

What here hen for October

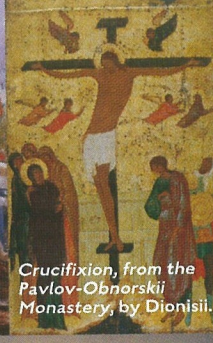
BY ANA ALMEIDA.



Russia! exhibition pieces: Paul Cezanne's *Lady In Blue*.

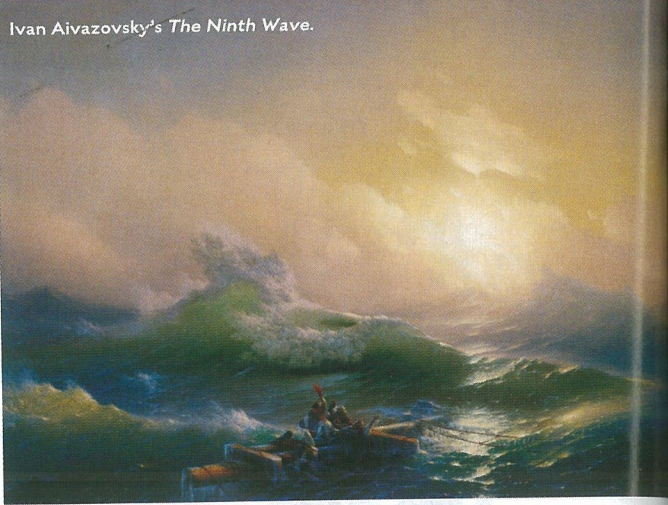


Yuri Pimenov's *New Moscow*.



Crucifixion, from the Pavlov-Obnorskii Monastery, by Dionisii.

Ivan Aivazovsky's *The Ninth Wave*.



The Russian revolution

It seems that Russia is having its moment, both in fashion, with Russian-influenced collections walking down many a designer's runway (think fur hats, military and folksy peasant looks), and in the art world with New York's Guggenheim Museum launching the biggest exhibition of Russian art ever seen outside its borders. The exhibition, simply called *Russia!*, features some 250 works, ranging from exquisite religious icons dating from the 13th century, the private collections of the Russian tsars (including Catherine the Great and Nicolas I) which feature Western European painters such as Rubens and Picasso, through to the Soviet period and beyond. The exhibition is stunning in its scale and offers a rare opportunity to delve into Russia's intriguing and complicated history. At the Guggenheim, New York from September 16 until January 11.

Killer twist

Elizabeth Flock's second novel, *Me & Emma* (Mira), has already spent several months on *The New York Times* Best Sellers list and drawn comparisons to Harper Lee's *To Kill A Mockingbird* and Alice Sebold's *The Lovely Bones*. The story of two sisters living under an abusive stepfather is told from the perspective of an eight-year-old girl, Carrie Parker, and promises a "take-your-breath-away twist" to rival that in the horror movie, *The Sixth Sense*. Worth a look.

Movie marathon

This month offers a veritable movie bonanza. The new crop of releases includes remakes of old classics, two fascinating documentaries and some brand-new entries. Time to grab the popcorn, sit back and enjoy.

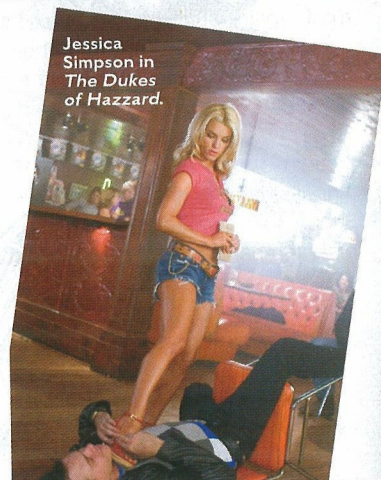
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory Director Tim Burton, of *Beetle Juice* and *Sleepy Hollow* fame, has applied his warped view of the world to Roald Dahl's classic. Johnny Depp stars as the eccentric candy-maker Willy Wonka, who launches a competition to win a tour of his extraordinary factory. But if you're expecting a straight remake, you'll be disappointed. Burton characteristically takes this journey towards the darker elements of Dahl's story.

