

OSCAR PREDICTIONS YOU CAN BANK ON PREMIERE

HUNGRY FOR MOORE?

JULIANNE SINKS
HER TEETH
INTO 'HANNIBAL'

NICOLE KIDMAN
SINGS!
(AND WE'RE
ALL EARS)

INTO
LEATHERFACE?

THE MAKING OF
THE TEXAS CHAIN
SAW MASSACRE

THE
25
MOST
DANGEROUS
MOVIES
OF ALL TIME

THE
VANGUARD
ISSUE

MICHAEL DOUGLAS

CATE BLANCHETT

GILLIAN ANDERSON

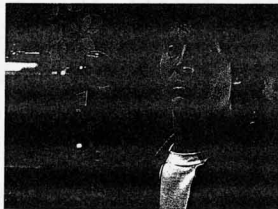
BENICIO DEL TORO

FRANCES MCDORMAND

OLIVER STONE

And Other

Hollywood Daredevils



Director Doug Liman takes a byte out of the Web with Nibblebox.

INSIDE THE 'BOX

With the death toll rising among entertainment dot-coms—rest in peace Pop.com, Pseudo, Urban Box Office—staking your survival on an Internet start-up seems risky. But for Doug Liman, director of Gen-Y manifestos *Swingers* and *Go* and cofounder of Nibblebox (www.nibblebox.com), a netcaster of content by college students, it was dot-com or die. "I make movies for people who are 14 to 25," says Liman, who thinks that the Internet is to teens today what cable was to his generation. He relates a friend's account of catching his son surfing on the sly. "The kid had strung an Internet line out the window into his bedroom," the director laughs approvingly. "That's what I did

with cable when I was a kid so I could watch *Charlie's Angels*."

If Liman and his partners, former head of 3 Arts Television David Bartis and Net entrepreneur Elizabeth Hamburg, have their way, that resourceful lad and millions like him will be plugging in to the start-up's eight shows and live college radio feeds. The shows are developed from submissions by students from the site's 150 college affiliates, who are then given equipment and guidance from a mentor—Liman, Amy Heckerling, Steven Soderbergh, and others are on tap—to create a polished product for possible offline syndication.

That lineup includes an interactive series, created by USC students Rob Kerkovich, Nick Howard, and Kevin Roache, that allows surfers to put a live-action Kerkovich through his paces as he goes out on a date; and a cyberserial called *Sorority Crime Fighters*, created by Robert Laws and Courtney Ashley, about a saucy trio of crime-fighting coeds that no doubt reminds Liman of his own youthful covert viewing.

So far, the reception has been good: HBO is sponsoring Nibblebox's 30-campus "Dotcomic" talent search for the funniest college stand-ups (five winners will play the U.S. Comedy Arts Festival in Aspen in late February)—a sign, Hamburg says, that Nibblebox's diversified business plan can work. "TV networks and film studios want our audience's spin on things, so we're talking to them about using students to develop interactive commercials, marketing campaigns, and content," Hamburg says.

And Liman is using his exposure to the Web-savvy auteurs of tomorrow to stay on top of his game. "If I wanted to create stuff that's next-generation, no matter what I do, I'll never be able to compete with a 17-year-old kid who's been tinkering on his home computer since seventh grade." —MARION HART