

behrcol15@aol.com



# 2001 Summer Movie Review II

## 'Memento' Original, with a twist

by Paige Miles  
assistant managing editor

A picture is said to be worth a thousand words, but can it be the only savior to a man's life? "Memento," directed by Christopher Nolan, leaves the viewer to walk out of the theater in a disturbed mind state--similar to that of Leonard Shelby's.

Leonard Shelby has a short-term memory disorder in which he can only remember what he learned before his "accident." After the "accident," Shelby (Guy Pearce) cannot remember anything that occurs over a mere few seconds. He learns to live with his disorder by writing notes and snapping a ridiculous amount of Polaroids.

Shelby is determined to find the man who murdered his wife, which he hazily remembers as the night he was knocked unconscious, causing his "condition."

"John G murdered your wife," is tattooed backwards on his chest to remind him of his mission, along with several other clues tattooed all over his body leading to whom he believes ruined his life.

"Memento" throws the viewer for a loop by starting with the last scene in which Shelby is waiting for a Polaroid to dry of the man he just shot--the man he believes killed his wife. From the last scene, the movie progresses--or regresses--scene by scene until the very beginning. Essentially, it is as if the viewer develops Shelby's short-term memory

"condition."  
"Memento" is a very intelligent and original film that keeps the viewer on the edge of his seat, attempting to make sense of it all and discover who really murdered the late Mrs. Shelby. The acting is excellent, provided only three characters truly make up the full story. All the rest of the scenes are just details...details Shelby doesn't care to remember.

"Memento" was released on DVD and video on Sept. 4.

\*\*\*\* out of 4

## 'Pearl Harbor'- the movie is a bomb

by Jeanine Noce  
arts & entertainment editor

Everyone knows that summer is the time when most college students go see concerts or movies. This summer I did my share of both. One of the movies on my list was to see "Pearl Harbor;" unfortunately, the movie was a bomb.

Although people might confess to a lack of knowledge of the actual event, the only relevant piece of information pertaining to this war was that the United States was bombed on the morning of December 7, 1941. "Pearl Harbor" did a poor job opening audience's eyes to the events leading up to the attack.

The movie began with two young boys - Rafe McCawley (Ben Affleck) and Danny Walker (Josh Hartnett.) playing outside of their house. The two are intrigued by planes and even begin to learn to fly in a small fighter plane.

This segues into the present-day, where they are grown men who want to train to be fighter pilots. Both are drafted and stationed in Hawaii, an assignment that's more about tropical pleasures than war. After arriving in Hawaii, Danny is assigned as an aviator in the U.S. Army Corps and Rafe was assigned to the British Royal Air Force, as Rafe is selected by the British before the United States entered World War II.

No one is seriously thinking about what could possibly happen if the United States and Japan go to war in Hawaii. Then, Evelyn Stewart (Kate Beckinsale) is assigned to be a nurse along with her other friends. These five girls are

and did not have much action or suspense. Approximately 45 minutes into the movie and the main focus was still only the love triangle. This could have been cut down to five or 10 minutes and the movie would not have dragged on.

However, there is a break in this mushy soap opera love story when Pearl Harbor is bombed. This movie reportedly was granted the largest motion picture budget in history with a price tag of \$145 million for the three hour and minute film. The 40 minutes of bombing was the only part that made spending \$7.50 worthwhile. It



'Pearl Harbor' stars Josh Hartnett and Ben Affleck.

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extremely excited to travel and are looking forward to meeting the newly drafted men.

The story also has a romantic twist. Rafe and Evelyn fall in love before he is sent to the British Air force. But after he is assigned to the British, Evelyn receives a notice that he was killed. This allows Danny to win Evelyn's heart and they fall in love. So, Evelyn has fallen in love with two best friends, which (of course) is a cause for disaster.

And none of this really has anything to do with the actual events in Pearl Harbor. The movie needed to have something that would attract both women and men, but it seemed more interesting to women. It deals with love and heartache

seemed as though the audience had entered a video game and was right there inside of it.

The Japanese attack is explained away as a regrettable course of action done by a nation in the face of economic ruin. However, there is not enough time spent explaining this angle in the movie.

