



**FEEDBACK LOOP:** Kenny Hunter's sculpture of a Japanese teenager at the CCA

**THE BRUNSWICK HOTEL,** 106-8 Brunswick Street, 552 0001.

**Plinio Avila Marquez** Until Dec 6. A series of work by Mexican artist Plinio Avila Marquez exploring universal human issues.

**BURRELL COLLECTION,** 2060 Pollokshaws Road, 287 2550, 10am-5pm.

**Whistler And Burrell** Until Jan 18. Free. An exhibition of over 20 works by Whistler, collected by Sir William Burrell.

**Whistler In Venice** Until Jan 18. Free. An exhibition of around 50 etchings and pastels by James McNeil Whistler, created during his 14-month stay in Venice in 1879.

**CAFE COSSACHOK GALLERY,** 10 King Street, 553 0733, 11.30am-11pm.

**Jean-Marc Milliere** Until Nov 29. An exhibition of famous landmarks by French photographer Jean-Marc Milliere.

**CCA, 350 Sauchiehall Street,** 352 4900, 11am-8pm.

**After Nature** Until Nov 30. Clare Langan, Duncan Marquiss and Rachel Reupke explore cinematic notions of nature, romanticism and the environment through soundscapes and film.

**Kenny Hunter: Feedback Loop** Until Jan 4. The unveiling of Kenny Hunter's commissioned sculpture for the CCA, a single, large-scale figure of a Japanese teenager from the streets of Harajuki in Tokyo.

**THE CHATEAU, 45 Bridge Street,**

**Pointless Cinema #3** Today 8pm-11pm. £2. A selection of new audio visual experiments including screenings of work by Arno Cohen, Nomig and VJ Anyone.

**COLLINS GALLERY,** University of Strathclyde, 22 Richmond Street, 548 2558, 10am-5pm.

**Glasgow Belongs To Me** Until Nov 15. An exhibition of prints, paintings and drawings portraying Glasgow landmarks and the city's infamous tenements, closes and drying greens, selected from the University's Fine Art collection, donated by Dr Helen Cargill-Thompson.

**Aspects Of Scotland's Aviation: Dugald Cameron** Until Nov 15. An exhibition of paintings and illustrations mapping events in Scotland's

history of aviation by Dugald Cameron, former director of Glasgow School of Art.

**COMPASS GALLERY,** 178 West Regent Street, 221 6370, 10am-5.30pm.

**James Tweedie** Until Nov 22. A solo show of recent paintings and drawings.

**THE CONNALL GALLERY,** 36 West George Street, 332 5551, 10am-5.30pm.

**Terra Firma** Until Tomorrow. Paintings by Pam Carter, Hamish MacDonald, Kirstie Cohen and Scott Naismith.

**EAST KILBRIDE ARTS CENTRE,** Old Coach Road, East Kilbride, 01355 261000, 9am-9pm.

**PopPop Art Exhibition** Until Nov 16. Installation, sculptural and time-based work by recent graduates from Glasgow School of Art resulting from a week-long series of drawing workshops.

**Big Draw** Until Nov 16. Free. An exhibition of work which has emerged from the centre's Big Draw week.

**F.W. HOLROYD GALLERY,** 9-11 George Street, 552 2024, 9am-5pm.

**Eric Doig** Until Nov 29. Vibrant images of Glasgow by Eric Doig.

**FULL CIRCLE GALLERY,** Saltoun Lane, 24 Ruthven Street, 357 1999, 12.30pm-5.30pm.

**New Paintings** Until Nov 26. Paintings by George Devlin, Alexandra Gardner, John Kingsley, Hamish Macdonald, Jock Macinnes, Jim McNaught and Ronnie Smith.

**GALLERY OF MODERN ART,** Queen Street, 229 1996, 10am-8pm.

**Love Over Gold** Until Apr 25. A selection of works drawn from the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art's collection of contemporary art ranging from Christine Borland and Martin Boyce to Jim Lambie and Damien Hirst.

**Storm: An Installation By Dalziel + Scullion** Until Mar 7. Dalziel + Scullion unveil their commissioned installation for GOMA. Each day a different image will be projected onto a screen which reveals the unique ecological circumstances found at a number of sites throughout Scotland.

