

NEW YORK SPIRIT

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Spirit Picks

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SEE HEAR NOW

If you're a little jaded by mainstream cinema and those predictable blockbusters, get yourself acquainted with First Run Features, a New York-based film distribution company that makes available a large and diverse collection of unusual and engaging material. They have just about every genre covered, including political documentaries, foreign and independent films, children's education, the arts, gay and lesbian interests, and 'adult' material. As well as placing great movies in the cinema, First Run sells DVDs of its films that can be purchased from their website. My personal recommendations are The Trials of Henry Kissinger, for its professional craftsmanship and fascinating yet disturbing revelations; A Life Apart, which intimately and sensitively documents the lives of New York's Hasidic Jews; and the award-winning Behind the Scenes series, a children's delight in which hosts Penn and Teller take us into the world of renowned artists. For a schedule of current cinematic releases in New York, or to peruse the extensive collection of DVDs for purchase, go to www.FirstRunFeatures.com. (AS)