

Issue #9 February 2002

CAMBRIDGE
movie
NEWS

First Anniversary Issue!

Free!

Inside this Issue:

Coming Attractions

AWARDS

Reviews

Everything a good movie buff needs!

Letter from the Editor

It's the Anniversary Issue!

Yes, amazingly enough the Cambridge Movie News started one year ago this month. It's gone through a few changes, including a couple months of during the summer, but the basic idea is still the same: To bring to Cambridge news, information and everything you need to increase your enjoyment of movies.

To celebrate the birthday the quotes in this issue are the "best of" for the last year's issues. Enjoy!

Goldmember no longer...

Well, MGM and United Artists have successfully blocked New Line Cinema from using the title *Goldmember* for the third Austin Powers movie. (MGM/UA had attempted the same block against *The Spy Who Shagged Me*, but lost)

If New Line wanted to go to court about this they would probably win. *Goldmember* is a blatant parody of *Goldfinger*, and as such is covered under Fair Use law. But that would mean a lot of delay for the release along with legal fees, so they will probably just go with Austin Powers 3. Besides, it's benefiting from all of the free publicity the MGM action has generated.

Fireworks coming in December

Last year's holiday season was a battle of expectations...would the two books-made-movies do well? How would the fans react? And of course, who would emerge victorious?

And if you thought that was exciting, just wait until you see this year's contenders. We have Harry Potter II opening around Thanksgiving, followed by James Bond 20 (title as yet unreleased) in early December and Christmas will see Lord of the Rings

II. That's not counting other Oscar contenders and the inevitable family/seasonal films. It should be very interesting to watch the box office numbers. Of course it's not correct to describe the season as a battle. Although they share similar audiences, the films are being released on separate weekends, and will probably compliment each other rather than detract. After all, Lord of the Rings had a massive opening, but did not stop Harry Potter from breaking 300 million in Box office revenue.

This year the movies will be battling their own expectations as well as each other. Can the series keep up the level that the fans want of them. The World is Not Enough had one of the best runs in a very long time..Harry Potter is now #9 in the Top Ten movies of all time in receipts..and the Lord of the Rings is doing amazing for a three-hour film. None of those will be easy to top.

Lord of the Rings II has the best chance, as it's already been made. Since it was made at the same time as the first one (and third) it will probably already bear a strong resemblance to the quality of the first.

Bond 20 will have the popular Pierce Brosnan as well as the very popular Halle Barry as the female villain, so all they have to do is keep the plot and gadgets decent and it will do well.

Harry Potter has the biggest hurdle. It has had less time than the first one did to shoot, and has to prove itself from a very impressive first movie. But it is helped by the returning actors and a strong continuing plotline.

If they all manage to live up to their promise then this year's holidays will turn out to be very good indeed. For both the studios, theaters and the fans.

The Trailer: Signs

Plot: A family living on a farm in Philadelphia finds mysterious crop circles in their fields. Directed by M. Night Shyamalan and starring Mel Gibson.

Probable Release Date: August 2002

Coming Attractions

February, the month of Romance. What shall you take your sweetie to this month? Me and my staff present a few possibilities below. Keep in mind that release dates are subject to change at the last minute.

★ CMN Recommends
 ●* CMN Lack of Excellence Award

Theater

2/1/02

Slackers
 Birthday Girl
 Monsoon Wedding
 Undisputed

2/8/02

Rollerball ●*
 Collateral Damage

2/15/02

Return to Neverland
 Crossroads
 John Q
 Hart's War
 Super Troopers

2/22/02

The Queen of the Damned
 The New Guy
 Dragonfly
 Waking up in Reno

Video

2/5/02

Memento
 Blow
 Bridget Jone's Diary
 Ghost World
 A Knight's Tale

2/12/02

Hearts in Atlantis
 Last Cry

2/19/02

O
 Don't Say a Word
 Hardball

2/26/02

The Musketeer
 Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back
 Soul Survivors ●*
 Session 9 ★
 Haiku Tunnel ★

DVD

2/5/02

Ghost World
 Just Visiting
 Captain Corelli's Mandolin
 Absolutely Fabulous: Complete Series 4

(Continued on page 10)

Best Of...

