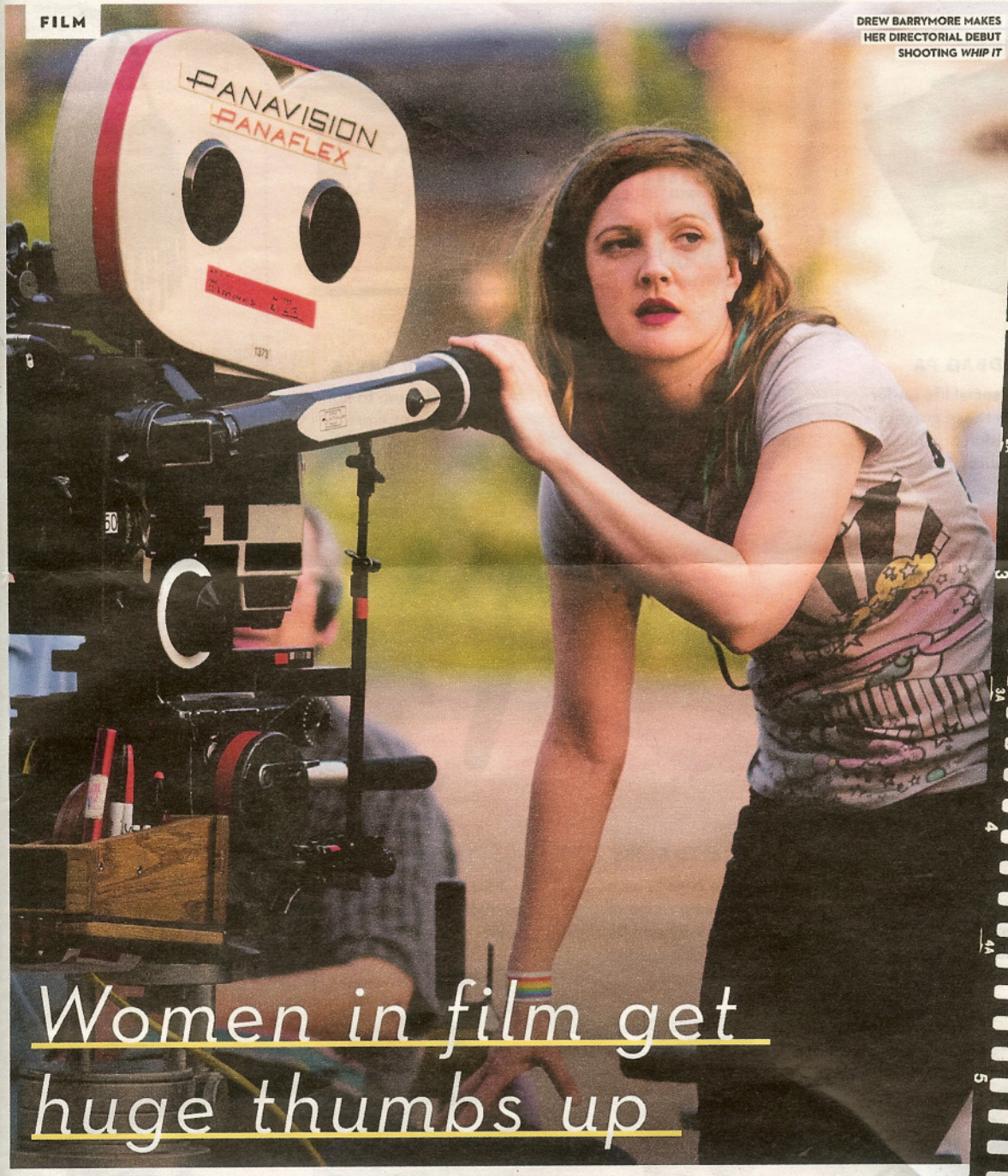
FILM



DREW BARRYMORE MAKES HER DIRECTORIAL DEBUT SHOOTING *WHIP IT*

THE FESTIVAL FEATURES A SHORT FASHION FILM STARRING LADY GAGA

MARILYN MONROE IN *GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES*

SHARON STONE WITH MICHAEL DOUGLAS IN *BASIC INSTINCT*

(L-R) ELLEN PAGE AND KRISTEN WIIG IN *WHIP IT*

Women in film get huge thumbs up

In the run up to the Oscars on 7 March, everyone's talking about Kathryn Bigelow's Best Director nomination for war thriller *Hurt Locker*... especially as she's up against ex-husband James Cameron's blockbuster *Avatar*. Bigelow is only the fourth woman to ever be up for the Best Director gong (none has ever won), and if she wins – she is currently second favourite behind Cameron – she will make Academy Award history.

Fitting then that on this side of the pond, the flags are flying to celebrate the work of all women filmmakers with the sixth annual Birds Eye View Film Festival, launching on 4 March across London. Set up in 2005, the festival promotes women in film and spreads awareness of the fact that women only make up 7% of directors and 12% of writers in the worldwide film industry.

The festival will be opened by actress Jane Horrocks, and will showcase female-directed films from the likes of Oscar-nominated director Susanne Bier and Drew Barrymore, whose directorial debut *Whip It* is out 7 April. The film stars newcomer Ellen Page, Juliette Lewis and Barrymore in a coming-of-age story about a female roller derby team.

There will also be a celebration of blondes in cinema with a retrospective of classic films including *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, *Chicago* and *Basic Instinct*. Meanwhile fashionistas can get a style fix with a short fashion film starring Lady Gaga herself.

As patron of the festival, *Absolutely Fabulous* star Joanna Lumley sums it up nicely, "If this is what being a bird is, I'm proud to be one".

From 4-12 March; birds-eye-view.co.uk