

Issue #8

Free!

January 2002

Cambridge Movie News

Shrek-American Pie 2-Final Fantasy-Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring-Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone-Saving Silverman-Spy Game 9-Planet of the Apes-The Owners-Vanilla Sky-Moulin Rouge-Mulholland Drive-Spy Game-Blow-Save the Last Dance-Enemy at the Gates

Jason X-The Time Machine-Spiderman-Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers-Star Wars: Attack of the Clones-Men In Black II-Spy Kids II-Reign of Fire-The Ring-Collateral Damage-Gangs of New York-Imposter-Crossroads-Scorpion King-Black Hawk Down-The Mothman Prophecies

Inside this Issue:

***Coming Attractions*, AWARDS, Reviews and More!**

Letter from the Editor

Happy New Year!

Greetings movie fans, and welcome to 2002.

Hopefully this year will be a little less exciting than the last one.

The year that was-

2001 was a year of change for the movie industry.

And not just September, but as we watched our way through the year the industry and films have started to shift into more interesting forms.

Let's talk about how the theater's changed. It was only the beginning of last year in which all the major chains succumbed to bankruptcy. Theaters closed, prices went up and the companies merged. We'll see what the lasting changes are. The companies certainly aren't acting any meeker: the battle between management and the projectionist union has grown so tense that federal mediators had to be called in.

The city of Boston did something of concern for late-night movie goes this year as well. The MBTA began late-night busing for the T routes that shut down after midnight. This means movie patrons of 10:00 movies actually have a chance to get home on public transportation, rather than taxis. The busing is only a year-long experiment, but let's hope it continues.

Theaters also have to change the way they charge for movies. There are now more screens than ever before, and movies are opening on more of them at once. This creates a nasty little problem for theater chains. They get more money from ticket sales as the movies stay out in circulation. Thus opening weekend mostly goes to the movie production

companies.

So you have lots and lots of expensive screens and all of them showing the new movie. Want to guess what that did to repeat business?

This summer saw the One-Weekend Wonder born out of the ashes of the summer blockbuster.

Everything from *Tomb Raider* to *American Pie 2* saw stunning drops in attendance after only one week. (almost always 50%) Basically everyone that wanted to see the film did. And with the notable exception of *Shrek*, it seemed that early this year that every movie was going to fly high and do a belly flop a week later.

Of course not every movie did that. Those with good word-of-mouth (aka GOOD films) did fine in this environment. *The Others* crept along this summer earning a very respectable amount of money and staying around for quite awhile. Other films, such as *Memento* and *Mulholland Drive* also worked their way up thanks to good impressions. (both of which are also making critic's top ten lists all over the place. and *Mul. Drive* is on a few of the worst lists as well)

Hollywood did take a couple of tiny risks and brought out two genres that have almost disappeared. One genre worked: a musical known as *Moulin Rouge*. Another genre tanked: the western that was *American Outlaws*.

As the summer ended and anticipation grew for the Winter films we were all stunned by September 11th. Some movies were pulled or pushed back in fear that the audiences no longer wanted explosions and terrorists. That proved to be a bit of an over-

The Trailer: Jason X

Plot: The new Friday the 13th movie, with Jason being discovered in the far future by archeologists who think the whole "Jason" thing is a myth. They find out differently...

Probable Release Date: March 2002

Coming Attractions

And what will we do to pass the time during January? Why, watch movies of course! Just to help you out here are the new releases for this month. As always release dates may be changed at the last moment.

Theater

1/4/02

Imposter

Gosford Park

1/11/02

Orange County

Brotherhood of the Wolf

1/18/02

Kung Pow!: Enter the Fist

Snow Dogs

State Property

1/25/02

The Count of Monte Cristo

The Mothman Prophecies

A Walk to Remember

Video

1/2/02

The Fast and the Furious

What's the Worst that Could Happen?

1/8/02

Brother

Jeepers Creepers

1/15/02

American Pie 2

The Anniversary Party

Glitter

Wet Hot American Summer

Bubble Boy

1/22/02

Kiss of the Dragon

Rock Star

1/29/02

Atlantis: The Lost Empire

DVD

1/2/02

Fast and the Furious

The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai across the Eighth Dimension-Special Edition

To Kill A Mockingbird-Collector's Edition

Mad Max-Special Edition

American Beauty-The Awards Edition

The Man Who Cried

What's the Worst that Could Happen?

