



ReelBuzz

Monthly Publication of the Adelaide University Film Society

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PRESIDENTS REPORT

Thankyou all for attending the "Reason 2 Kill" screening and supporting independent films! Thanks to Quito Washington for allowing us to screen his film and Aaron Fromm for his support in helping it happen! For those who didn't rock up, a good time was had buy all, well at least me anyway!! The moral of the story is never dive in front of the car of someone who saw that film... or you will wind up in a creek.

There's not much else to report! Does anybody read this section anyway? Probably not, so here is a poem I wrote about movies.

movies, movies you rhyme with groovy,
you appear on TVs that are aluminiumy,
you cost five for \$5, or sometimes more,
if I go to the local video store.
If I don't rewind you the man gets grouchy,
but I won't care when I'm potato-couchy

Wow, that was deep. If you think these presidential reports are getting weirder and weirder, I assure you it's not me it's you.

Michael Hill (AUFS President)

EDITOR'S WORDS

Check out our great competition this issue! We have two Ren and Stimpy unofficial animation cells to give away! It is rather easy to win too. Just impress Michael and I with your creativity to tell us in 25 words or less why you should win one of the framed animation cells. You have to email your entry to me by 12 midnight on the 9th of September. You may enter more than once, but flooding my inbox will not win you points...

Once again I am begging for participants for our getting to know you section. Thus far we have only had brave commitee members participate. C'mon members.. Hands up! If you aren't comfortable with the questions, maybe you could help out in another way. I would love to have some articles submitted, I will consider all movie related poems, quizzes and rants for the newsletter. Or maybe you would like to be editor for a issue... Just email me at editor@aufs.org

Cassie (AUFS Editor)

PS. There is some great reviews in this issue! Keep them up guys!

Competition

We have 2 unofficial animation cells to give away! They are framed and everything!! One is of Ren & Stimpy and the other is of Powdered Toast Man. This prize was donated to us by the Mercury Cinema!

Tell me – the ed – in 25 words or less why you should win one of them. I will consult with the Prez and we will decide which **two** clever and creative answers deserve a prize.

Competition closes 12 midnight on the 9th September.

*Judges decision is final. No disputes will be entered into.

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Film Reviews

The Wedding Crashers

One of this film's biggest pros is the fact that the two stars are just so damn likeable. Despite the fact they crash people's weddings with the explicit intention of meeting women swept up in the amorous mood, Owen Wilson and Vince Vaughn's characters come across as harmless, friendly blokes that you can quite enjoy spending the movie with. That they don't leave you too long between laughs is a definite bonus.

When we meet the boys they are enjoying a busy 'wedding season' with a diverse line-up of semi-to-fully-naked women. Two spanners are thrown in the works, however, when they crash the wedding of a senator's daughter, only to have Wilson fall for a bridesmaid (Rachel McAdams from *The Notebook*), her mother (Dr Quinn's Jane Seymour) fall for him, and her sister (Isla Fisher) fall for Vaughn. Mayhem, of course, ensues.

The chemistry between Vaughn and Wilson is a definite plus, art-imitating-life coming in handy, and even Will Ferrell pops in to subconsciously remind us of the common group (Ben Stiller is, however, absent).

The humour gets a bit toilet-y occasionally, almost to the point of 'teen comedy', the sections of which are generally much less amusing than when the cast are just clowning around. As a whole, however, the audience was enjoying themselves and there were a lot of laughs on various levels to be had, with no long lapses. If you're looking for an easy, amusing flick that won't test the grey matter too hard, it's worth the money.

Emily Cock



Batman Begins

Um, it's better than *Batman & Robin* but so is stabbing your eye with a pencil. Actually I thought the last couple of *Batman* films were hilarious. It helps to rent and watch them with friends and various alcoholic beverages. *Catwoman* doesn't count (possibly *Catwoman* can't count).

Everyone, as you might expect, is a crisp cardboard cut-out stereotype with only some minor and somewhat darker changes to established comic-book character traditions. Sadly Gotham City is nowhere near as well realised as the first Tim Burton *Batman* film and it feels like any (maybe slightly quirky) modern day metropolis. I missed the architecture and atmosphere of the Burton films. The story is pretty darn stupid though it's not in the same universe of eye-popping stupidity as *Batman and Robin*. The acting is better than average as there's few challenges for a cast of old hands (we will not use the term 'type-cast movie whores' as it's rude) and the special effects are up to the task without being intrusive or particularly impressive. They did go to the trouble of shoe-horning lengthy martial arts fight sequences in: it seems everyone has to do kung-fu and Japanese sword fighting these days. And secret societies.

