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You talkin' to me?

New Yorkers vs. annoying ads, the new Man of Steel, and more media picks



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MOVIES: The Brett Ratner-helmed *X3* made him look like a directing genius by default, and now Bryan Singer tries to earn the title outright with the movie he left the *X-Men* franchise for: *Superman Returns*. The verdict? Well, let's just say Ratner may be keeping an uncharacteristically low profile this weekend. Elsewhere, Amy Sedaris's long-awaited, or maybe just long-delayed, film version of *Strangers with Candy* finally arrives.

TV: Ever wonder about *The Science of Superman*? Neither did we, but folks at the National Geographic Channel are going to tell us anyway on Thursday night. (Can *The Theology of Nacho Libre* be far behind?) Over on PBS, Brad Pitt gets let off his leash long enough to narrate *Design: e2*, a six-part series on eco-friendly architecture. Hoops junkies—or those who just want to see tall guys in loud suits—won't want to miss the 2006 NBA Draft Wednesday night on ESPN.

BOOKS: A while back, culture-jamming designer Ji Lee and friends posted empty bubble stickers on thousands of ads all over NYC. As expected, locals filled in the blanks with a mix of sexual innuendo, anti-Bush commentary, and even the occasional witty one-liner. The recently released *Talk Back* captures the best and the worst of it all.

DVD: Beloved by critics but ignored by moviegoers, *Caché*, directed by Michael Haneke and starring Juliette Binoche, above, will freak you out (in a good way). From opposite ends of the musical spectrum, meanwhile, come two new concert films: *Smiths: Under Review* and *Chuck Berry—Hail! Hail! Rock 'N' Roll*. Finally, Eugene Jarecki subjects "the military-industrial complex" to the question of *Why We Fight*.

MUSIC: After spending four weeks near the top of the U.K. charts, the Pet Shop Boys' *Fundamental*—which sounds as if it could've been released in the band's eighties heyday—arrives on this side of the Atlantic. And it's good to hear hip-hop mad scientist Kool Keith back in bizarro, alter-ego form in *The Return of Dr. Octagon*.

— J.P. Mangalindan

Photo: Courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures (*Superman Returns*); Courtesy of Amazon.com (*Talk Back*); Courtesy of Sony Pictures Classics (*Caché*)

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