1/8/02

Queer as Folk: Season 1

M*A*S*H*: Season 1

Ocean's 11 (1960)

M*A*S*H*-Five Star Collection

Jeepers Creepers

Stealing Beauty

Come Undone

(Continued on page 10)

"My father is no different than any powerful man, any man with power, like a president or senator."

"Do you know how naive you sound, Michael? Presidents and senators don't have men killed!"

"Oh. Who's being naive, Kay?"

The Godfather (1972)

Reviews

My staff and I have ventured out to find the good, the bad, the evil and the brilliant. What should you see and what should you avoid? The following reviews may help.

And if you disagree with any of the reviews write a CounterReview and send it in.

Film

Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring

Fantasy [PG-13]

It has been an excellent winter for fantasy movie fans. November had Harry Potter, and now we have Lord of the Rings. Rings is a three-hour epic with battles, betrayal, love and friendship. Just about everything you could ask for. And this is only the first of three parts!

We follow our hero, Frodo, as he brings a magical ring back to the mountain in which it was forged. Alas a supremely evil being wants the ring back so that he can rule the world, so he has sent nine undead minions out to retrieve it. It is a race as to who will get the ring, and be able to resist the temptation to use it. The Fellowship mentioned in the title actually forms about halfway through the film and consists of Frodo, his friends Samwise, Merry and Pippin plus five guardians: Two human warriors, a dwarf, an elf and a wizard. As the travel on they



must not only escape the riders, but also an army of orcs, goblins and a particularly nasty troll. And all throughout they all must face the temptation to steal the ring for their own ends.

This is just the barest outline of the story in this film, but the movie manages to keep the pace up very well for all of the characters, subplots and complexities it has to give out.

And what it does well it does very well. The combat scenes and special effects are spectacular. The acting is fine with the characters coming through. (even Liv Tyler does a good job)

While the movie is quite good, there are a few problems. It is an epic, so beware sore-bottoms and stiff legs when you finally get out of the theater. (Of course that also let's you finally able to finish those huge popcorns they keep trying to sell...)

The largest problem in the film is repeated elements. One of the worst clichés of the action film is the last-minute save. The killing blow comes down, goes into slow-motion or the music swells, and then “bam” the blow is blocked. It's done several times in this film, and not particularly well. Also some scenes have a little bit of déjà vu with them as well, such as the second time we see an Elvish city.

Those criticisms aside, this is a very well made film and will probably be nominated for Best Picture. It may even win it.

(Continued on page 5)

“Most of the men in this town think monogamy is some kind of wood.”

The Mask (1994)

Reviews

(Continued from page 4)

So go see it on the big screen...it's worth it.

Vanilla Sky

Science Fiction/Drama/Thriller [R]

As you can tell by the genre listing, this film is not your average thriller. It starts off with a nightmare about a man finding himself all alone in New York, and from the moment he wakes up we try to find out what is real and what is still the dream.

Our hero David (played by Tom Cruise) is young, rich and attractive. And he's enjoying all of it. Unfortunately one night he does a love-at-first-sight with a young woman at a party, Sophia (Penelope Cruz). This upsets both his best friend, who is the young woman's date, and also David's lover (played quite well by Cameron Diaz).

By the next morning his jilted lover, Julia, has guilted him into going with her on a drive through the city, a drive that ends up going over the edge of a bridge.

David loses his good looks, and possibly his sanity from the accident. Julia is deceased, and what is a dream and what isn't quickly become confused. As David tries to re-construct his life he starts seeing things. We get flashes of Sophia still around, of other places and other events. His dreams keep intersecting with reality until you're not sure where things are going next. Soon you're not even sure what is real.

This is especially true after David meets a young man who says that David has control over the whole world and everyone in it. And then, for a second, he proves it.

That is the briefest outline of the movie's plot. But I can't go too much deeper into it without giving away the surprises. It is a strange surreal trip through

dreamland, reality and all the confusion in-between. There are a lot of quick flashes to odd scenes and a few "gosh it was only a dream" scares (admittedly that's a weakness of the film, the sudden wake-ups are used too often). But the film keeps moving forward to very nice ending.