"Stop Sir, I beseech you. I apologize for calling your wife a bloated warthog.. hehe..and I bid you good day."

Highlander (1986)

Issue #1

Reviews

Theatrical

Black Hawk Down

War Drama [R]

Military disasters can make great drama and can even be transformed into very stirring moments. After all, how many Alamo movies have there been? Black Hawk Down takes the infamous raid in Somalia, where a group of American Soldiers were shot down and slain, and attempts to change the tragic to the heroic. Along the way it also takes potshots at the UN and American leadership...always saying "get this job done" and then saying "we're giving you a third of the forces you need" type of thing.

The film does parts of this very well, but there are some serious flaws that ultimately undermine the movie.

The combat scenes are intense, with a real feeling of danger in them. Some of the effects as the missiles fly around and bullets ricochet about are amazing. The action keeps up at a strong pace all the way through the film. The gore level is relatively high, which it has to be for it to have any believability. There is a lot of blood, but it used in a respectable manner. No slo-mo shots of people getting shot apart.

Unfortunately special effects do not carry a movie all on their own.

Characterization is a problem, a couple of the US soldiers have good stories and backgrounds, but most of them are stereotypical. The incapable officer, the unbending sergeant (who walks around like a modern day Stonewall Jackson), the green-as-grass recruit...we have just about all the stereotypes.

The secondary characters get treated even worse, they don't have any personality. We get a few obstinate Somali warlords, but otherwise they're just faceless mobs or cowering civilians.

Black Hawk Down could have been a very good film. But instead it is a very good scene that's stretched to over two hours. It's still worth seeing, but renting would be a better option.

Gosford Park

Period Comedy/Drama [R]

Review by Lukas Sherman

Stars: Maggie Smith, Helen Mirren, Clive Owen, Kelly Macdonald, Kristin Scott Thomas, Bob Balaban, Ryan Phillippe, Emily Watson, Alan Bates, Michael Gambon, Richard E. Grant, Derek Jacobi, Eileen Atkins.

"No man is a hero to his valet."

What unites the best of director Robert Altman's films is his nuanced, idiosyncratic interest in communities. The settings of his films, whether it be Hollywood (The Player), the country music capital of the world (Nashville), or a sleepy Southern town (Cookie's Fortune), are not so important as the people who populate them and how they interact with one another. Drop Altman in just about any location and any genre and he'll give an almost documentarian like study of a subculture.

The latest, Gosford Park, he's in 1930's England, a locale seemingly at odds with his cynical and iconoclastic bent. A group of aristocrats and their servants gather at the country home of an overbearing gentleman (Michael Gambon) for a weekend of shooting, eating, affairs, and bickering.

(Continued on page 5)

Best Of...

"The dog? You're named after the dog?!"
Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade (1989)
Issue #2

Reviews

(Continued from page 4)

The host is murdered and, of course, everyone is a suspect. It's sort of a murder mystery/comedy of manners hybrid; *The Rules of the Game* reimagined by Agatha Christie and P.G. Wodehouse.

Ultimately, the murder is not of much consequence. This is not a conventional whodunit, as Altman spends most of his time observing the characters' reactions to the event. He's assembled an impressive cast, featuring many of England's finest, and although their characters are types (snobby aristocrat, vacant movie star, clueless American, hostile servants), they flesh them out and turn them into compelling, textured people. Unlike many large casts, this one truly works as an ensemble, with everyone on equal ground and no one trying to steal scenes. It is hard to pick favorites, but Clive Owen as an enigmatic valet, Kelly Macdonald as a novice servant, and Maggie Smith as her blithely condescending mistress stand out.

The film is long and it is not always easy to keep track of the characters and how they fit, but it is refreshing, as you are expected to be involved and pay attention. It's filmed in an elegant, fluid, observant style that picks up on lots of details and little moments that most films don't have time for. *Gosford Park* may not stand with Altman's masterpieces, but it can proudly stand near them.


DVD

Tron: 20th Anniversary Collector's Edition
Science Fiction [PG]

Watching *Tron* today is an amazing trip through the recent past. You get to see the arcade machines of

the eighties (back when Pac-Man was seriously high-tech), the Internet was still a dream and computers were massive boxes. People were just beginning to fully explore the potential and the fear of major computers.

