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## A Dirty Shame

Directed by John Waters

Finally, a new John Waters film that approaches the foul depravity of *Pink Flamingos*. Given the divinely inspired casting of Johnny Knoxville (pictured) as Ray-Ray, the beatific leader of a band of horny Baltimore sex freaks, the real dirty shame is that Waters didn't get the *Jackass* daredevil to re-create Divine's doggy-doo moment. Underdeveloped scat action notwithstanding, this 90-minute gag about a prudish housewife (Tracey Ullman) whose head injury transforms her into a raving sex addict comes off smelling like a rose. You don't go to a Waters movie expecting tour de force performances. That said, no actor orgasms as convincingly (on cue!) as Ullman. It's just a matter of time before she joins the adult babies, growling gay bears, masochists, microphiliacs (the opposite of size queens), and chronic masturbators in Ray-Ray's plot to deflower the whole town. In response, Big Ethel (Suzanne Shepherd) and Marge the Neuter (Mink Stole) organize a Decency Rally, preaching an "end to tolerance!" Take it as an overstated yarn about the excesses of open-mindedness—or just take the one-liners ("yodel in my canyon") and gross out your friends with obscure fetishes (sloshing, roman showers, upper-deckers). Either way, *A Dirty Shame* is the shit. —Darren Frei

# FILM



## Head in the Clouds

Directed by John Duigan

An American socialite in Paris, Gilda Bessé (Charlize Theron, left) spends her days sauntering along the boulevards and spouting theories about destiny and patriotic duty with her lovers, Guy (Stuart Townsend) and Mia (Penélope Cruz, right), while everyone else worries about the onset of World War II. But when Mia and Guy abandon Gilda to join the fight for world freedom, the film spins melodramatically back to reality. Even Theron's monster acting chops can't save this bomb. —Ryan MacDonald

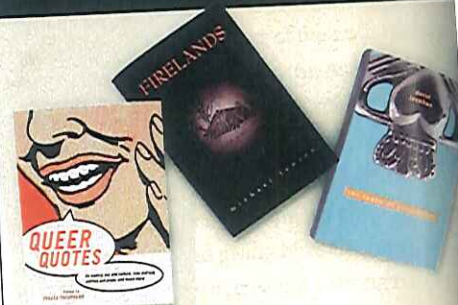


## The Raspberry Reich

Directed by Bruce LaBruce

STRAND RELEASING

LaBruce's latest sex-and-provocation orgy skewers the pop-culture mythologizing of Germany's Baader-Meinhof Gang (failed '70s revolutionaries) in particular and revolution chic in general, with lots of bad acting and explicit sex. While spouting goofy political rants ("Join the Homosexual Intifada!"), a would-be Che encourages the take-down of capitalism by forcing her male apprentices (pictured) to have sex with each other—her "straight" comrades don't have to be asked twice. The result is both arousing and tedious. —Matthew Breen



# ETC

## New and Notable This Month

A gay romance converges with supernatural terror on the American frontier in Michael Jensen's period novel *Firelands* (Alyson, \$14.95)... Teresa Theophano has collected quips, cracks, gibes, proverbs, truisms, and plenty of other sayings in *Queer Quotes: On Coming Out and Culture, Love and Lust, Politics and Pride, and Much More* (Beacon, \$16)... David Levithan (*Boy Meets Boy*) returns with *The Realm of Possibility* (Knopf, \$15.95), a book in verse featuring his characteristically sensitive gay and straight high school students in love... Neve Campbell goes sapphic again this month, playing a woman who gets revenge on a pair of cads in the film *When Will I Be Loved?*