

Undercover Blues: Turner and Quaid should stay undercover

by Sarah Melchlore
Collegian Staff

Did you ever see a movie that was so stupid it was funny? Usually, you have to be in a really good mood to laugh, right? Well, that's the gist of "Undercover Blues."

"Undercover Blues" stars Kathleen Turner as Jane Blue and Dennis Quaid as Jeff Blue. Both of these actors haven't been on the screen for awhile, and if you actually pay to see this movie, you'll understand why.

The Blues are a married spy team with a baby girl. The FBI needs help on one last

assignment which the Blues can't pass up.

The plot just drags on and on and on and....

The supporting characters are the best thing about the movie. Of course, there's the bumbling police lieutenant and sergeant. For another twist, the writer throws in an idiot mugger who wants revenge on the Blues. There is even an appearance or two by the annoying Tom Arnold.

By far the best thing about this movie is that I saw it for free. It is not all bad, but I'd wait until it came out on cable if I were you.

Needful Things: not as needful as King thought

by Jen Dugan
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This summer, Stephen King fans were happy to see another one of King's hair-raising novels turned movie. "Needful Things" takes place in Castle Rock, Maine, a small town in which King has used in several of his novels.

Only this time, Castle Rock is destroyed forever. What causes this destruction? Leland Gaunt, a stranger who comes to the quiet town and starts his business, "Needful Things".

At "Needful Things" there is something for everyone. Eleven-

year-old Brian Rusk is the first customer, and he finds what he's always wanted: a '56 Sandy Koufax baseball card.

Brian gives Gaunt his 85 cents, but that's not enough. The prices are high at "Needful Things". Brian must do a small deed for Gaunt. That is the other half of your payment for purchases made at "Needful Things".

As his business booms, Gaunt gets his kicks in seeing just how much people will pay for their secret dreams and desires. Who will save Castle Rock's people? They must pull together by the help of their

sensible, brave sheriff, Alan Pangborn, in the battle between their will and Leland Gaunt.

I was a little disappointed when I saw "Needful Things." Overall, it has a very good story line, but the actual movie is dry. It isn't filled with King's famous twisted and demented gore, which leaves it to be a bit boring at times. I have never read the book, but I've heard that it has more characters, more detail, and more of what Stephen King usually offers us. Therefore, die-hard King fans may not find the movie as needful as a thing as they thought.

The Age Of Innocence: high on nostalgia, low on interest

by Dawn Anderson
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For all intents and purposes, Martin Scorsese's "The Age of Innocence" is a disappointment. What the film neglects to do, despite all of its fanciful nostalgia, is keep the audience's interest.

Based on Edith Wharton's novel "The Age of Innocence," the film focuses on the turn-of-the-century aristocratic New York, and it probes how the social mores and emotional confinement of that era affected and prevented two individuals having a chance at true happiness.

The film concentrates on a time frame of forty years in the lives of three characters: Newland Archer (Daniel Day-Lewis), Ellen Olenska (Michelle Pfeiffer), and May Wellend (Winona Ryder).

A complex love triangle develops as the reserved lawyer Archer becomes entangled with his fiance's cousin Ellen. Ellen is a Bohemian countess who seeks a divorce out of a bad marriage and is deemed an outcast by the upper-crust socialites.

As the two slowly fall in love, they are forced to face the consequences of their "forbidden" actions. Archer fears that the society which accepts him will shun him. Through this relationship, the film explores the hypocrisy and shrewd inner-working of backstabbing New Yorkers.

"The Age of Innocence" is

made in much the same fashion as a Merchant-Ivory production. The film is a lavish piece of cinema, complete with a wonderful attention placed on period costume, authentic set design (including an elaborate opera scene), and a fitting score. If it sounds like I am praising it- I am.

Scorsese, whose other credits include classics such as "Raging Bull," "Taxi Driver," and "Cape Fear," employs most of the same devices he has used before, namely, extreme close-ups and a penchant for extravagance. However, the director puts too much emphasis on these aesthetic elements and ultimately fails to entertain.

There are no chase scenes or exploding buildings in "The Age of Innocence." The film has a PG rating and is essentially boring. The pace occasionally picks up but is frustrating because it never follows up on it.

Even though the actors are competent, they never cease to be one-dimensional portrayals. Day-Lewis is extremely bland and unbelievable as Archer. The role does not seem to require much except to give a longing look every now and then. Pfeiffer gives the best performance, but then again hers is the only character who is the least bit interesting.

"The Age of Innocence" has its good points but is overshadowed by the weak plot and its inability to maintain the audience's attention.



Happily ever after?: Mary Wellend (Winona Ryder) and Newland Archer (Daniel Day-Lewis) are engaged in *The Age Of Innocence*.