

STUDENT LIFE

Reid, Slater fumble in unbelievable 'Alone'



Christian Slater go, go, goes in "Alone in the Dark."

Lions Gate Film

By Chris Hewitt
Knight Ridder Newspapers
(KRT)

A woman I work with has an annual so-bad-it's-fun movie night, and I can't wait to tell her this year's stinker should be "Alone in the Dark."

The unintentional hilarity begins with boob-flashing party girl Tara Reid, cast as a brilliant archaeologist.

Reid (whose name should not be found in the same sentence as the words "brilliant" or "archaeologist" or, for that matter, "actress") plays the sort of brilliant archaeologist who wears midriff-baring baby tees to her museum job and who doesn't know how to pronounce "Newfoundland." I'd like to see the producers spin off her character into her own adventure/archaeology series: "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Dumb."

The rest of this "28 Days Later"/"Alien" hybrid also worships at the temple of dumb. Christian Slater deserves props for not embarrassing himself as a "paranormal investigator" who announces, "I hunt and track down the strange and the unusual." Wow! Not just the strange but also the unusual? And I bet he hunts and tracks down the odd and the weird and the unconventional, too. Slater also finds the hidden nuances in these three lines of dialogue: "Go, go!", "Go, go, go!" and, my favorite, "Go, go, go, go!"

Slater isn't awful like Reid is, but all of the actors, including Stephen Dorff as a brilliant something-or-other, lack the authority to be believable as people in positions of power. Watching them play dress-up is as convincing as it would be to watch a middle-school production of "On Golden Pond," which, come to think of it, still might not be as laughably bad as "Alone in the Dark."

Club acquaints students with Jewish culture

By Lori DeFabio
student life editor

Lauren Beauseigneur and is under advised by Mary Connerty.

Religion is a part of everyone's life, and until recently, there was not an organization on campus that reflected the Jewish community.

Last semester, Lauren Fehl, realized that there was no Jewish organization on campus and was afraid that there was a negative stereotype towards Judaism because of the lack of knowledge on campus. Fehl decided that the best way to overcome the stereotype was to start an organization on campus that made others aware of the Jewish religion.

"I was brought up within a mixed religion family. My mother being Jewish and my father Christian, I recall a lot of confusion as a child about religious differences. Recalling my childhood confusion, it was then I decided I needed to start a club on campus," said Fehl.

The Jewish Association of Behrend began having recruitment meetings last semester when it was approved by SGA and has a full e-board consisting of President Fehl, Vice President Matt Futterman, Treasurer Katrina Kibben, Secretary

JAB is not only for people of the Jewish religion. There are currently about 15 active members in the club and many of them are not Jewish, including Kibben.

"I decided to join this club because it works to support activities that I think would be very beneficial for Behrend to experience. As an e-board member I can help plan these events," said Kibben.

JAB is planning many activities for the current semester including having Sara from the "Real World Philadelphia" speak at Behrend to talk about what it is like to be a Jewish woman and any problems or challenges she faced regarding her religion to get where she is today.

JAB also plans on helping the Erie Jewish community with Holocaust remembrance activities and meeting with Hillels from other schools to put on programs for Passover.

JAB meets every other Monday at 6 p.m. in Reed 112 and is open to anyone would like to attend. For more information, contact Fehl at laf233@psu.edu.

Student Life Event Spotlight

Films attract shrugs



LEB
Weekend
Movie

"Saw"

Today &
Saturday
10 p.m.
Reed 117



CINENEWS.BA

"The Emperor's Journey," a documentary about penguin migration, was one film shown at Sundance this year.

By Allison Benedikt
Chicago Tribune
(KRT)

PARK CITY, Utah - From the bustling hotel lobbies to the teeming shuttle buses and pre-screening holding pens, the consensus on this year's Sundance Film Festival is in: So far, so-so.

This is not to say that the 21st incarnation of Robert Redford's independent baby hasn't had its moments - the biggest thus far being Craig Brewer's gritty urban drama "Hustle & Flow" - but the first half of the festival has been marked more by tame audience reactions and subdued wheeling and dealing than buzz, with films drawing more shrugs than love.

