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**JOHNNY DEPP** (left) portrays the enigmatic journalist Raoul Duke, and **Benicio Del Toro** is Dr. Gonzo, his partner, in "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas." The film is based on the book of the same name by Dr. Hunter S. Thompson.

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*Hollywood set to unleash another disastrous summer*

BY **BRET SCHULTE**  
Film Critic

Sometimes California just begs for natural disasters.

This summer, a meteor will slam into the Earth (only weeks before we collide with an asteroid), a killer alien will attack a Jamie Lee Curtis movie and Godzilla is slated to attack Manhattan May 20.

Once again, Hollywood will attempt to create another blockbuster summer out of big names, big explosions and big budgets.

And it will probably work. "Armageddon," and "Deep Impact" both boast big stars and out-of-this-world budgets in the latest disaster film competition (remember last year "Volcano" buried "Dante's Peak").

Both films focus on certain death from aggressive planetoids with salvation lying in the hands of a couple tough guys softened by cute girls.

Walt Disney's 36th full-length animated feature, "Mulan," is the next ethnic animated adventure by America's oldest purveyor of cultural stereotypes. Lending their voices are Eddie Murphy and Harvey Fierstein along with Ming-Na Wen and B.D. Wong. Fortunately, it's not a musical.

"Airplane!" and "Naked Gun" director David Zucker leads the creators of "South Park" through their first big-screen appearance. "BASEketball" is about two average guys with an interest in beer and sports who create a new sport that becomes wildly popular.

The summer's brightest spot looks like Johnny Depp's latest potent, non-mainstream project, "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas."

Directed by Terry Gilliam ("12 Monkeys"), the long-awaited film promises to be a visually stunning adaptation of Hunter S. Thompson's

drug-enhanced tales of a journalist seeking the truth.

The rest of the summer lineup includes a questionable adventure starring Harrison Ford as a pilot and Anne Heche as a magazine editor stranded on a desert island; another magazine editor with older hunk appear in "The Horse Whisperer," featuring Robert Redford.

And, finally, the wait for "The Parent Trap" of our generation is finally over.

May 8: "Deep Impact"  
May 15: "The Horse Whisperer"  
May 20: "Godzilla"  
May 22: "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas"

June 12: "Six Days, Seven Nights"

June 12: "Can't Hardly Wait"

June 19: "Mulan"

June 24: "Jane Austen's Mafia"

June 26: "Out of Sight"

July 1: "Armageddon"

July 10: "Madeline"

July 17: "The Mask of Zorro"

July 29: "The Parent Trap"

July 31: "Dance With Me"

July 31: "BASEketball"

August 14: "Virus"

The Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater, 12th and R streets, features non-studio and independent film releases. Its lineup runs through the summer and includes many of this year's most highly touted foreign and domestic films.

Showings run from Thursday



**THE REMAKE OF "GODZILLA,"** which will premiere in theaters this summer, will improve on the familiar storyline with high-tech special effects.

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**TOM HANKS** stars as Captain John Miller in "Saving Private Ryan," a WWII action drama.

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June 18-28: "Sweetheart: The Films of Mary Pickford." Presented by the Mary Pickford Foundation and Milestone Films, the traveling film festival is a tribute to the only actress to co-own a major Hollywood studio.

July 9-12: "Fireworks," directed by Takeshi Kitano. Violent and stylistic, the Japanese detective film won Best Picture at 1997's Venice Film Festival.

July 16-26: "Mrs. Dalloway," directed by Marleen Gorris. A British melodrama, the heavily psychological film explores the consequences of life decisions made young.

July 30-Aug. 9: "Love and Death on Long Island" directed by Richard Kwietnioski. Jason Priestly plays a B-movie actor who is obsessed over by a widowed man (John Hurt) in this comedy-drama.

Aug. 13-23: "Buffalo 66," directed by Vincent Gallo. Touted as funny, tragic, rare and brilliant, it's the tangled story of an ex-con, who convinces his family he was just out of town during his prison stay and seeks revenge against a former team member of the Buffalo Bills upon his release.

through Sunday weekly. Call 472-9100 for specific times.

May 21-31: "Afterglow," directed by Alan Rudolph. A dry, modern comedy set around two troubled marriages.

June 4-14: "Ma vie en rose (My Life in Pink)" by director Alain Berliner. The Belgian director's first film is a critical and funny commentary on gender roles and upper-class stereotypes.