

# HAMPTONS

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#### New Movie Alert

**Proof** is a special little import from Australia that was a hit at this year's New Directors New Films Festival as well as the Cannes and Toronto Festivals. While sporting no names in either the actor or director category (the film is directed by newcomer Jocelyn Moorehouse) and no special effects, **Proof** is a simple warm story centered around three people that pulls off a direct hit. Martin,



Martin (Hugo Weaving) Photo: Jennifer Mitchell

blind from birth, is a sullen but determined young photographer. He is dependent upon and constantly confronted by his cruel, driven, malevolent housekeeper, Celia, who has a psychotic passion for him. Quite by accident Martin befriends and is befriended by a quirky, charming, sexy deadbeat named Andy. They become fast comrades, until Celia, in her desire to control Martin, competes for and wins Andy's affections. This loss of his friend and this ultimate betrayal by Celia force Martin to make a cathartic leap from petulance and anger to maturity and acceptance of the differences between truth and love. All three actors — Hugo Weaving as Martin; Russell Crowe as Andy; and Genevieve Picot as Celia — turn in refreshing, clear, direct, committed performances. Director Jocelyn Moorehouse notes: "I'm fascinated by blindness and how blind people cope with not having visual knowledge — the everyday confirmation of "what is" — that I take for granted. Blind people have to place their faith in others. I wanted to tell the story of a man who couldn't." The film is released by Fine Line Features, a division of New Line Cinema.

—Mark Hall Amitin



Genevieve Picot Photo: Jennifer Mitchell

## John Frohnmayer to Speak on East End

John Frohnmayer has every right to be a little annoyed with the White House. True, they did give him his job as head of the National Endowment for the Arts in 1989 just as the Mapplethorpe and Serrano controversies hit the fan, but they also gave him the boot in May when Patrick Buchanan turned up the ideological heat on Bush and Quayle.

Reversing their jets, they caved into the demagogues of the far right and now Mr. Frohnmayer is taking the high ground with a strong stand on the First Amendment and other issues dear to artists. As this year's honored speaker at the Fifth Annual Pollock-



Krasner Lecture this Sunday at 5:00pm at Guild Hall, Mr.

Frohnmayer will address many vital issues. The title of his talk is "Necessary Offense."

You can be certain this refers to the right of the artist, not that of Msrs. Bush or Quayle, though they have certainly given us

their share of unnecessary offense over the last three years and seven months (and we're counting). Mr. Frohnmayer seems to have "gone native" sounding more like an artist than an administrator. Too bad, because it's just that voice that belongs near the oval office.

Frohnmayer states: "Artists deal with very human subjects and contemporary issues. That's what contemporary art is about. The real value is that artists are willing to do that and are trying to be as honest as they can about what is going on in our society. Some of that art is angry, and some of it is confrontational, and some of it makes us look real bad, but to say that you shouldn't be doing that is, I think, to adopt the ostrich approach to government."

Tickets are \$12 and may be ordered by calling either the Pollock-Krasner House at 324-4929 or the Guild Hall box office at 324-4050.

—Mark Hall Amitin