



## John Rabe

### Steve Ramos says ...

Seventeen years since Steven Spielberg made a hero out of Oskar Schindler, German businessman John Rabe receives the *Schindler* treatment twice over thanks to two foreign dramas about the horrific December 1937 invasion of Nanking, China by the Imperial Japanese Army. Rabe is a key supporting character in Chinese filmmaker Lu Chuan's artful *City of Life and Death*, due for release later this year from National Geographic World Films. Reaching U.S. arthouses first is German filmmaker Florian Gallenberger's epic period drama, *John Rabe* (titled *City of War: John Rabe* for its international release). Gallenberger is an Oscar winner (Best Short Film in 2001) and enjoys a modest reputation among world cinema fans for his debut feature, *Shadows of Time*. Boasting impressive production values, engaging storytelling and a standout lead performance by German star Ulrich Tukur, *John Rabe* will receive enthusiastic word of mouth from select arthouse audiences when LA-based specialty distributor Strand Releasing opens the film in mid-May. While overall box office for *John Rabe* will be extremely limited by its modest platform release and increasing competition for arthouse screens, the film will prove to be an impressive addition to Strand's line-up and introduce Gallenberger to larger North American audiences.

### DEAR JOHN

German businessman John Rabe is lionized in this WWII drama

★★★★★

**DISTRIBUTOR** Strand Releasing **CAST** Ulrich Tukur, Steve Buscemi, Daniel Brühl, Dagmar Manzel, Anne Consigny **DIRECTOR/SCREENWRITER** Florian Gallenberger **PRODUCERS** Jan Mojto, Benjamin Hermann, Mischa Hofmann **GENRE** Drama **RATING** Unrated **RUNNING TIME** 134 min. **RELEASE DATE** May 21 NY, June 4 LA

### JEAN-PIERRE JEUNET'S MOST COMPELLING FILM YET

## Micmacs

*Micmacs à tire-larigot*

★★★★★

**DISTRIBUTOR** Sony Pictures Classics **CAST** Dany Boon, André Dussollier, Omar Sy, Dominique Pinon, Julie Ferrier, Nicolas Marié, Marie-Julie Baup, Michel Crémadès, Yolande Moreau, Jean-Pierre Marielle **DIRECTOR** Jean-Pierre Jeunet **SCREENWRITERS** Jean-Pierre Jeunet, Guillaume Laurant **PRODUCERS** Frédéric Brillion, Gilles Legrand, Jean-Pierre Jeunet **Genre**: Comedy/Drama **RATING** R for some sexuality and brief violence. **RUNNING TIME** 104 minutes **RELEASE DATE** May 28 NY/LA

### Pam Grady says...

It has been five long years since Jean-Pierre Jeunet's last film, *A Very Long Engagement*, but the wait has been worth it with *Micmacs*. The story of a man who seeks revenge against the munitions makers who have ruined his life begins from a serious premise, but it is as whimsical as the filmmaker's wonderful *Amélie*. Star Dany Boon has charm to spare, but without *Amélie*'s rom-com hook or Audrey Tautou's gamine charm, *Micmacs* is unlikely to repeat that film's worldwide mega-success. Still, with Jeunet's fan base lining up at theaters and good word of mouth, it should score solid numbers in its stateside release.

### CREATION VS. PROCREATION

## The Father of My Children

★★★★★

**DISTRIBUTOR** IFC Films **CAST** Louis-Do de Lencquesaing, Chiara Caselli, Alice de Lencquesaing, Alice Gautier, Dominique Frot **DIRECTOR/SCREENWRITER** Mia Hansen-Løve **PRODUCERS** Philippe Martin, David Thion, Olivier Damian **GENRE** Drama/French-language with English subtitles **RATING** Not Rated **RUNNING TIME** 110 min. **RELEASE DATE**: May 28 NY

### John P. McCarthy says...

Cinephilia and the tug of domesticity are contending themes in Mia Hansen-Løve's entrancing drama about an indie film producer in Paris. Deeply affecting without being maudlin, *The Father of My Children* offers realistic portraits of family life and the business of small-scale movie making by dramatizing their toll on one man that's devoted to his wife and children, but also devoted to midwife-ing celluloid babies. The satisfactions of engendering quality arthouse product will be felt intensely by viewers, but this labor of love won't provide much financial succor to its backers—at least not stateside. They'll have to make do with aesthetic comforts.

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