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■ MOVIES

Continued from page 6

Is this a perfect film? Heck, no. But it's a daring, exhilarating celebration of the spirit of Paris in 1968. People remember this movie mainly because of its NC-17 rating, but none of the sex is gratuitous. "The Dreamers" should be celebrated for giving us naked young bodies and daring us to feel guilty about liking what we see. Old man Bertolucci hasn't forgotten what it's like to be young and beautiful.

HONORABLE MENTIONS

6. "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" — Michel Gondry: It's sad that screenwriter Charlie Kaufman couldn't just be content to tell a great love story. No, he had to insert his usual, tiresome mind games to impress us with how clever he is. Still, thanks to Gondry's direction, a good film.

7. "I (Heart) Huckabees" — David
O. Russell: This strange little film would be voted "Least Likely to be a

Crowd-pleaser" if such a distinction existed. Regardless, it was pleasing to this critic. "Relax," Russell seems to be saying to an angst-ridden America on the verge of self-destruction, "it's going to be OK." Thanks, Dave.

SACRED COWS

8. "Million Dollar Baby" — Clint Eastwood: This is one that the critics loved. Don't listen to them. Much like last year's similarly exalted "Mystic River," this Warner Bros. product is dreadful in the most obvious sense of the word: That is, it's filled with dread. For some inexplicable reason, these kinds of movies are adored by the statue-awarding set, so be prepared to see it win an armful of Oscars. A good movie, whether it's a comedy or a tragedy, succeeds in infusing life into its audiences. This life-denying boxing melodrama is not a good movie.

9. "Garden State" — Zach Braff: It seemed like the "in" crowd at Sundance was falling all over itself to praise this one. It had all the makings of a decent movie — a youthful, quirky debut film

written and directed by a well-regarded and likeable actor (Braff) and co-starring the beautiful and talented Natalie Portman. The only problem is, the movie stinks. It's a dull trifle of a film about a lifeless young man returning to his lifeless town to confront his lifeless father after the death of his mother. The film never gains any momentum, and

nothing noteworthy happens. 10. "Fahrenheit 9/11" - Michael Moore: There's not much to say about this one that hasn't been said already. More an event than a film, "Fahrenheit 9/11" offered a smorgasbord of conspiracy theories and criticisms of Bush administration policy. It's pretty obvious that Michael Moore's real goal was not to make an honest, thorough case against Bush, but rather to promote one Michael Moore. Moore's prominence enabled media talking heads to insinuate that anyone who criticizes Bush must be in Michael Moore's camp. Hey, Mike: Thanks for tipping the election to Bush, jackass.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockfeatures@gwm.sc.edu

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