



watches clips of Gloria Swanson in *Sunset Boulevard*. We're meant to see how the town's misogyny has infected Molly's view of "older women". It's impossible, though, to take *The Dressmaker's* feminism seriously. Moorhouse, apparently convinced that viewers can't handle a mature female heroine, has made a movie that feels infinitely more antiquated than Billy Wilder's 1950 film noir.

I can't help feeling sorry for Moorhouse

Free spirits:
Teddy (Liam Hemsworth)
and Tilly
(Kate Winslet)

(the once-wonderful creator of 1991 classic *Proof*, who hasn't made a film for 18 years and had to contend with the death of her mother during pre-production).

Her film about a skilful, sexy free spirit, while old-fashioned, is nevertheless too messy and angry to click with the kind of audiences who flocked to *Chocolat*. *The Dressmaker* deserves, at least, to become a cult item. Picture being forced to stand still while a lunatic sticks pins

Also showing...

GÜEROS

Cert 15, 107 mins

★★★★☆

ALONSO Ruiz Palacios's black and white Mexican drama is brazenly indebted to Godard's *Bande à part*, yet never feels like a clone. It's 1999 and stoner student Sombra (Tenoch Huerta), babysitting his kid brother, gets taken up with a quest to find a mysterious, ageing folk singer. Delinquency, inverted racism, machismo, revolutionary rhetoric and the power of music... So many topics are covered, but every time the tall tale threatens to get wordy, 37-year-old first-timer Palacios throws us for another loop. Witty and enchantingly romantic, *Gueros* is guaranteed to make even cynical hearts lurch with happiness. What a find.

STAR MEN

Cert PG, 88 mins

★★★★☆

A DOCUMENTARY about the friendship between five acclaimed British astronomers (one of them now dead, another ill) that offers both human drama and nuggets of fascinating info. The stuff about quasars is especially mind-blowing. I want a telescope for Christmas!

MY NAUIGALY

Cert PG, 94 mins

★★★★☆

WATCHING this documentary by David Evans is like reading the rushed first draft

Racing demon:
Steve McQueen
in *Le Mans*



of a novel by Don DeLillo – the whole thing needs work, but you can't pull your eyes away. Jewish lawyer Philippe Sands wanders around the globe with two men, Niklas Frank and Horst von Wachter, both the sons of Nazi war criminals. The trio try to make sense of the past in different ways, and more often than not the mood is electric.

STEVE MCQUEEN: THE MAN & LE MANS

Cert 15, 102 mins

★★★★☆

In 1970, the world's coolest actor decided to take control of his image and make *Le Mans*, an experimental film about car racing that "aimed high" and didn't cast him as a winner. Unfortunately, Hollywood's desire to make a fast buck and McQueen's own ego threw a spanner in the works.

The problem with this behind-the-scenes exposé is that *Le Mans* was neither a masterpiece nor a disgrace, and because it deserves only a footnote in history the wealth of detail about its creation can be numbing.

MOMENTUM

Cert 15, 94 mins

★★☆☆☆

EXTREMELY dull thriller starring Olga Kurylenko (think Catherine Zeta Jones, minus the comic timing). She plays a thief who inadvertently gets her hands on a USB that a corrupt politician (Morgan Freeman) will stop at nothing to obtain. James Purefoy has a modicum of fun as the dastardly villain. As for the title, it's what you might call a red herring. COS