This movie talks about a hacker who gets pulled, literally, inside of the computers. He has to deal with the world of the computer where programs are



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Conscious Dreams?

Daniel Grant's midlife crisis wasn't at all like the normal...

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Best Of...

"Such rot, sir. Why you're the very model of sanity. Oh by the way, I pressed your tights and put away your exploding gas balls."

Batman: Mask of the Phantasm (1993)

Issue #3

Reviews

emotional beings who live and die. It's a cyberpunk movie in a way, before the words "hacker" and "cyberspace" were even part of common-day language.



The plot involves our heroic hacker as he fights the evil Master Control Program over the rights of the various computer programs and the people in the real world. If he can't stop it, the MCP will be into the Pentagon and the Kremlin and soon will control everything. Thankfully there is the hacker and his friend, the program known as Tron.

Together they face off against MCP.

This movie is such a trip. It's a fairy-tale with the heroic knights facing off against the big Evil and his minions. The action is good and the characters are interesting.

Plus the look of Tron is one that has never been repeated. You have the glowing circuits of the programs and the strange-archaic computer graphics of the backgrounds and vehicles.

The film is treated well in its 2-disc special edition. (a normal release came out last year). The SE has the movie, with commentary, a deleted scene, a very good Making Of special, and a ton of production material. The Production Material includes storyboards, conceptual art, music production and

interviews. There are even six trailers on the second disc.

One minor problem is that the director's commentary is dry, and is very similar to the Making Of documentary.

That being said, this DVD is a must-have for science-fiction fans, and those that want to revisit part of the early eighties. For everyone else, it is worthy of being added to any collection.

The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai Across the Eighth Dimension

Science Fiction [PG]

A cult classic for some time, Buckaroo has been given lavish treatment on disc. The story follows dashing neuro-surgeon, physicist, rock-star Buckaroo Banzai and his group of followers as they fight off a group of aliens.

The film is very goofy, but provides plenty of laughs and action. The effects, and especially the music, are classic 80's. And the end of the film is intact, giving every fan the infamous teaser about Buckaroo's "next adventure"...Buckaroo Banzai and the World Crime League.

The DVD has quite a few features on it, including an expanded prologue (which can be viewed attached to the film or seperately), deleted scenes, commentary and a nifty computer-generated trailer for proposed series. The deleted scenes are dissapointing, as most of them are only a few seconds long. It does deal with a deleted sub-plot of the World Crime League, which was interesting, but otherwise they're not all that great.

(Continued on page 9)

Best Of...

"You lied to me!"

"I lie to everyone, what makes you so special?"

"I'm your sister!"

"That just makes you more gullible."

The Mummy (1999)

Issue #3

THE WINNER IS...

As the year moves along, Hollywood takes time to honor the best of the previous year. The Oscars are the most prestigious, but before we get to them there are a few others coming along first.

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 were given out on January 20. Winners are in Bold.

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

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."

(Continued on page 8)

Best Of...

"I'm in a hostile environment. I'm totally unprepared. And I'm surrounded by a bunch of guys who probably want to kick my ass. I feel like I'm back in high school."

Mortal Kombat (1995)

Issue #3

AWARDS

(Continued from page 7)

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

Sundance Online Film Festival

The Internet form of the Sundance Film Festival awarded three films on Jan. 17th. Awards were chosen by viewers votes. Winners are presented below.

Animation

Kharma Ghost

Live Action

Guerilla News Network-Crack the CIA

New Forms

Carny Tales

SAG Awards

The Awards given out by the Screen Actor's Guild were announced on January 29th. The awards themselves will be given out on March 10.

(Television awards are not listed here due to space limitations)

For Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Leading Role

Russell Crowe / A BEAUTIFUL MIND

Kevin Kline / LIFE AS A HOUSE

Sean Penn / I AM SAM

Denzel Washington / TRAINING DAY

Tom Wilkinson / IN THE BEDROOM

For Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Leading Role

Halle Berry / MONSTER'S BALL

Jennifer Connelly / A BEAUTIFUL MIND

Judi Dench / IRIS

Sissy Spacek / IN THE BEDROOM

Renée Zellweger / BRIDGET JONES'S DIARY

For Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Supporting Role

Jim Broadbent / IRIS

Hayden Christensen / LIFE AS A HOUSE

Ethan Hawke / TRAINING DAY

Ben Kingsley / SEXY BEAST

Ian McKellen / THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE

(Continued on page 9)

Best Of...

