

NEW YORK

JUNE 21, 2004

THE WEEK
67 A guide to the city's
best culture and
restaurants



MOVIES

EDITED BY LOGAN HILL



The assassins of *Azumi* brandish lethal swords—and killer haircuts.

THE TOP FIVE

HIGHLIGHTS OF SUBWAY CINEMA'S ACTION-PACKED NEW YORK ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL 2004.

- 1 RUNNING ON KARMA** Hong Kong leading man Andy Lau takes hysterical chances in this bizarre multigenre film by Johnnie To and Wai Ka-fai (*Fulltime Killer*). Donning an absurd rubber muscle suit, he plays a studly stripper who parties hard and has psychic visions. A hit on the festival circuit; the biggest surprise of this wild experiment is that it somehow works.
- 2 HERO** Shot by Wong Kar-wai's cinematographer Chris Doyle, Zhang Yimou's sensationally stylish 2002 action-epic (held up by Miramax but opening wide later this summer) stars marquee idols Jet Li, Maggie Cheung, and Tony Leung.
- 3 VIBRATOR** No, not that kind of vibrator—not quite: Actress Shinobu Terajima made her award-winning debut in this gritty, sensual romance about a bulimic, alcoholic writer who meets a gruff trucker one night and decides not to leave the next morning.
- 4 DOPPELGANGER** Brilliant Japanese director Kiyoshi Kurosawa (*Bright Future*) delivers a tense science-fiction twister about a clone that has more in common with Ray Bradbury than with George Lucas. Gimmicky? Absolutely. Fun? Just as absolutely.
- 5 AZUMI** A campy and unabashedly overblown joyride, this samurai film tracks a band of high-flying assassins (played by some handsome young actors with funky haircuts) and one kick-ass heroine in a miniskirt.

JUNE 18 TO 27; SEE "MUSEUMS, SOCIETIES, ETC." FOR DETAILS.