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THE GLOBE AND MAIL

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TIFF SHEET

By ANDREW RYAN
From Wednesday's Globe and Mail

THE GALAS

Natalie Portman is in town to promote her film *Love and Other Impossible Pursuits* (9:30 p.m., Roy Thomson Hall). Also watch for the brave and beautiful Lisa Ray on the red carpet tonight for her film *Cooking with Stella*.

Cooking with Stella

Dilip Mehta (India/Canada)

If you had to sell this film in a hurry, you'd probably say something like: "It's a contemporary, globalized version of *Upstairs, Downstairs* crossed with *The Sting*." Don McKellar and Lisa Ray play husband and wife newly arrived at the Canadian high commission in Delhi. She's a diplomat (gorgeous), he's a chef (handsome, gullible), as well as Mr. Mom to their baby girl (adorable). The superb Seema Biswas is the resourceful, religious Stella who not only runs the household (with a kind of coy cunning that gives the film its narrative kick) but instructs McKellar in the finer points of Indian cuisine. The direction by Dilip Mehta (brother of Deepa - they share writing credits here) in this his feature-film debut, is at once relaxed and purposeful and never less than assured. It's sensual cinema, too: Film food hasn't looked this tantalizing since 1996's *Big Night*. J.A.

Today, 6:30 p.m. Roy Thomson; Sept. 18, 11:15 a.m., Scotiabank 2

THE TIFF TIFF

The controversy over the festival's Tel Aviv program continues apace. But so do the screenings. Today's lineup includes *A History of Israeli Cinema Part 1* (8:30 p.m., Varsity 2) as well as this film from Palestinian-Israeli director Elia Suleiman:

The Time That Remains

Elia Suleiman (Britain/Italy/Belgium/France)

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