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HOT PICKS

FILM

Movie time

DEAN CARRICO
MAR 4, 2009



Hawaiian Air



Opens
Fri
Mar
6

With the dreck that's been released by Hollywood over the past few weeks, audiences who just want a two-hour diversion and some popcorn with Mochi Crunch have had to hold their nose and announce their choices with a heavy sigh (the phrase "He's Just Not That Into You" never held so much meaning).

The endless parade of sub-par future Razzie Award nominees is almost at an end with Friday's release of *Watchmen*, but if you're afraid the opening weekend will smell like 500 nerds locked in the basement of a comic book convention (and believe us, it will), and you can't bear to say the words "Paul Blart" again, you can breathe a sign of relief and a gracious thanks to the **Honolulu International Film Festival**.

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This year, the festival offers another eclectic mix of films, and a second chance to see some you may have missed, including Kimberlee Bassford's must-see documentary *Patsy Mink: Ahead of the Majority*, which won the audience award for Best Documentary at that other HIFF Showcase. Others to watch for (and watch, obviously) are Adam Mason's psychological thriller *Blood River*, *Say it in Russian*, starring Faye Dunaway in an international love story that's unlikely to be recast with Hilary Duff anytime soon, and the mockumentary-musical *Courting Condi* wherein a failed musician sets his sights on the former secretary of state (*full review of Courting Condi available online at [www.honoluluweekly.com]*).

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Take your pick from a VIP pass to get into the opening and closing ceremonies and everything in between, an all day pass which gets you in to as many as nine films or a

mini pass good for five films of your choosing. You can even simply pick one film, and it will still cost you less than one ticket to *Street Fighter*, and you won't have to worry about someone seeing you. Unfortunately, Mochi Crunch is not included.

Hilton Hawaiian Village Beach Resort, 2005 Kalia Rd., Fri 3/6–Sun 3/8, \$8–\$100, See Web site for complete schedule of films, [www.honolulufilmfestival.com].



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