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## The Rape of Europa

Based on a book by Lynn H. Nicholas, this fascinating film documents the plundering and destruction of art during World War II; the moving and hiding of art, precautionary and otherwise, that were sometimes carried out on a massive scale (such as the Louvre being virtually emptied ahead of the German invasion, and preparations made by residents of Florence prior to the Allied bombing); and subsequent heroic acts of recovery. Part of the history lesson being conveyed here is how different the cultural climate was back then: Hitler and Goering, far from declaring that "stuff happens," were so passionate about stealing and hoarding cultural treasures that as much as a fifth of Europe's artworks were displaced. Filmmakers Richard Berge, Bonni Cohen, and Nicole Newhman do a superb job of telling this neglected story in vivid detail. 117 min. --  
*Jonathan Rosenbaum*

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## There Will Be Blood

Paul Thomas Anderson's fifth feature, a striking piece of American self-loathing loosely derived from Upton Sinclair's *Oil!*, is lively as bombastic period storytelling but limited as allegory. The cynical shallowness of both the characters and the overall conception--American success as an unholy alliance between a turn-of-the-century capitalist (Daniel Day-Lewis) and a faith healer (Paul Dano), both hypocrites--can't quite sustain the film's visionary airs, even with good expressionist acting and a

percussive score by Radiohead's Jonny Greenwood. Day-Lewis, borrowing heavily from Walter and John Huston, offers a demonic hero halfway between Thomas Sutpen in Faulkner's *Absalom, Absalom!* and James Dean's hate-driven tycoon in *Giant* (shot on the same location as this movie), but Kevin J. O'Connor in a slimmer part offers a much more interesting and suggestive character. This has loads of swagger, but for stylistic audacity I prefer Anderson's more scattershot *Magnolia*. R, 158 min. --  
*Jonathan Rosenbaum*

*This movie is currently playing at: [Century 12 and CineArts 6](#) | [Landmark's Century Centre](#) | [River East 21](#)*



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