This movie has several thematic elements from Jacob's Ladder, the Matrix and Total Recall. But unlike those movies, Vanilla Sky isn't out to scare you. There are a few messages buried in the plot-lines and they are uplifting. What is happiness for you? What choices does that affect? And how can little decisions affect your life?

Vanilla Sky is an excellent movie, and well worth the time to see it. Cruise does an okay job acting, but the supporting cast does an excellent job. Kurt Russell does an excellent job as a prison psychologist, and Jason Lee as the best friend is surprisingly good.

Cameron Diaz may get an Oscar nod for supporting actress for this role.

Vanilla Sky is worth seeing, and worth seeing right now.

DVD

Jurassic Park III

Action [PG-13]

While para-sailing near one of the dinosaur-covered islands a man and boy get lost after the boat's pilot gets eaten. Soon afterwards the parents trick paleontologist Alan Grant (Sam Neill, reprising his role from the first movie) into going to the island to find their lost son.

The movie whizzes through the initial setup (they land, they try to set up a safety perimeter, dinosaurs

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"Mr. West, not every situation requires your patented approach of shoot first, shoot later, shoot some more and then when everybody's dead try to ask a question or two."

Wild Wild West (1999)

AWARDS AND FESTIVALS

It's the beginning of the year, and that means Award season is just about on us. Look below for the first batch of contenders.

Golden Globes

The Golden Globes are put out by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, and are usually a good indicator of who will be up for the Oscars.

(Usually...not always). The awards will be given out January 20.

Note that TV Golden Globe awards are not listed here.

Best Picture-Drama

A Beautiful Mind

In the Bedroom

The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring

The Man Who Wasn't There

Mulholland Drive

Best Actress-Drama

Halle Berry "Monster's Ball"

Judi Dench "Iris"

Nicole Kidman "The Others"

Sissy Spacek "In the Bedroom"

Tilda Swinton "The Deep End"

Best Actor-Drama

Russell Crowe "A Beautiful Mind"

Will Smith "Ali"

Kevin Spacey "The Shipping News"

Billy Bob Thorton "The Man Who Wasn't There"

Denzel Washington "Training Day"

Best Picture-Musical or Comedy

Bridget Jones's Diary

Gosford Park

Legally Blonde

Moulin Rouge

Shrek

Actress-Musical or Comedy

Thora Birch "Ghost World"

Cate Blanchett "Bandits"

Nicole Kidman "Moulin Rouge"

Reese Witherspoon "Legally Blonde"

Renee Zellweger "Bridget Jones's Diary"

Actor-Musical or Comedy

Gene Hackman "The Royal Tenenbaums"

Hugh Jackman "Kate & Leopold"

Ewan McGregor "Moulin Rouge"

John Cameron Mitchell "Hedwig and the Angry Itch"

Billy Bob Thorton "Bandits"

Foreign Language

"Amelie"-France

"Behind the Sun"-Brazil

"Monsoon Wedding"-India

"No Man's Land"-Bosnia

"Y Tu Mama Tambien"-Mexico

Best Supporting Actress

(Continued on page 7)

"What're the chances of us winning that science fair?"

"A million to one."

"That good? Well why didn't you say so."

October Sky (1999)

AWARDS

(Continued from page 6)

Jennifer Connelly "A Beautiful Mind"
Cameron Diaz "Vanilla Sky"
Helen Mirren "Gosford Park"
Maggie Smith "Gosford Park"
Marisa Tomei "In the Bedroom"
Kate Winslet "Iris"

Best Supporting Actor

Jim Broadbent "Iris"
Steve Buscemi "Ghost World"
Hayden Christensen "Life as a House"
Ben Kingsley "Sexy Beast"
Jude Law "A.I."
Jon Voight "A.I."

Best Director

Robert Altman "Gosford Park"
Ron Howard "A Beautiful Mind"
Peter Jackson "The Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring"
Baz Luhrmann "Moulin Rouge"
David Lynch "Mulholland Drive"
Steven Spielberg "A.I."

