

STUDENT LIFE

Sit down, relax, take your face off

By Sean Mihlo
student life editor

In Georges Franju's 1959 French surrealist-fairy-tale-horror film *Eyes Without A Face*, brought to visually-stunning new life via Criterion's DVD release two years ago, a doctor uses any means necessary to reconstruct his daughter's damaged face after the two are involved in a horrible car accident. Sounds nice and



Edith Scob stars as "Christiane" in Franju's eerie *Eyes Without A Face*. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

into a pile of pillows. The camera pans behind her as she lifts her head up, looking at Louise who's been comforting her. Louise then puts "the mask" on Christiane, and we see her walk around the room. Her reflection is shown in a portrait of a girl and her doll that hangs near her. Christiane has become, in some way, a doll for her father, and she even looks like one too, with the mask on – a living doll. Dr. Génessier makes changes to Christiane's face many times, and Franju doesn't shy away from showing us the delicate and totally gross face removal operation. There's no gore, however, and not much bloodshed. The real terror comes from the doctor's actions, his constant strive for the perfect face. During a dinner one night, after a supposedly successful face transplant from Edna's face to Christiane's, the doctor realizes something after inspecting his daughter's face: he's failed. The quest continues, and Louise sets out to find another blonde, blue-eyed vic-

tim. By the film's end, however, Christiane discovers the inhumanity of her father's actions and takes complete control, freeing herself from any shame that the doctor or Louise had caused her. Dr. Génessier and Louise, a former face-transplant patient of the doctor's herself, want a new face for Christiane more than she does. And although she's terribly unhappy, she realizes a "new" face won't change her life. She'll forever wear this mask – a mask to conceal her face and a mask to hide the horrific things her father had done to the innocent girls he kidnapped and killed, whose own faces were removed, left masked with bandages. Franju shows us that the mask symbolizes the innocence of Christiane and pure evil of Dr. Génessier, to not just repair his daughter's face, but turn her into someone she isn't, to erase her identity just like he did with Louise, turning her into his right-hand woman and accomplice.

A truly poetic and almost serene film, *Eyes Without A Face* excellently captures the madness of one man's paternal instinct to help his suffering daughter come back to life. The film won't fulfill your blood-thirsty, zombie-eating, monster-rampaging horror flick appetite, but it will stir your insides, cause a few squeals and shrieks and make you wish you'd kept that *Scream* mask a few years longer.

At the box office

"Epic" tops new releases, Oscar noms

By Sean Mihlo
student life editor

Last weekend's box office proved that even if you're nominated for an Oscar, you might not score big – or within the top 10. In fact, the top five films aren't even major contenders in this year's heated Best Picture race. *Epic Movie*, a film parodying cult classics like *Willy Wonka* and *the Chocolate Factory*, *Lord of the Rings* and *Snakes on a Plane*, topped the box office in its first week with \$18.6 million. Next, the star-studded action film *Smokin' Aces*, starring Jeremy Piven, Ray Liotta, Ben Affleck and in her debut role, Alicia Keys, took second with \$14.6 million, also in its first week of release. *Smokin'* topped Affleck's wife, Jennifer Garner's *Catch and Release*, which debuted poorly in the fifth position with a measly \$7.6 million. This probably totally ticked off the execs at Sony: the film cost an estimated \$25 million to make. Rounding out the top five are *Night at the Museum* and *Stomp the Yard*, taking in \$9.5 and \$7.6 million respectively.

What's surprising about this past weekend's box office, after the Oscar nominees were announced on Jan. 19, is that most critically-acclaimed and nominated films didn't even hit the top 10. Even after a disappointing nomination diss for Best Picture, *Dreamgirls* placed sixth, in front of Best Actor nominee Will Smith's *The Pursuit of Happyness*, which placed seventh. Guillermo del Toro's adult fairy tale flick *Pan's Labyrinth*, nominated this year in five categories, including Best Foreign Language Film, scored a cool \$4.7 million, placing it in the eighth spot.

