

# FEATURE

## Body Double Suspenseful But...

by Thad Wawro  
Collegian News Editor

Ever since his debut as a director, Brian DePalma has been compared to master director Alfred Hitchcock. Some of these comparisons have been very favorable, others well, nobody's perfect. Even though the respective styles of the directors differ somewhat, Hitch's being more stylish and suave while DePalma's leans toward the fast paced and reckless, comparisons between the two are inevitable.

In his better films, such as *Obsession*, *Blowout*, and *Dressed to Kill*, DePalma has used a number of elements taken from Hitchcock's techniques very successfully. His style is marked by incorporating plot and film making techniques and then using them in unexpected and unique ways.

Until the recent *Scarface*, DePalma's films, even though

violent, have had their emphasis on plot rather than violence. The extremely bloody *Scarface* was a departure from the norm. In his latest work, *Body Double*, DePalma heads back toward the norm but, unfortunately, misses the target ever so slightly.

Just as in his preceding films, DePalma has included a number of classic Hitchcock elements that do both Hitchcock and DePalma justice. However, even with the many allusions to Hitchcock, what starts out to be a promising suspense yarn, soon falls into mediocrity.

The story takes place in the weird and wonderful world of the movie makers. The title of the movie, *Body Double*, is taken from the term given to the stand-ins who take the place of a star in a scene that they may not want to do, such as a nude scene.

The hero of the film, Jake, played by newcomer Craig

Wasson, is a would-be actor filming a porno vampire movie. Jake is claustrophobic (reminiscent of Jimmy Stewart in *Vertigo*) which makes his role as a coffin-sleeping vampire just a little difficult.

Jake meets Sam (Greg Henry) who offers his house to Jake while the filming is taking place. The two men living alone together is reminiscent of Hitch's obsession with twos. While living with Sam, Jake discovers that with the aid of a telescope he can watch his beautiful neighbor undress through her window, just as Jimmy Stewart did in *Rear Window*. As he watches, Jake discovers that he is not the only one who is interested in the young woman; there is someone following her.

Well, so far so good. DePalma has all of the makings of a super suspense thriller. Unfortunately, a few major mistakes on the part of DePalma causes the film to end

up as just an okay thriller.

DePalma's biggest mistake is that instead of building suspense through the plot and his filming techniques, he reverts to using unnecessary gore and sensationalism (as best seen in the infamous power drill scene).

Another one of DePalma's goofs is his use of parallel real and unreal scenes interposed at the end of the film. His attempt at art does little more than confuse the movie-goer and muddle the final moments of the film.

*Body Double*, however, is not a bomb. A number of the scenes in the film are innovative and unique. The element of suspense is always present. The problem comes at the end of the film when, instead of ending with the type of explosive climax that marks DePalma's film production, it just fizzles out. What at first glance seems to be a masterful satire of the suspense genre,

degenerates into a broad spoof, which at certain points is downright silly. During the film the audience laughed a number of times; the problem was it was difficult to tell if they were laughing with the film or at the film.

Compared to some of the recent thrillers released, *Body Double* is a masterpiece; however, compared to some of DePalma's previous films, it seems to be a half-hearted attempt.

*Body Double* is rated R due to excessive gore, nudity, strong sexual content, and adult language.

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## Trivia Mania: New Craze Sweeping the Country

by Jill Bedford  
Collegian Staff Writer

Who was the second person to walk on the moon? Who co-starred opposite Burt Lancaster in *From Here to Eternity*? What is the substance in leaves that makes them green? What was the name of the manager who shot the Beatles to stardom? If you answered these questions Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin, Deborah Kerr, chlorophyll and Brian Epstein, chances are you've been exposed to the latest craze sweeping colleges nationwide - Triviamania.

The original Trivial Pursuit, the Genus Edition, is still a big seller at stores everywhere. It consists of six different topics: Arts and Literature, Geography, Sports and Leisure, Science and Nature, History, and Entertainment. The same company that makes the Genus Edition also has specialized versions of trivia you can purchase separately, such as the Silver Screen Edition for the movie buff, the All-Star Sports Edition for the sport fan, the Baby Boomers Edition containing various questions from the 1950's to the 1980's, and for the younger trivia fans, the Young Players Edition.

Other companies, caught up

in the trivia craze, have produced their own versions of Trivial Pursuit: the MASH Game of Trivia, the Solid Gold Game of Trivia, TV Guide's Trivia Game, and the People's Magazine Game.

Even if you feel your knowledge of trivia is not exactly at the competition level, you can still have fun just learning new and interesting facts. Even the best Trivial Pursuit player can learn something new every time he plays. The RUB desk now has Trivial Pursuit, so get a group of friends together one night and play. At least Trivial Pursuit is one way to blow off studying without feeling guilty.

## Behrend Library Offers More Than Books

by Julie Potochny  
Collegian Staff Writer

The Behrend library has a lot to offer and what it doesn't have is available from any of Penn State's 22 campuses. The computer system makes it a snap to find out what is available and at which campus. With inter-library loans you can have the material in seven to ten days.

Mary Sellen, head librarian at Behrend, is on the advisory board of libraries in Erie County. The board, N.I.C.O.P., Northwest Interlocking Cooperation Group, has 50 members and meets twice a year. Various industrial and college libraries are involved.

This is a working type of group dealing with issues such as lending policies and inter-library loans. Cooperation between libraries is



Mary Sellen  
Head Librarian

the main objective of the organization. This cooperative effort gives us easier access to material from different libraries.

Sellen has been at Behrend for two years. Previously she worked as a reference librarian at Northern State College in South Dakota. While in South Dakota she had the opportunity to help set up a library at a Sioux Indian reservation.

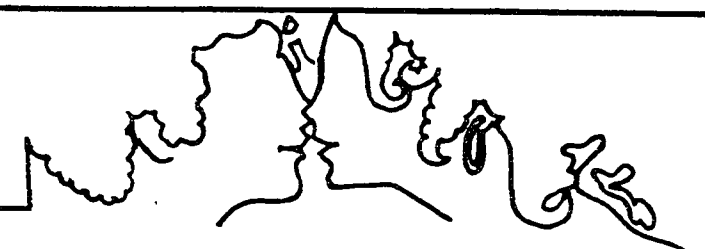
Sellen has a masters degree in Library Science and Music which she earned at the University of Illinois. She did her undergraduate work at Sherwood Music School in Chicago. She became interested in Library Science while working as a student library assistant at the University of Illinois.

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