Best Screenplay

Joel and Ethan Coen "The Man Who Wasn't There"
Julian Fellowes "Gosford Park"
Akiva Goldsman "A Beautiful Mind"
David Lynch "Mulholland Drive"
Christopher Nolan, "Memento"

Original Score

Craig Armstrong "Moulin Rouge"

Angelo Badalamenti "Mulholland Drive"
Lisa Gerrard and Pieter Bourke "Ali"
James Horner, "A Beautiful Mind"
Howard Shore "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring"
John Williams "A.I. Artificial Intelligence"
Christopher Young "The Shipping News"
Hans Zimmer "Pearl Harbor"

Original Song

"Come What May" from "Moulin Rouge," by David Baerwald
"May It Be" from "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring," by Enya
"There You'll Be" from "Pearl Harbor," by Diane Warren
"Until ..." from "Kate & Leopold," by Sting
"Vanilla Sky" from "Vanilla Sky," by Paul McCartney

The Sundance Online Film Festival

The Sundance Film Festival has put together another batch of short films on the Web. There are live action films, a surprisingly large amount of animated, and experimental films. It seems that the selections aren't as good as last year's, but it is still worth a look.

It's up at <http://www.sundanceonlinefilmfestival.org>. A viewer's choice award will be awarded on Jan. 17.

*"Any ideas as to why someone would be growing corn in the middle of the desert?"
"Not unless those are great big Jiffy-Pop poppers."*

The X-Files (1998)

Reviews

(Continued from page 5)

teach stupid humans that they're in trouble...) in five minutes. After that it's a chase as the humans try to get to the shore and not get eaten. This time around the problems are highly-intelligent Raptors and a bigger-then-a-T-Rex Spinosaurus. We also get to see Pteranadons for the first time in the series. That's the problem with this particular installment. It relies on the new dinosaurs as a crutch. The plotline is the same thing as the first one and part of the second. The action is fast-paced and there are some excellent fight scenes with the dinosaurs, but it does seem to be going by the numbers. The DVD (sold separately in full-screen and widescreen versions for some reason) has a fair amount of features. It has a ton of documentaries, from behind-the-scenes shots to paleontology digs. For the movie itself there is only the trailers and director's commentary. The commentary talks about the making of the movie and is fun if you like to see the makers of the film point out what's cgi and what isn't and the difficulties in mixing the two. This movie is a good buy if you love dinosaur movies or want to complete the series. Otherwise you can safely bypass it.

Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure

Sci-fi/Comedy [PG]

One of the sillier parts of the 80's Bill & Ted have finally landed in DVD format. Along with *Matrix*, this is the movie that Keannu Reeves will always be remembered for (whether he wants it or not).

The story concerns to total slackers Bill and Ted, who want to be part of a band. However, since they spend all their time playing instruments (very, very badly) they have been neglecting their schoolwork.

Now they are about to fail history.

But the night before their final report a man from the future comes to them, offering the time travel as a way to ace their report. They go back and kidnap various historical figures and have fun and excitement along the way. It's all pure silliness and worth seeing.

Unfortunately the DVD comes with bare minimum features. It's widescreen, has the trailer, and has a couple of subtitle languages. That's it. The only good thing is that it's a clean transfer and it's cheap. It is possible that sometime down the road a special edition will come out, so you may want to hold off on this. Otherwise, if you're looking for a fun movie at a cheap price this one is worth it.

Internet

Pearl Harbor II: PearlMageddon

Spoof [NR]

(www.ifilm.com)

The name alone justifies watching this short on Ifilm. The opening credits of "Micheal Bruckheimer" and "Jerry Bay" leads right into a highly amusing parody of Micheal Bay and Jerry Bruckheimer movies. The two main targets being, as the title implies, Pearl Harbor and Armageddon.

There is a tiny bit of plot about an asteroid approaching the Earth and FDR recruiting deep-core drillers to stop it (sound familiar?). But primarily the film is a series of jokes and parodies. We have everything from a silly love triangle between Ben Affleck, Matt Damon and Gwyneth Paltrow look-alikes, several FDR falling over jokes and plenty of explosions...especially in the credits.

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"You didn't really mean what you said about bringing a child into this world being an act of cruelty, did you?"

"I meant it at the time."

"Stanley, you said it seven and a half seconds ago!"

"Well, gee, kind of a lot's happened since then."

The Rock (1996)

Reviews, Editor

(Continued from page 8)

The movie happily skewers Pearl Harbor and Armageddon, and it's fun to watch. See it.

