

OPENS FRIDAY 6/29

Sicko

★★★★

You might expect a documentary about health care to be all tedious statistics. But **Michael Moore's** film, filled with interviews with average Americans and former insurance company execs, is poignant, powerful and pain-in-your-side funny. Audiences meet folks who cannot afford insurance (one guy pays \$12,000 to get his fingertip reattached). Yet *Sicko* is most effective during its segments focused on those who are covered but whose requests were denied by their HMOs (like a woman whose baby dies because a hospital was outside her network, and another whose husband passes away after he is told a bone-marrow transplant is "experimental"). Moore's most important film to date, *Sicko* is truly a must-see. **BRADLEY JACOBS**



Moore visits England, which provides free health care.



Danes (right) has an affair with Patrick Wilson (left).

OPENS FRIDAY 6/29

Evening

★★★★

This literary drama unfolds in two eras. In the present, Ann (**Vanessa Redgrave**) lies dying while her daughters (**Toni Colette** and real-life offspring **Natasha Richardson**) fuss and fight. In the past, younger Ann (**Claire Danes**) has an evening that changes her life's course. Watch for Ann's pal Lila, played as an older woman by **Meryl Streep** and as a college grad by **Mamie Gummer** (Streep's daughter). Though maudlin at times, the movie is packed with great performances. **TA**

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Ratatouille

★★★★

In this sweet animated story, **Patton Oswalt** (*The King of Queens*) voices Remy, an earnest, cuisine-loving rat who dreams of becoming a chef. Remy then moves to Paris, where he infiltrates the kitchen of a bistro and helps a young wannabe (**Lou Romano**) become a culinary star by hiding in the guy's clothes and instructing him as he cooks. It's a tasty tale, and audiences will find Remy to be an engaging new character in the crowded cartoon universe. **TA**



The film was directed by Brad Bird (*The Incredibles*).

MUSIC

IN STORES TUESDAY 7/3

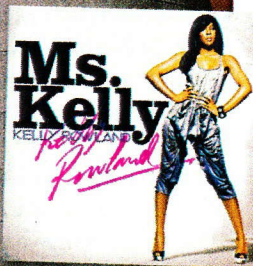
Kelly Rowland Ms. Kelly

★★★★

Kelly Rowland has always shined by strutting her stuff. On her first solo album since *Destiny's Child* broke up in 2005, the singer offers the catchy R&B track "Ghetto" and the club-ready single "Like This" (which includes the line "If he ain't got it right by now, scratch him off"). But Rowland, 26, sounds stiff when she tries to show vulnerability on the sappy ballads that make up almost half the album ("Flashback," for instance, reveals her limited vocal range). Next time, she shouldn't stray too far from the dance floor. **GABE GUARENTE**



Rowland (in Beverly Hills May 15) worked with Beyoncé's sister, Solange, on the track "Love."



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