**Self Portrait UK** Until Nov 16. A touring exhibition featuring self-portraits by people from all regions of the United Kingdom who took part in the national campaign, Self Portrait UK organised by Channel 4.

**Artists' Talk** Today 6.30pm-7.30pm. Free. Dalziel and Scullion will be talking about their work currently on exhibition at GOMA.

**GATEHOUSE GALLERY,** Rouken Glen Road, 620 0235, 1.30pm-5.30pm.

**Three-Person Show** Until Nov 24. Paintings by George Birrell, Jennifer Anderson and Alexander Robb plus ceramics by Dorinda Johnson.

**GLASGOW FILM THEATRE,** 12 Rose Street, 332 8128. **The Positif Approach** Until Nov 30. French cinema through the lens of photographer Nicolas Guerin.

**GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART,** Atrium Gallery, Foulis Building, 158 Renfrew Street, 353 4589, 10am-8pm.

**Clydesdale Bank Art For All Project** Until Dec 13 10am-8pm. An exhibition of work by pupils who attended one-day art and design workshops at Glasgow School of Art.

**JOHN GREEN FINE ART,** 182 Bath Street, 333 1991, 10.30am-5pm.

**Autumn Collection** Until Nov 29. A mixed show of 19th, 20th and contemporary paintings.

**HOLMWOOD HOUSE,** 61-63



**HELPING HANDS:** Mel Gibson and Robert Downey Jr in *The Singing Detective*

**ROBERT DOWNEY JR** owes Mel Gibson big time and he makes no secret of his gratitude.

Downey's battle with drug addiction and his subsequent jail terms are a matter of public record.

But when he needed support, Mel Gibson was there. The two have been friends since they made *Air America* together. Gibson is intensely loyal and through all of Downey's troubles he was there to lend a hand.

And when Gibson decided to produce a screen version of Dennis Potter's classic TV drama *The Singing Detective*, there was only one person to turn to for the lead. He called Downey.

"It's like a big brother thing," says Downey. "He said 'I know you can do this and it will be cool'."

But after all Downey had been through did he think he was ever going to get a second chance?

"Why not! I'm not going to question why I've seemed impervious to so many things," he says. "I don't have much survivor's guilt."

"I was tripping out going into this," he admits. "I was freaking out and our director Keith Gordon, God bless him, had to manage me a bit. But, once we started, I got into it and it's been great."

However Downey does admit that he kept metaphorically looking over his shoulder on the set of *The Singing Detective*. The troubled star says he just couldn't stop thinking about Michael Gambon's classic performance in the BBC drama on which the film is

# 'Big brother' Mel Gibson has done so much for me

**MOVIE EXTRA: ROBERT DOWNEY JR**

based.

Downey watched the series in one sitting at the insistence of Gibson, who produced the film version. It was, he recalls, an uncomfortable experience.

"Just looking at Michael Gambon in it made me so uncomfortable," he winces. "There was not a day that went by on set I didn't remember his performance."

In the movie Downey plays a pulp novelist suffering from a painful, disfiguring and debilitating form of psoriasis.

As he lies in his hospital bed, or has sessions with his therapist - a guest spot from Gibson - events from his past, chapters from his detective novel, and scenes from hospital life come together in a musical extravaganza.

"The make-up is very discomfoting," Downey explains, "but the make-up guys were really good so that helped."

"For me this was like doing two different films, I was more scared of doing the musical stuff, which is weird because I grew up doing musical theatre."

"One day when we were

rehearsing Mel and I switched parts, I did the doctor and Mel played my character, Dan Dark.

"He seemed to be able to nail that *Singing Detective* voice. I thought 'I can't do this'. Then we watched some French movies and all of a sudden it happened. It was okay."

"To tell you the truth I was more nervous about the stuff out of make-up."

The screenplay for *The Singing Detective* was written by Dennis Potter himself not long before his death in 1995. Downey is a fan of the playwright and the two men met when the actor was in England filming *Chaplin*. It was, he says, an honour and a privilege.

"I watched Dennis Potter's last TV interview," he says of his research. "I think I have served his material to the best of my ability."

"It's funny," he ponders, "some movies even when they are over still become a part of you and I'm sure that I'll be interested in Dennis Potter and aspects of *The Singing Detective* and some of his other stuff forever."

ANDY DOUGAN

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