"Pearl Harbor" is the "Titanic" of war movies. The entire plot is based on a soap opera love story and does not depict the true hardships or despair that the Americans faced during the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

\* out of 4

## Kiss of the Dragon, Action and suspense come alive

by Dawn Russell  
contributing writer

An action-packed movie that came to theaters this summer was "Kiss of the Dragon," starring Jet Li and Bridget Fonda. The movie is about a Chinese government agent (Li) who is sent to Paris to help out a police officer, Richard, and the rest of his force.

When Li gets to Paris, the mission goes bad and he realizes that it was all a setup. Now that he has found out about Richard's operation, the entire force is after him. They set Li up and accuse him of many crimes that he did not commit. Li is on the run for the rest of the movie.

As Li is in hiding and working to clear his name, he runs across Jessica (Bridget Fonda). He learns that Jessica is one of the many women that Richard has



PHOTO COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY FOX  
Jet Li stars in 'Kiss of the Dragon.'

ever, it does have one downfall. The one disappointing aspect is that it really did not have much of a plot. Also, the movie was sometimes hard to follow, but the constant action and the intriguing love story seemed to keep everyone's interest.

The ending is filled with suspense and will keep you on the edge of your seat.

The title of the movie is not brought into play or understood until the end of the movie. If you are someone that is into action movies, this definitely is one to watch.

\*\*\* out of 4

forced into prostitution. He took her daughter away from her, and uses her to keep her working on the streets. Jessica and Li end up helping each other out so that they both can get what they want and return to their normal lives.

"Kiss of the Dragon" is a very exciting movie with outstanding fighting and martial arts.

The movie is very good; how-

## 'Jackpot': audience loses big

by Rita Kempley  
The Washington Post

A karaoke singer embarks on a quest for success in his pink Chrysler New Yorker in "Jackpot," but he might as well have set out in a walker, given the movie's funereal pace. Part character study, part road trip, the monotonous, pretentiously directed film follows the crooner from one bleak Western town to the next, but like the self-deluded hero, it never gets anywhere.

Then again, the odds are always against Sunny Holiday (Jon Gries), a mediocre performer whose clueless manager, Les (Garrett Morris), encourages his misguided pursuit of fame and fortune.

One day soon, Les promises, Sunny's albums will be featured at Wal-Marts and he will be besieged by autograph seekers. That's not to say he doesn't have groupies al-

ready naive and needy women, whom he uses for sex and throws away. In one case, he tries to seduce a child.

And it's on to the next karaoke contest in Sunny's 43-city tour. If he winds up with prize money on a given night, he and Les can afford a room and a burger. If there's anything left over, Sunny buys a lottery ticket and sends it to his wife (Daryl Hannah) in lieu of child support. Mostly, however, the partners wind up sleeping in the Chrysler, counting their pennies for gas and running out on diner checks.

Les, zealously played by Morris, is as wrongheaded as his client, though he prides himself in his professionalism. After all, he's had plenty of experience as a manager - he once ran an apartment building with 34 units. He also sets a great store in prayer. Les never sends Sunny onstage without calling upon the Lord, who remains indifferent to Les' petitions.

Though Gries readily brings Sunny

to life, the sulky, self-centered character is so reprehensible we wish he hadn't. Had the story focused on Les, there would be some reason to care. But it doesn't and there isn't. Even Hannah's abandoned wife is annoyingly shrill.

Nobody hits the jackpot here, certainly not filmmakers Michael and Mark Polish, whose audacious, empathic first film, "Twin Falls Idaho," showed such promise.

Unhappily the brothers seem to share Sunny's overinflated sense of importance.

"Jackpot" (100 minutes) is rated R for profanity and sexual situations.

\* out of 4

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## New Releases

### Movies

- 'Rock'
- 'The Musketeer'

### Video\*

- 'Memento'
- 'Waltz Across Texas'
- 'Me You Them'
- 'Shadow Magic'
- 'The Legend of Hell House'
- 'Farescape: Vol 6'

### Music\*

- System of a Down
- Mariah Carey
- Backstreet Boys (Around the World)
- Nickelback

### DVD\*

- 'Memento'
- 'Backstreet Boys (Around the World)'

\*Release Date: 9/7

Special thanks to Media Play for providing information

Watch the  
Latin Grammy  
Awards  
Tues. Sept. 11  
at 9:00 pm