Still, that Sundance magic hasn't entirely gone missing. Just as the population of this sleepy ski town skyrockets from 7,500 to 45,000 overnight, in one screening a star is born. In years past, anointed ones have included Steven Soderbergh, Quentin Tarantino and more recently Zach Braff. This year the name to know is Terrence Howard.

Playing a Memphis pimp suffering a midlife crisis in "Hustle & Flow," Howard is the guy to spot on Park City's celeb-heavy Main Street. After an all-night bidding war, Paramount Pictures and sibling MTV Films scooped up his film for a cool \$9 million (as part of a \$16 million, three-picture deal with producer John Singleton). And though some Monday morning quarterbacks grumble that the studio overpaid, in a week that saw Ice Cube's "Are We There Yet?" and Samuel L. Jackson's "Coach Carter" top the box office, the hip-hop infused "Hustle & Flow" seems like a pretty good bet.

But like so many films at this year's fest, "Hustle & Flow," featuring a hoodlum with a heart of gold, feels derivative - even with Howard's tour de force performance.

There's something more than just vaguely familiar about Luc Jacquet's "The Emperor's Journey" ("La Marche de L'Empereur"). The Discovery Channelesque documentary of penguin migration was the second film sold here - Warner Independent Pictures teamed up with National Geographic Feature Films for the buy - perhaps because of the success of the French bird voyage pic "Winged Migration." Gorgeous cinematography, tongue-in-cheek voice-overs voiceovers and adorable baby penguins make up for whatever "Journey" lacks in originality. And its sex scene is more sensual than any you'll see in the fest's most feted documentary, "Inside Deep Throat."

It is certainly remarkable that out of a crowded field of celebrity-driven projects, the films to sell first boast unknowns, penguins and dancers from South Central Los An-

geles. Directed by glam photographer David LaChapelle, "Rize" takes us inside the culture of krumping, a gyrating, frenetic form of street dance and self-expression. Lions Gate Films nabbed the documentary, assuring that soon enough your mom will be taking krump lessons.

Less surprising is this year's slate of teen dramedies and coming-of-agers. There's Marcos Siega's "Pretty Persuasion," which stars Evan Rachel Wood as manipulative sophomore Kimberly, who uses sex to sabotage a slightly perverted English teacher (Ron Livingston). It's a wannabe "Heathers" if there every was one - contrived, overwritten, predictably over-sexed and filled with unsympathetic characters, most notably Kimberly's anti-Semitic wack-job of a father, played with far too much abandon by James Woods.

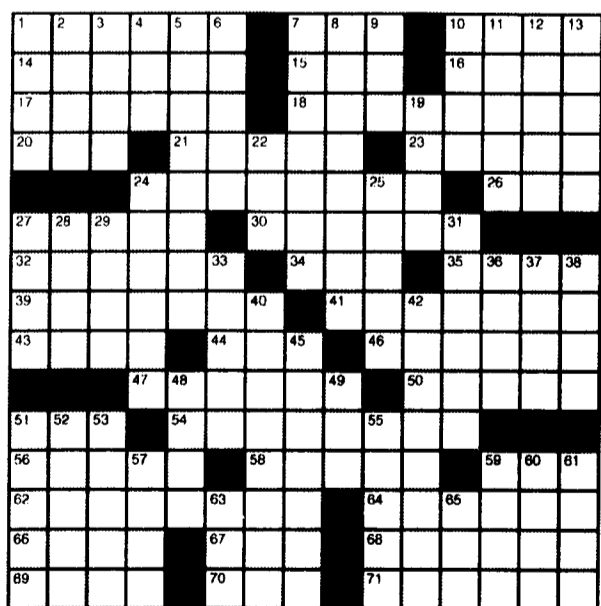
Mike Mills' "Thumbsucker" is a more satisfying, albeit scattershot, look at teen angst. Set to the tunes of the Polyphonic Spree and Elliott Smith (who had committed to doing the entire soundtrack before passing away in 2003), "Thumbsucker" follows high-schooler Justin (newcomer Lou Pucci) through sexual awakening, Adrenal highs and thumbsucking shame and features a resonant performance by Vincent D'Onofrio as Justin's dad, a former football star with a paralyzing Peter Pan complex. But despite quite a few stellar scenes, "Thumbsucker" is incomplete, with a hazy relationship between Justin and his mom (Tilda Swinton) and an unnecessary thread involving Keanu Reeves as a New Age orthodontist.

