

■ Michael Pitt stars as a Kurt Cobain figure on the way to suicide in Gus Van Sant's *Last Days*.

Gay faves at Cannes

A checklist of the gay successes on the Croisette at the 2005 Cannes Film Festival

Living celebrities were all over the place, but this year the Cannes Film Festival belonged to James Dean. Posters sporting his image dotted the Croisette; *East of Eden* and *Rebel Without a Cause* screened in the festival and on the beach late at night for the public. And a documentary about Dean's life—which is included in the new DVD boxed set of his films—had a sold-out screening. Other than Dean, who might have come out had he lived longer, lots of the festival thrills involved gay films and filmmakers. A few highlights:

Last Days by Gus Van Sant: This meditation on the demise of Kurt Cobain ends the nonlinear series of art films Van Sant began with *Gerry* and continued with *Elephant*, which won the Palme D'Or in 2003. The Museum of Modern Art in New York

announced it would screen all three on July 20—a nice capper for Van Sant.

Where the Truth Lies by Atom Egoyan: The Canadian auteur's new mystery split critics, but everyone agreed that a very steamy lesbian encounter for Alison Lohman (not to mention the nudity of stars Kevin Bacon and Colin Firth) would fascinate the MPAA.

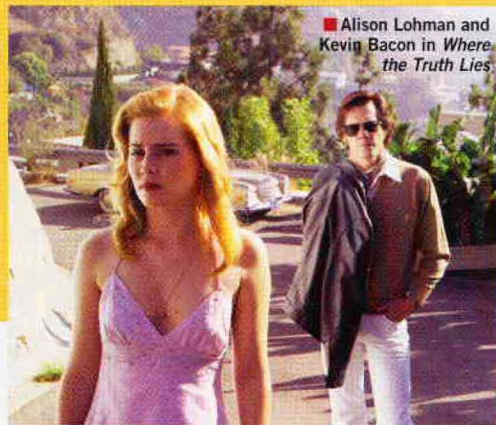
Odete by João Pedro Rodrigues: An almost campy Portuguese film by the director of *O Fantasma*. The story about a man mourning his gay lover echoes *Vertigo* but is most convincing when displaying the sexy cast, especially star Nuno Gil.

Time to Leave by François Ozon: This lovely chamber piece about a rude gay fashion photographer who finds out he has only months to live is a return to the haunting style of *Under the Sand*.

Midnight Movies: From the Margin to the Mainstream by Stuart Samuels: Documentary on how movies like *Pink Flamingos* and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* changed Hollywood films. John Waters is hilarious in interviews, but even better is the archival footage of him coaching Divine.

Volver by Pedro Almodóvar: The already legendary Spanish director returns to comedy with stars Carmen Maura and Penélope Cruz. And in 2006 eight Almodóvar classics—including *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown*, *Law of Desire*, *Bad Education*, and *Talk to Her*—will be rereleased in the United States, then packaged as a DVD boxed set.

—Michael Giltz



■ Alison Lohman and Kevin Bacon in *Where the Truth Lies*.

TOP: HBO FILMS/PICTUREHOUSE; LEFT: COURTESY FESTIVAL DE CANNES