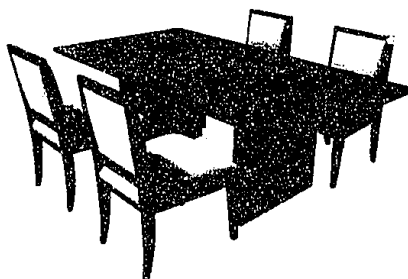
##### THE GURU

A young Indian dance teacher with the best moves in Delhi embarks for New York City in pursuit of fame and fortune—only to wind up working as a waiter in an Indian restaurant. But good fortune can arise from strange places as our hero, Ramu Gupta discovers when a catering gig at a dizzy birthday party catapults him into an extravagant version of the American dream. Mistaken for a spiritual healer, Ramu becomes an overnight celebrity with the city's elite hanging onto his every word—no matter how absurd. The trouble is, he's also falling in love with the one woman who knows the real source of his seemingly profound insights and Ramu must choose between his newfound notoriety and his love for a woman who accepts him as he is. Stars Jim Mistry, Zarisa Thomas, Heather Graham. Directed by Daisy von Scherler Mayer. (Universal) Rated R.

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