Red Eye Having revived the horror genre with his *Scream* franchise, Wes Craven now helms *Red Eye*, the kidnap/hostage movie with a twist. It stars up-and-coming starlet Rachel McAdams and *28 Days Later*'s Cillian Murphy, with all the action taking place at 30,000 feet in the air.

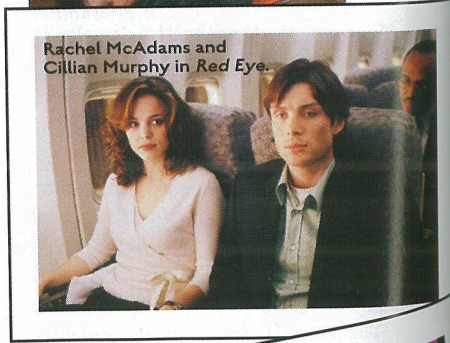
The Dukes of Hazzard The remake of this cult '80s TV show stars Johnny Knoxville and Seann William Scott as the hick Duke brothers who are always getting into trouble with the law. Helped out by their cousin Daisy Duke (Jessica Simpson wearing the inevitable Daisy Duke short shorts), this film is a lark at best.

Inside Deep Throat This documentary, narrated by Dennis Hopper, examines the impact that *Deep Throat* (the infamous 1972 porn movie and reputed to be the most profitable movie ever) has had on society and censorship.

Mad Hot Ballroom It's in the same vein as the acclaimed spelling bee documentary, *Spellbound*, except *Mad Hot Ballroom* traces the trials and triumphs of a group of New York elementary students learning ballroom dancing in order to compete in a state-wide competition. Truth is always stranger ... and funnier.



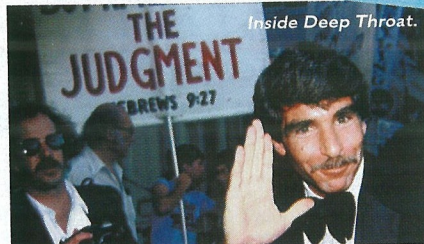
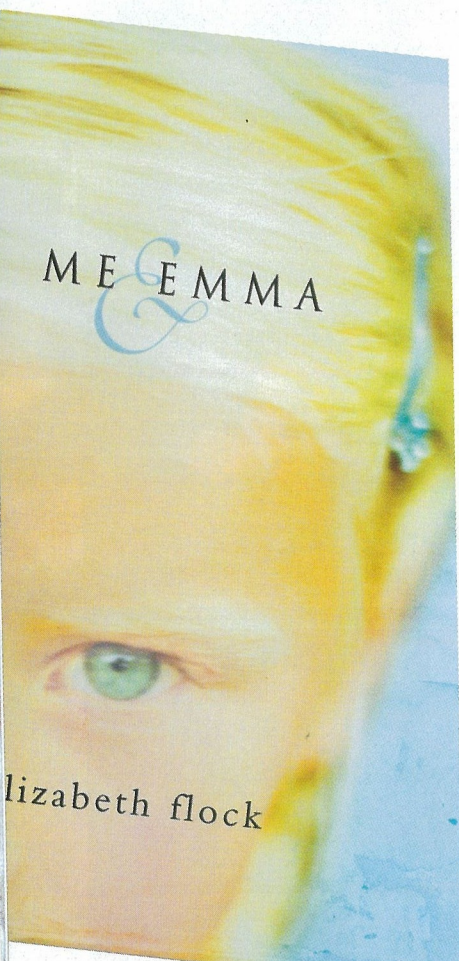
Jessica Simpson in *The Dukes of Hazzard*.



Rachel McAdams and Cillian Murphy in *Red Eye*.



Johnny Depp, left, in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.



Inside *Deep Throat*.



Mad Hot Ballroom.