Gone Bad Episode 2

Horror/Comedy [NR]

(www.gonebad.com)

The animated zombie movie now has another chapter, after a year of waiting. This time the story is of a fisherman who hooks something much worse than a fish.

While the animation is very good, especially in the underwater scenes, this short doesn't have the substance or wit of the first episode. The plot is very straightforward and requires quite a bit of suspension of disbelief. (cement overshoes are pretty funny... but since when do they float?).

That being said the film does have a bit of charm and is worth seeing once just for the skill of the animation. Let's just hope that the third episode will have the plot rejuvenated.

This film has also been selected for the 2002 Sundance Online Film Festival and can be viewed at www.sundanceonlinefilmfestival.org as well as www.gonebad.com.

CounterReview

Disagree with any of the reviews here? Wish to point out something that was missed? Then write a response and send it in! It will get it's own spiffy "CounterReview" banner and everything when it is printed.

Send your CounterReviews to the Editor at cdkboston@earthlink.net

(Continued from page 2)

reaction...the weekend afterward had *The Siege* as the top movie rental at Blockbuster. But nevertheless we won't be seeing *Big Trouble*, *Gangs of New York* or *Collateral Damage* for awhile. The *Spiderman* teaser was also pulled, and that was understandable. The last shot of the Twin Towers would remind people of September, not get them excited for the movie.

Still, time moved on and soon we came across one of the two major expectations for this year: a movie known as *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. Again we saw the huge opening the first weekend. And yet this film held up, maintaining the head spot for several weeks.

The month after that saw the first *Lord of the Rings* movie come out, and once again a huge opening and a good second week, despite a three-hour running time.

Over all this year has given us some fantastic films (*Harry Potter*, *Shrek*) and some terrible ones (*Saving Silverman*, *Say It Isn't So*). And it shall be interesting to see where the future leads.

The year ahead

If you've seen *Lord of the Rings* than you also saw a trailer parade of the expected big hits for next year. *The Time Machine*, *Spiderman* and the next *Star Wars* film. All of which are hoping to be more than a One Week Wonder, but only the quality of the films will tell that for sure.

We'll also see the French hit *Brotherhood of the Wolf* get released here in America, as well as the second *Lord of the Rings* movie in December.

All in all it could be a very good year.

So sit back, enjoy the ride through 2002 and remember: Don't talk during the movie.

"Man, this Hieronymus Bosch stuff is heavy!"

"That's because it deals with man's inclination towards sin, and defiance of God's will."

"That's not what kind of heavy I was talking about."

Volcano (1997)

Next Issue, *Coming Attractions*

Next Issue

The romantic month of February will be our next issue. Be sure to stop by for all the Upcoming Movies to take your sweetie too. And we'll have reviews, news and the latest in the movie awards. So join us in 30!

Submit something!

I'm always looking for help in putting this magazine out. So if you have any opinions, views, interesting facts or long ramblings please send them to me

Right now this is a free zine, so no payments are offered. Other than the nice warm fuzzy feeling that you'll get to see your name in print.

Send any submissions to:

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 C/o Chris DeKalb
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Or email:
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DVD Continued

1/15/02
 Buffy the Vampire Slayer-Season 1
 American Pie 2-Collector's Edition (rated and unrated)
 Tron- 20th Anniversery Edition
 Life is Beautiful
 Sabrina
 Newsies
 Dirty Dancing-Collector's Edition
 Tombstone-Vista Series
 Glitter
 Roots-complete miniseries
 Wet Hot American Summer

1/22/02
 Kiss of The Dragon
 Rock Star
 Bully (Unrated)
 Children of Paradise-Criterion Collection
 Farscape Volume #10

1/29/02
 Atlantis: The Lost Empire-Special Edition
 Rat Race
 Beverly Hills Cop-Special Collector's Edition
 American Nightmare
 Curse of the Jade Scorpion
 Groundhog Day-Special Edition
 Transformers: Beast Wars

Negative Clippings

Who would win?

One on side we have the viciuos little green pygmie mummies from *Mummy Returns*...

Versus

On the other we have the blue kiddie mon-
 sters from *Galaxy Quest*...

Who would win in this fight? I don't know..but it sure would be fun to watch.