Turn your brain off at the entrance and you'll probably enjoy it. 3 out of 5 ubiquitous stars for consistent pace and nothing too horribly wrong. Michael Caine, playing the butler was strangely amusing. I kept on expecting him to say "an' no' a lo' of people know tha' ", though he didn't (which was disappointing).

Jonathan Pearce



Film Reviews

Unleashed

Directed by Louis Leterrier.
Starring Jet Li, Bob Hoskins.

This movie stars Jet Li as Danny and Bob Hoskins as his master 'Uncle' Bart, we also see the acting talents of Morgan Freeman as Sam, a blind piano tuner and his adopted daughter Victoria, played by Kerry Condon.

The premise for this movie is one of subjugation and freedom. Written by Luc Besson (Fifth Element, The Professional, Kiss of the Dragon, et al.) this story comes out well rounded, as Hollywood movies go. I can't say that this movie didn't have some clichéd parts, nor that it wasn't predictable at times, but even with this in mind, the movie was quite enjoyable.

The movie opens with a green/grey filter, and we see Danny and Bart walk into many a building where the same thing is iterated; "If you pay, the collar stays on, if you don't, the collar comes off." Needless to say one such person decides that collar off is still a viable option; he soon changes his mind once Danny gets stuck into them, but only after his collar comes off and his Master says "get 'em."

If you are wondering what the collar has to do with anything, then let me put your mind at ease. The collar is a way of controlling Danny, why? Because he has been trained to be a dog (hence the American title 'Danny the Dog'), he is beaten and treated unkindly, he lives in a cage and only does what his 'Uncle' Bart tells him too.

Where does the premise of freedom come into it you ask, well after a few exhibitions of his 'collar off' we arrive at a warehouse of antiques (trivia: the doors say "we buy garbage, we sell Antiques.") Danny is given a simple task of watching a light, if it blinks he is to run in and help his master. Needless to say Danny gets sidetracked and here we meet Morgan Freeman (Sam) as he turns a piano and enlists the help of Danny. This is the beginning of his move to freedom, where he learns to be a 'human.'

I thought that Jet Li did some great acting within this movie, his fight scenes were fast and brutal, not as stylized as his usual movies, but most importantly when Danny starts to learn what it means to be a human, via the help of Victoria and Sam, there are some great scenes where Jet Li is learning. He does the best 'puppy dog eyes' I have seen in ages and manages to bring across a lost innocence as his character needs.

I recommend this to most Martial Arts movie fans, Jet Li fans and even Comedy fans. Though there is quite a lot of action within this movie, there is also as much comedy here too, many a laugh can be had at some very simple things. To sum up 'man makes dog, dog bites men, dog flees man, dog finds family, man finds dog, dog fights for new family.' An enjoyable evening out.

Alex Massy Gartly

Program Term 3

Week 5 Thursday, 25th August 2005

Feature: **Erleuchtung garantiert**
(Enlightenment Guaranteed)

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0177749/>

(Germany, Drama/Comedy, 16mm, 109mins)

Short: **Adelaide Welcomes The World**
(16mm)

Week 6 Thursday, 1st September 2005

Feature: **The 39 Steps**

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0026029/> (UK,
Mystery/Thriller/Drama, 16mm, 86mins)

Short: **Alfred Hitchcock Presents: The Perfect Crime** (16mm)

Week 7 Thursday, 8th September 2005

Feature: **Long hu feng yun** (City on Fire)

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0093435/>

(Hong Kong, Action/Crime/Drama/Thriller,
VHS, 101mins, Rated R)

Short: **The Last Hungry Cat** - (16mm)

Week 8 Thursday, 15th September 2005

Feature: **The Third Man**

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0041959/> (UK,
Film Noir/Mystery/Thriller, 16mm, 104mins)

Short: **The High and The Flighty** - (16mm)



Film Reviews

The Island

Directed by Michael Bay.
Starring Ewan McGregor, Scarlett Johansson.

The Island is a movie that you are best off seeing knowing little about what happens in the movie and the story itself. It keeps you questioning what the hell is going on for the 1st half of the movie and all questions are soon answered. It is because of these reasons I advise you to stop reading at certain points outlined by *spoiler* until you have seen the movie yourself, or else you will truly miss out on the creative side of the film.

The opening premise we are introduced to in The Island is that in 2019 much of the world has been destroyed and civilisation and fauna have been wiped out bar a few hundred survivors, with the odd new survivor found every so often. As a result what remains of human society inhabit a utopia above the surface of the Earth clinging to the hope of winning the lottery and being able to venture to the Island, the world's last remaining paradise. To Lincoln Six Echo (McGregor) though, he longs to know more about this strictly controlled life he lives and wants answers to why things are the way they are. His inquisitive nature soon takes him to the answers and it is there that the trouble really begins.

