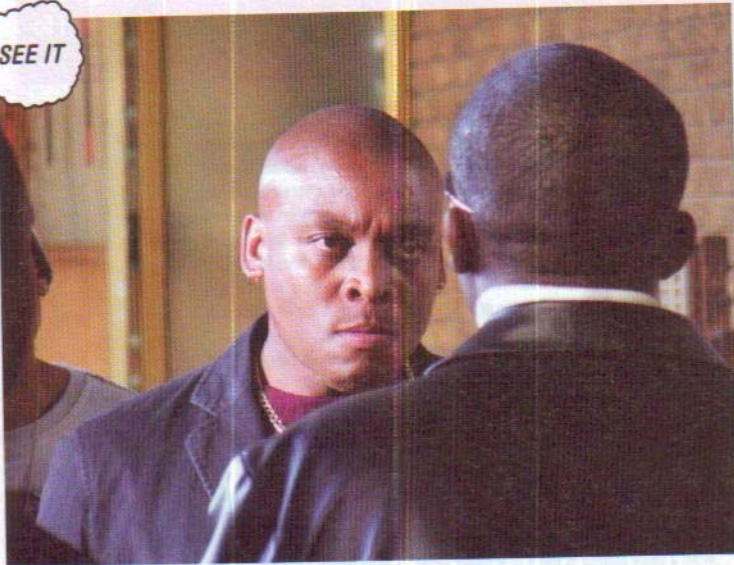
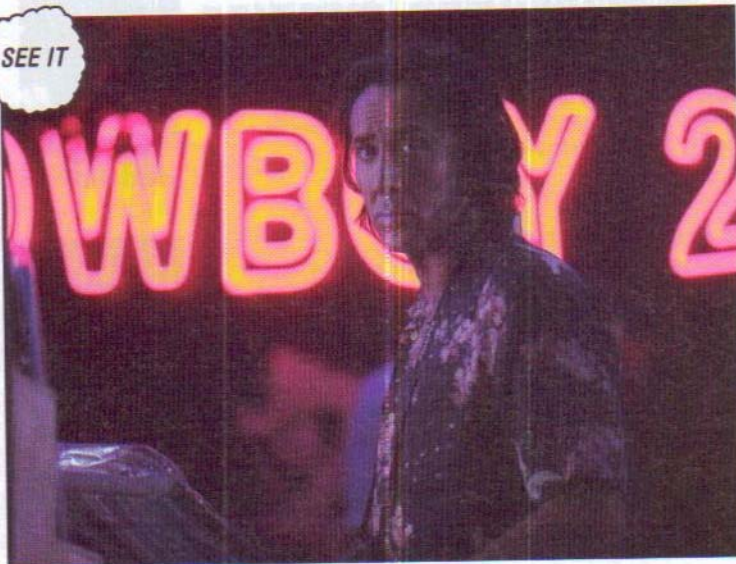


SEE IT

**JERUSALEMA***Director: Ralph Ziman*

Starring: Rapulana Seiphemo, Jeffrey Sekele, Robert Hobbs, Shelly Meskin
 Before seeing this film, I was told by a friend that Jerusalem is 'the new *Tsotsi*' – and he was right, there are similarities between the two films. ... like the fact that both pictures predominantly have black people in it. My description of it would rather be that it is the South African adaptation of *Scarface*, starring Rapulana Seiphemo as Tony Montana a.k.a Lucky Kunene – one of the coolest criminal motherfuckers I have ever seen in a local film. His main source of income is hijacking – first vehicles and later buildings in Hillbrow. Believe it or not, this actually happens, hence the 'based on real events' tag that accompanies the film. Like any good mobster, Lucky struggles with issues of morality and manages to deceive himself so well, that we almost believe him when he says: 'I have done nothing illegal!' But after yet another Nigerian drug dealer bites the dust, you have to wonder... I have deliberately left out large chunks of the plot and urge you to go into this movie with zero expectations. The director, Ralph Ziman, does an excellent job of disguising some very important issues under the pretence of a local gangster film. It asks questions like: 'When did South Africa stop being the New Jerusalem?' or 'How much bigger can the gap between rich and poor still get?' The movie has already done the rounds on the international circuit at film festivals, but now it's our turn. Screw *Tsotsi*. ... *Jerusalem* is the real deal.

SEE IT

**BANGKOK DANGEROUS***Director: Oxide Pang Chun & Danny Pang**Starring: Nicolas Cage, Charlie Yeung*

Here's one we haven't seen before: A movie about an assassin with a conscience. You know – the type of person who is able to shoot a hole through someone's head without blinking, but who gets visited by the Ghost of Killings Past when he goes to bed at night. In *Bangkok Dangerous*, Nicolas Cage plays just such a chap named Joe, who visits Bangkok to dish out some serious punishment to anyone who pisses off his employers. But, poor Joe is also very lonely and in need of some TLC – enter Fong, a deaf mute chemist girl, who slowly steals his heart and teaches him that slaughtering other people purely for the sake of money is wrong. Joe sees the error of his ways and turns, rather, to murdering people who have wronged him personally. Along the way he picks up an apprentice in the form of an Asian *Oliver Twist*, whose dream it is to also become a career murderer. And there you go – definitely not Oscar-winning stuff, but every bugger and boytjie's wet dream of a fun evening out. The rest of the film is packed with ratata gun sounds, explosions, and baddies who wear sunglasses at night. So what makes this fliek worth it? Is it Nic's super cool Jesus haircut or his versatility as an actor? Nope, it's the brother's Pang and their superslick, big budget, American remake of the original 1998 version (also made by them). This is their this-is-how-the-fuck-you-should-be-making-an-action-film message to Hollywood. Ka-Pow bitches!

SEE IT

**IN BRUGES***Director: Martin McDonagh**Starring: Collin Farrell, Brendan Gleeson, Ralph Fiennes*

Geography lesson: Bruges (pronounced brooze) is situated in Belgium and is packed full of actual medieval buildings. *In Bruges* starts off with two Irishmen, Ray and Ken, checking into a local B&B and arguing over whether or not the city is a shithole. They could easily be father and son, with Collin Farrell being the kind of kid I'd rather drown at birth than raise – you probably won't believe me, but in one scene he beats up a guy AND his girlfriend in a restaurant. We eventually learn that they're hitmen and have been sent there because of a fucked up mistake one of them (can you guess who?) has made involving a priest and a little boy – no, he didn't have a threesome with them. At night they get creepy calls from their boss and during the day they go sight-seeing. Along the way, they meet a midget (who prefers to be called a dwarf), the chick who played Fleur Delacour in *Harry Potter*, and a prostitute. All this will eventually make sense and result in a 'oh my gawd!'-twist ending. However, that is only the nutshell part. In an eggshell, this is a character-driven film and if you are expecting bullets to fly, you'll be disappointed. Yes there are deaths, but only as a means to demonstrate certain character traits, if you follow my drift. One last thing, I'm using the money SL is going to pay me for this review to visit Bruges one day. It looks that cool.