Helen Mirren has already scored Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild awards for her performance in *The Queen*, and is the favorite to win the Oscar for Best Actress, which helped the film taylor in the ninth position for the second week in a row. But other Best Picture nods, *The Departed* and *Babel*, scored outside the top ten, in twelfth and fourteenth, respectively. *Notes on a Scandal* and *Little Miss Sunshine*, the other two Best Picture nominees, placed 13th and 57th, respectively.

Box office breakdown

January 26-28, 2007

1	Epic Movie	\$18,612,544
2	Smokin' Aces	\$14,638,755
3	Night at the Museum	\$9,557,664
4	Stomp the Yard	\$7,685,565
5	Catch and Release	\$7,658,898
6	Dreamgirls	\$6,741,985
7	The Pursuit of Happyness	\$4,983,325
8	Pan's Labyrinth	\$4,774,578
9	The Queen	\$4,013,052
10	The Hitcher (2007)	\$3,632,975
11	Freedom Writers	\$3,514,548
12	The Departed	\$3,365,481
13	Notes on a Scandal	\$2,603,703
14	Babel	\$2,561,053
15	Children of Men	\$2,183,195
16	Blood and Chocolate	\$2,074,300
17	Letters from Iwo Jima	\$1,867,326
18	Arthur and the Invisibles	\$1,704,515
19	The Last King of Scotland	\$1,674,900
20	Charlotte's Web (2006)	\$1,496,105

*Statistics courtesy of BoxOfficeMojo.com

Behrend: Back in Black this April

By Chris Brown
copy editor



Lewis Black CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lewis Black, a comedian who has made appearances on "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart," will be performing his stand-up act Apr. 21 at the Junker Center. Tickets will go on sale in early March and will be available at the RUB desk, University Park or on-line. Behrend students will have the opportunity to purchase tickets before the general public for \$15; students will have to have their ID card at the show or they will not be admitted. The show is being funded by Student Activity Fee (SAF).

Student Activities was informed on Jan. 30 that Black had agreed to visit Behrend. The opening act for Black will be

determined at a late date.

Black has hosted numerous comedy specials on HBO, written an autobiography and acted in movies and television shows. He is known for his unique profanity-laden tirades on politics and contemporary life.

"This is the first time Behrend has hosted a comedian on campus," noted Chair of the Concert Committee, Brad Strobl. The Student Activities Committee decided to go with a comedian over a band this year because they wanted to find something that would appeal to all students. "Sometimes students are bound by genres and won't come to see a band because of that," remarked Associate Director of Student Activities, Jill Caldwell. Caldwell and Strobl noted that, "everyone likes to laugh."

The weekend of Apr. 20 is shaping up to be a fun and exciting weekend for Behrend Students. Students will be able to get their music and comedy fix all in one weekend. On Friday, LEB is hosting Battle of the Bands, an all-day gala, in Erie Hall. Then, on Saturday evening, Black will entertain students in Junker Center.

The committee will need volunteers to help set up, clean up and provide hospitality. If you are interested in helping, contact Brad Strobl at BPS169@psu.edu.

Upcoming record releases for February

Bloc Party, Apples in Stereo and Reel Big Fish hit the shelves this month

February 6

Apples In Stereo / *New Magnetic Wonder* / Simian/Redeye
Bloc Party / *A Weekend in the City* / Dim Mak/Vice/Atlantic
Fall Out Boy / *Infinity On High* / Island/Fueled By Ramen/Decaydence
Sondre Lerche / *Phantom Punch* / Astralwerks

February 13

Lucinda Williams / *West* / Lost Highway
Gerald Levert / *In My Songs* / Atlantic

February 20

The Ataris / *Welcome to the Night* / Isola Recordings/Sanctuary
Explosions in the Sky / *All of a Sudden I Miss Everyone* / Temporary Residence Ltd.
Reel Big Fish and Zolof the Rock & Roll Destroyer / *Duet All Night Long* / ReIgnition

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