

TRAPPEDJames Franco as the pinned hiker in *127 Hours*

an appearance late in Gareth Edwards' debut feature. But though the title suggests this is a creature feature, love story trumps sci-fi in this genre hybrid. This efficient, low-budget drama is geared toward the arthouse crowd, but genre buffs will want to get a look at its titular monsters.

127 Hours

Canyon country

DISTRIBUTOR Fox Searchlight Pictures CAST James Franco, Amber Tamblyn, Kate Mara, Treat Williams, Kate Burton, Clémence Poésy DIRECTOR Danny Boyle SCREENWRITERS Danny Boyle, Simon Beaufoy PRODUCERS Christian Colson, Danny Boyle, John Smithson GENRE Drama RATING R for language and some disturbing violent content/bloody images. RUNNING TIME 95 min. RELEASE DATE November 5, 2010

Pete Hammond says ... Just two years after his surprise box office smash, Oscar-winning *Slumdog Millionaire* director Danny Boyle takes a different tack, adapting canyoneer Aron Ralston's harrowing true-life account of the 127 hours he spent trapped in a narrow cave. With a tour-de-force performance from James Franco and an imaginative shooting style that relies on two cameras and inventive angles, what could have been static and deadly dull comes blazingly to life in this powerful and compelling story of one man's will to survive. A youthful, adventurous audience is most likely to turn this into a sizable hit. Though it's doubtful it

will reach *Slumdog* heights, Fox Searchlight won't be complaining. Boyle's on to something fresh here.

Fair Game

Exposing Valerie Plame

DISTRIBUTOR Summit Entertainment CAST Sean Penn, Naomi Watts, David Andrews, Ty Burrell, Bruce McGill DIRECTOR Doug Liman SCREENWRITERS Jez Butterworth, John-Henry Butterworth PRODUCERS William Pohlad, Jerry Zucker, Janet Zucker, Jez Butterworth, Doug Liman, Akiva Goldsman GENRE Drama RATING TBD RUNNING TIME 106 min. RELEASE DATE November 5 Ltd., November 12 Exp.

Pete Hammond says ... After directing big crowd pleasers like *The Bourne Identity* and *Mr. and Mrs. Smith*, Doug Liman takes a 180 degree turn in the politically explosive thriller, *Fair Game*. The film is based on the real life scandal of CIA operative Valerie Plame. Bush Administration officials leaked the agent's identity to a prominent D.C. columnist in retaliation for a New York Times article her Ambassador husband wrote disputing the existence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. With first-rate performances from Sean Penn and Naomi Watts and a compelling script, this suspenseful, taut drama should keep audiences nailed to their seats when it's released this fall. Debuting in competition at the Cannes Film Festival, a respectable box office haul, critical support and awards talk should make

this an exception to the recent weak track record for fact-based political dramas like *State Of Play*.

Red Hill

Where heroes still ride horses

DISTRIBUTOR Strand Releasing CAST Ryan Kwanten, Tommy Lewis, Steve Bisley, Claire van der Boom, Christopher Davis, Jim Daly DIRECTOR/SCREENWRITER Patrick Hughes PRODUCERS Al Clark, Patrick Hughes GENRE Western RATING R for strong bloody violence, and language. RUNNING TIME 95 min. RELEASE DATE November 5 Ltd.

Sara Maria Vizcarrondo says ... A western set in a nearly vacant town in the Australian Outback, *Red Hill* is a treatise on honor and masculinity in a modern (if largely deserted) rural town. Budding Aussie actor Ryan Kwanten (*The Legend of the Guardians: Owls of Ga'hoole*) stars as Shane Cooper, a city cop who takes a job in the country to comfort the anxieties of his pregnant wife. The escape of a convict, an aborigine associated with the town's tenuously designated nature preserve, sets the local police on high alert...but they conspicuously refuse backup. *Red Hill* asks what it means to be a man (as opposed to a monster). Still, the film has a commercial sensibility that makes it accessible and espouses values that are a welcome throw-back to the genre, thus making it a fetching find for its distributor and a great option