Leading the pack is Noah Baumbach's beautifully written and heartfelt "The Squid and the Whale." I hesitate to even bunch this film in with "Persuasion" and "Thumbsucker" because it is so much more than a coming-of-age story, but as it handles that element in such a far superior way, it seems an apt comparison.

Writer/director Baumbach may be best known for his recent collaboration with Wes Anderson on "The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou," but even with Anderson producing "Squid," the film is a far cry from that director's stylized world. It is the most emotionally honest movie that I've seen at the fest yet, a wonderfully perceptive character study revolving around the dissolving marriage of a has-been writer (Jeff Daniels), his newly published and estranged wife (Laura Linney) and their two sons, the elder in awe of his father's intellectual pretension (Jesse Eisenberg) and the younger in awe of his tennis pro and pubescent goings-on (Billy Baldwin plays the pro; Kevin Kline's spawn Owen the foul-mouthed kid). Baumbach set the film in 1986 Brooklyn because "that's when I went through my own parents' divorce" and admits to bringing as much "real stuff" from his life as possible into the film, even dressing Daniels in his father's clothes.

Crossword

- ACROSS
1 Act your age!
7 Audit pro
10 Actor Lugosi
14 Water element
15 Civil War soldier, briefly
16 Fiery gemstone
17 Feel contrite
18 In single file
20 Language suffix
21 Opening night
23 Stallone movie
24 Birthright
26 Strike
27 Map dot
30 "The African Queen" star
32 Balloons up
34 "To be or ___ to be..."
35 Impetuous
39 Seasonal farm worker
41 New thing
43 Catch sight of
44 "___ the ramparts..."
46 Hired temporarily
47 Very dull performance
50 Range
51 CSI site
54 Canines
56 Panama pal
58 Civvies
59 Cry of amazement
62 Sliver
64 Rwanda's neighbor
66 BPOE members
67 Traveler's stop
68 One in the red
69 Breather
70 UFO passengers
71 Accompany



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Solutions

1 HUSTLE
7 AUDIT
10 LUGOSI
14 OXYGEN
15 SOLDIER
16 EMERALD
17 CONTRITE
18 FILE
20 SUFFIX
21 NIGHT
23 STALLONE
24 BIRTHRIGHT
26 STRIKE
27 DOT
30 QUEEN
32 UP
34 TO BE OR NOT TO BE
35 IMPETUOUS
39 WORKER
41 NEW
43 SPOT
44 RAMPARTS
46 HIRED
47 TEMPORARILY
50 RANGE
51 CSI
54 CANINES
56 PANAMA
58 CIVVIES
59 CRY
62 SLIVER
64 RWANDA
66 BPOE
67 STOP
68 RED
69 BREATH
70 UFO
71 ACCOMPANY

- DOWN
1 Drill
2 Former partners
3 Surfeit of publicity
4 Ripen
5 Blood feud
6 Go in

- 7 Toasted garnish
8 Five-sided figure
9 Writer Burrows
10 Beach or Beastie followers
11 Geological division
12 Hawaiian veranda
13 On one's toes
19 Dutch South African
22 Highchair apron
24 Robust
25 Croc's cousin
27 Some PC's
28 Error
29 Firm image
31 Deep furrow
33 Type of owl
36 Palo Alto, CA
37 Tread
38 Jekyll's alter ego
40 Apartment building

- 42 Traces
45 Tax mailings
48 Very long time
49 Library sec.
51 Surgical tool
52 Plenty
53 Rips off
55 Piano study
57 Main point
59 Conscious of
60 Bouquet
61 Male red deer
63 Equal score
65 "Lost" network