Progressively the movie develops through different concepts turning from a elusive sci-fi one minute into comedic 'out of towners' humour the next. The movie seems to herald back to concepts and feelings of the past, a combination of Soylent Green, Minority Report and very much a reverse of The Matrix. This is not to say that the movie is a shameless plot to reuse ideas, it does differ significantly and in many ways exceeds in execution.

Coming from Michael Bay, the same director behind big budget flicks such as The Rock and Bad Boys 2, you cannot expect The Island to escape from commercial Hollywood completely unscathed. The film is littered with product placement, not to say this is all bad though, it is one of the first indications that all is not as it seems. Whilst some of it is a little too blunt, with current items passed off as items of the future (eg the Cadillac Cien super car), it does reinforce that this is a look at a possible world in the near future. As expected from Bay though, the ending is typical feel good Hollywood and whilst it's the ending you ultimately hope for through out, it just feels somewhat too commercial and cheesy once it is seen.

Given the big budget nature though, its effect has not all been negative. The special effects are mind blowing and truly obtain the intended reaction from the audience to the maximum. From moments where you jump from your seat to chase sequences that left the audience in awe with loud "Woah" and "wow"s heard all around.

They seem almost flawless and the opening moments of the film must truly be commended. Unlike Bay's previous films also, in particular Pearl Harbor, you will find that you are no longer in any rush for the film to get to the action, with the concept behind the film supporting it itself.

The acting is of a high standard all around, with a particularly stand out performance by Scarlett Johansson as Jordan Two Delta. Ewan McGregor is fantastic also, playing not only the American hero figure, but he is also allowed to act more like himself as his sponsor, a Scottish playboy, and his personality really shines. Steve Buscemi stars in his typical role, as the quirky lower rung role, hilarious as always.

The film poses many questions about morals and ethics and leaves you wondering well after you've left the cinema. *Spoiler* The film's awful secret is that Lincoln, Jordan and everyone they had known are merely clones of people in the real world, created as an insurance policy, ripe for the slaughter when needed to extend the life of their sponsors. The age old question behind the ethics in consuming another creature for survival is posed, there's also questioning of our disposable culture and how far you would go to save your own life. One question I longed to see answered that the script writing avoided was the moral decision in a situation where Jordan or Lincoln were face to face with their 'sponsors' coming down to whose life would be saved if the sponsor was about to die and only killing their clone could save them. Would Jordan have sacrificed her own short life if it meant that it could save her sponsor's, who has her own young child and is on the brink of death? *end spoiler*

It cannot be mistaken that The Island is another big budget, blockbuster, destined to succeed at the box office for no reason other than its supporting team, who perform strongly as always. The Island poses many interesting questions and a creative storyline, best enjoyed if you get in blissfully unaware of what will happen. With so many fantastic movies being released this year it's hard to rate it in respect to the others, it may be made for the masses but The Island is an enjoyable romp that should leave you pleasantly surprised.

7/10.

Matt Williams



Film Reviews

Oyster Farmer

An Australian drama filmed on the Hawkesbury River NSW. This film stars Kerry Armstrong, David Field, Jim Norton, Alex O'Lachlan, Diana Glenn and Jack Thompson. Oyster Farmer is about a man who runs away and ends up working on an oyster farm. He robs an armoured vehicle and posts the money to himself (up the river). However, he never receives the money, which remains a mystery until the end of the film.

The film contains humorous elements such as the dog race, a sick dog eating a remote control, the accidental disposal of the dog and the 'bath-tub scene'. The sex scene on the jetty and the loud music throughout the film are distracting. The arrival of Jack Thompson, who plays a Vietnam veteran, raises the profile of the film. He acts superbly and maintains people's interest. Overall Oyster Farmer is an entertaining film.

Ron Hermann

Look Both Ways

Directed by Sarah Watt.
Starring Justine Clarke and William McInnes.

Sarah Watt's film Look Both Ways portrays how a freak train accident, leading to a man's death, coincidentally brings profound changes to several characters' lives. Among them Nick, who is recently diagnosed with cancer and Meryl, whose father has just passed away.

'Death' seems to be the central theme at the beginning of the film — Nick and Meryl, and the viewers along with them, are confronted with the reality and inevitability of death. The film seems to highlight how powerless we are and how unforgiving nature can be. This is partly achieved by the clever mixing of animation throughout the film, which immerses us into the characters' thoughts. The performances from the cast were great and this film is special in that it allows us to empathise with almost every single character, so that we delve into their issues with them, which makes it a very touching film.

