

# The New York Times

ON THE WEB

## Arts

The Week Ahead    May 15 – 21, 2005



Claudia Raschke-Robinson

*"Mad Hot Ballroom" tells the tale of New York students transformed by ballroom dance.*

### FILM

Sharon Waxman

People hungry for great big movies can twiddle their thumbs until "Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith" finally opens on Thursday. But those of us on the hunt for movies that can stir both the senses and the mind in the meantime might also consider a couple of documentaries, part of a lively and growing genre in a so-far depressingly dull movie year. "MAD HOT BALLROOM" was the subject of a bidding war at the SUNDANCE - whoops, make that the rival SLAMDANCE - Film Festival in January. The movie tells a very uncynical tale of fourth and fifth graders in the New York public school system, most from humble backgrounds, who are transformed by ballroom dance lessons. The director MARILYN AGRELO and the producer AMY SEWELL spent four months dodging neighborhood drug dealers and following the students around as they pursued a dancing trophy. *Now playing at Sunshine Cinema, 143 East Houston Street, Lower East Side, (212) 330-8182, and City Cinemas Cinema 1,2,3, Third Avenue at 60th Street, (212) 753-6022.*

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