

# Review: *What Dreams May Come*

By Jon Stubbs  
features editor

Robin Williams is dead in the latest Polygram release, *What Dreams May Come*. That is to say he plays the deceased pediatrician Chris Nielsen who is survived by his soul mate and wife, Annie. When Chris dies, Annie is left with nobody, being that her two children were killed four years prior in a automobile accident.

Once Chris is dead, and in the afterlife, he is taught the workings of heaven by his guide, played by Cuba Gooding Jr. Even though he is in the most blissful of all places, Chris still yearns for the company of his wife.

*What Dreams* has surrealistic landscape created by an Academy Award winning team of visual effects artists. When he first enters heaven, Chris finds himself inside one of Annie's paintings. Flowers made of pigment and oil melt to his touch, and as he imagines things, they become reality. "I'm fascinated by the idea of using computer technology to create some-

thing other than an explosion or a rap-tor," remarks Williams. The art created by the effects team is truly original and is visually stimulating.

Production for the film began on late June 1997 in Glacier Lake National Park. "The first thing we did was to try to figure out where we could construct these huge majestic vistas," says co-producer Alan Blomquist. Later, the production crew moved the set to the San Francisco Bay Area where they constructed huge sets in vacant hangars. There, the production crew designed a 300,000 gallon pool, which was used for various scenes. Other props such as a 1,200-foot long aircraft carrier were also used. While searching for a particular art style to act as a theme for the film, director Vincent Ward found his inspiration in the works of Monet, Van Gogh and the 19th century German romanticists, including Casper David Friedrich. "The German romanticists were fascinating because they believed that nature

was more powerful than man," Ward says. "They created a sense of paradise that's not a tame place. It's a place of roaring winds and twisted trees and steep mountains and mist... incredibly beautiful but at the same time quite alone." This description of German romanticists closely resembles the spectacle one sees in *What Dreams*.

Critics have called *What Dreams* "sappy" and "tear-jerking." If they feel that they can make a film concerning itself entirely with Heaven without an ounce of sap, they are invited to do so. Another big complaint is that the movie does not follow the original Matheson novel. However, *What Dreams* is an original sappy tear-jerker, at the least. The film is not in any way a cliché or stolen idea. It's an imaginative work that not only appeals to the viewer's romantic side, but also to their visual sense. There is only one obvious flaw in the film; the ending is a bit of a letdown.

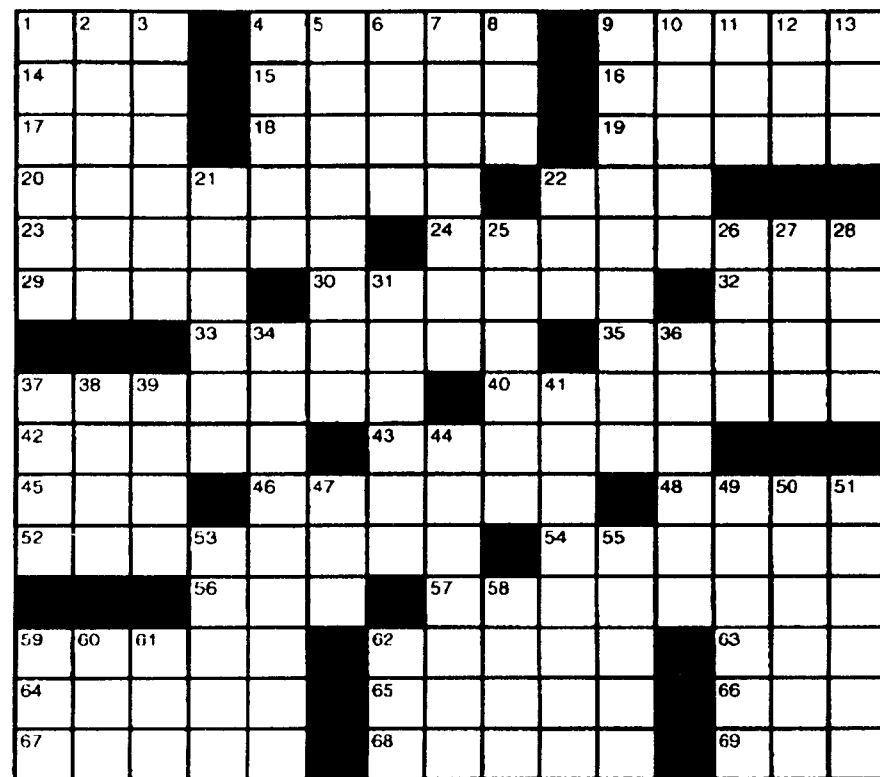
★★★★



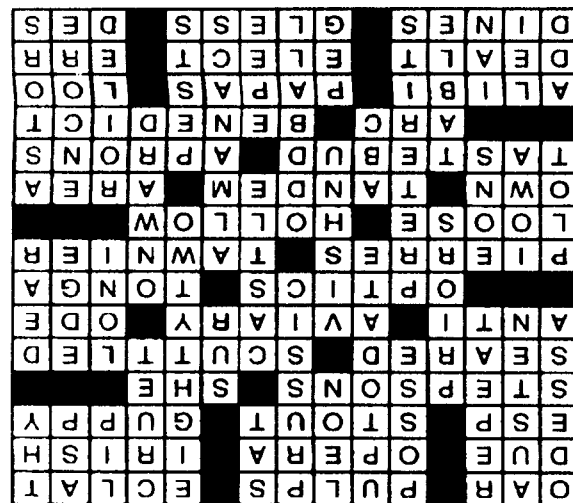
## ACROSS

- 1 Paddle
- 4 Crushes to mush
- 9 Dazzling effect
- 14 Expected
- 15 Word with soap or horse
- 16 Cork people
- 17 Psychic's gift
- 18 Thickset
- 19 Colorful fish
- 20 Some relatives by marriage
- 22 "\_\_\_ Loves You"
- 23 Burned some
- 24 Sunk intentionally
- 29 Opposing position
- 30 Birds' room
- 32 Poetic piece
- 33 Study of light
- 35 Nation near Fiji
- 37 Trudeau and Curie
- 40 More of a light-brown color
- 42 Unstructured
- 43 Having a cavity
- 45 Possess
- 46 Two-seater
- 48 Environs
- 52 Tongue element
- 54 Cooks' garb
- 56 Slice of a circle
- 57 Spinoza or Arnold
- 59 Excuse
- 62 "\_\_\_ Delicate Condition"
- 63 Old card game
- 64 Distributed hands
- 65 Vote in
- 66 Slip up
- 67 Wines' partner?
- 68 Sharon of "Cagney & Lacey"
- 69 Some: Fr.

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- 5 Abreast of the times
- 6 Writer Uris
- 7 \_\_\_ acid (hydrogen cyanide)
- 8 Fri. follower
- 9 Four score and a couple
- 10 Vinegar bottle
- 11 Back talk
- 12 African snake
- 13 Love \_\_\_ neighbor
- 21 Arrest record
- 22 Big \_\_, CA
- 25 Elsinore or Balmoral, e.g.
- 26 Actress Anderson
- 27 Border
- 28 Cherished
- 31 Hindu deity
- 34 Past tense verbs
- 36 Forth
- 37 Scheme
- 38 Hawkeye state
- 39 Millennia
- 41 Reference books



- 44 Eccentric
- 47 Easy as \_\_\_
- 49 Muddled
- 50 Additional performance
- 51 John Jacob and Mary
- 53 Data display
- 55 Nuisances
- 58 Edgeless sword
- 59 Tack on
- 60 Island garland
- 61 Writer Fleming
- 62 Tent stake

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