"We decided to make it female so it would be docile and controllable."

"More docile and controllable, eh? You guys don't get out much."

Species (1995)

Issue #4

AWARDS, Reviews

(Continued from page 8)

FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING

For Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Supporting Role

Cate Blanchett / BANDITS

Judi Dench / THE SHIPPING NEWS

Cameron Diaz / VANILLA SKY

Dakota Fanning / I AM SAM

Helen Mirren / GOSFORD PARK

For Outstanding Performance by the Cast of a Theatrical Motion Picture

A BEAUTIFUL MIND

Paul Bettany, Jennifer Connelly, Russell Crowe, Adam Goldberg, Ed Harris, Judd Hirsch, Josh Lucas, Christopher Plummer

GOSFORD PARK

Eileen Atkins, Bob Balaban, Alan Bates, Charles Dance, Stephen Fry, Michael Gambon, Richard E. Grant, Tom Hollander, Derek Jacobi, Kelly MacDonald, Helen Mirren, Jeremy Northam, Clive Owen, Ryan Phillippe, Kristin Scott Thomas, Maggie Smith, Geraldine Somerville, Sophie Thompson, Emily Watson, James Wilby

IN THE BEDROOM

William Mapother, Sissy Spacek, Nick Stahl, Marisa Tomei, Celia Weston, Tom Wilkinson, William Wise

THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING

Sean Astin, Sean Bean, Cate Blanchett, Orlando Bloom, Billy Boyd, Ian Holm, Christopher Lee, Ian McKellen, Dominic Monaghan, Viggo Mortensen, John Rhys-Davies, Andy Serkis, Liv Tyler, Hugo Weaving, Elijah Wood

MOULIN ROUGE

Jim Broadbent, Nicole Kidman, John Leguizamo, Ewan McGregor, Richard Roxburgh

(Continued from page 6)

The disc is worth picking up if you're a fan of Eighties sci-fi or cult classics.

Internet

A New Life (www.ifilm.com)

Thriller [NR]

Desperately lost, a young man has stopped in the middle of nowhere. Luckily for him a woman has just pulled up in a van to help him. What could possibly go wrong?

Unfortunately for everyone involved nobody is what they seem in this short internet film. Within 12 minutes there will be multiple deaths, fights and revelations..with niether vehicle leaving the lonely desert road.

While the acting is a little weak in parts, the plot is a nice drama about secrets and power. Who's in charge changes multiple times as the main characters interact, leaving you wondering what will happen next.

The director does take too long to get the plot started, with multiple shots and different angles of the woman as she walks up, but if you can make it past that then this film is definitely worth watching.

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

Best Of...

"The first passage will allow the demon to manifest itself in the flesh."

"Why the hell would we want to do that?"

Evil Dead 2 (1987)

Issue #5

Submissions, *Coming Attractions*

Next Issue

Join us this March, the first big releases of the year will be coming out, including Brittany's first and Aaliyah's last movies. And of course various action/comedy and other silliness will be out as well. Luckily we will also have our next issue, to help guide you through the good, the bad and the "what the hell is that?" movies.

We'll have reviews, articles and the upcoming releases for April.

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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(Continued from page 3)

DVD Continued...

2/12/02

Hearts in Atlantis

Last Cry

Wild Strawberries-Criterion Collection

The Bad News Bears

The Bad News Bears Go To Japan

The Bad News Bears in Breaking Training

Peter Pan: Special Edition

Vampire Hunter D: Bloodlust

2/19/02

Adventures of Felix

O

Don't Say a Word

Hardball

Cinderella II

The Mangler 2

2/26/02

Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back

Session 9 ★

The Musketeer

Twin Peaks: Fire Walk With Me

Bones

Haiku Tunnel ★

Madame Butterfly

Soul Survivors

The Runaway

Negative Clippings

With this year's Blade 2 and Queen of the Damned, Vampires are once again gracing the big screen. Of course they're always popular, just look at these recent releases:

John Carpenter's Vampires

Dracula 2000

The Forsaken

Blood: The Last Vampire