

ALFRESCO THEATER



MOVIE SCREENINGS AT A CEMETERY MIGHT SEEM AN EXTREME way to bring Old Hollywood to life, but that's what's happening at **CINESPIA**, which sponsors a summerlong series of studio-era classics on the star-cluttered lawns of the Hollywood Forever Cemetery, final resting place of Cecil B. DeMille, Tyrone Power, and Jayne Mansfield. For \$10 a head, cineasts set up picnic blankets every other Saturday night to watch movies like *Strangers on a Train* or *Sweet Smell of Success* projected on the marble outer wall of Rudolph Valentino's mausoleum. John Wyatt, a set designer and devoted film geek, founded Cinespia in 2001, gathering together a bunch of friends to accompany him to monthly screenings of re-

vival films. Last year he met Hollywood Forever owner Tyler Cassity, who has shaken up the stolid funeral industry by turning his property into an events-oriented community center. When Wyatt proposed screenings at the cemetery, Cassity signed on to this marriage of Hollywood past and present. The series quickly took off, growing by word of mouth and e-mails from a clutch of friends to crowds numbering a thousand. There are limits, however. When Wyatt proposed a salute to horror director George A. Romero with a screening of *Dawn of the Dead*, Cassity ruled that zombie films in a cemetery pushed the boundaries of good taste just a little too far.