In the end this film is about hope, it's very enjoyable and definitely worth watching!

Leah Liu

The Jacket

Directed by John Maybury.
Starring: Adrien Brody (The Pianist), Keira Knightley (Bend it like Beckham, Pirates of the Caribbean), Kris Kristofferson (Blade Trinity), Daniel Craig (Layer Cake, Road to Perdition).

It is 1993 and gulf war veteran Jack Starks (Adrien Brody) has returned home, but occasionally suffers from amnesia. One day he is sent to a mental asylum for committing a murder that he doesn't remember doing. In the asylum he is put into the care of the evil Dr. Becker (Kris Kristofferson) who abuses him with an experimental form of treatment involving heavy drugs, being restrained in a creepy-looking straightjacket and locked in a tight drawer for hours at a time.

However, during these sessions Jack travels forward in time to the year 2007 where he faces the revelation that he dies in four days, under conspiratorial circumstances. With the help of the future Jackie (Keira Knightley), a girl he'd befriended hours before the murder, Jack attempts to find the truth regarding the murder, his death and to prevent it.

All up I thought this film was great, it has a good plot, it's mind-blowing but not so complicated that someone won't understand it, and contains great actors. The effects in a few scenes were a tad overdone, (e.g. excessive sweat when he came out of the drawer), but it didn't impact negatively on the film. Admittedly, most that saw this film with me thought the ending was unfulfilling, but I disagree, I think it ended appropriately and perfectly.

The Jacket is by no means a film that is going to revolutionise or shake the foundations of your cinematic experience, but the reason I applaud it so greatly is because it is a good film in a rare genre that seems to only consist of The Jacket and Donnie Darko. It is entertaining, original, contains humour and fright, but is paradoxically complex and yet simple at the same time. If you like Donnie Darko, (or the video game Shadow of Memory) you will love this film! Even if you don't, see it anyway.

7 to 8 out of 10 ...what I can't do that?

Michael Hill



Back Page

Mysterious Skin

A shocking film that contains child sexual abuse, male prostitution, an abundance of anal and oral simulated sex scenes, a rape scene, physical abuse, reference to 'fisting', a nude scene, a homosexual character, unsympathetic fathers, abduction, an AIDS sufferer, UFO references, alien transplants, selective amnesia, alcohol & illegal drug usage. However, the film missed incorporating 'terrorism'. Unlike Salo (another film banned in SA) the film did not contain coprophilia. I believe the film should have an 'R' rating but should **not** be censored.

Mysterious Skin is predominately about two men who look much older than eighteen years of age. The film is set in both Kansas and New York City in 1981 and 1991. The film begins in 1981 with two boys aged 8 years who are 'abused' by their Little League coach. Ten years later one boy ends up a simpleton believing aliens abducted him and the other becomes a male prostitute. The various anal and oral sex scenes I believe were repetitive and tedious.

The film does contain a humorous scene. That scene was when the pimp says that he hates it when his client "Looks like Tarzan and sounds like Jane." The film is very slow throughout and portrays currently held popular beliefs about how 'perpetrators' act. At the end of the film the truth about what happened to both men is revealed.

The film is dull, bleak, depressing, and really shocking in places (especially the rape scene). I **do not** recommend that you watch it. It would be better to buy yourself a meal or perhaps watch a better film. US films are generally of much better quality than this movie produced by Hopscotch Films. It is not even worth censoring.

Ron Hermann

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Getting to know you...

Alexander Godfrey Massy-Gartly



Age: 25... and still a student.

5 Random titles from your DVD collection..

Akira, The Nightmare Before Christmas, Abyss, Lock Stock and Two smoking Barrels and Alladin (Disney).

If you were stuck on a desert island and you had a TV and DVD player (and a power source), what 3 movies would you choose to have with you to pass the time?

Equilibrium, Alladin and The Nightmare Before Christmas.

What movie are you embarrassed to admit you own?

Nowhere to Run with Jean Claude Van Damme.

If you could make one film, what sort of film would it be?

It would be the sort that make people sit on the edge of their seats, with great action and suspense, endearing romance scenes and heartfelt characters..... or seeing i am part of the new elite of the world (who ever they are?) i would remake an Ed Wood movie for todays people, maybe 'Plan nine from outer space', classics never die out.....

Hands up volunteers for the next Get to know you..

Don't make me start emailing random people in the club. Email me at editor@aufs.org. Come on... it is painless... I promise! :)