

Addams Family: They're altogether ooky

Jason Sandhaus
Capital Times Staff

Da da da dum. Snap, snap. Da da da dum. Snap, snap. Sound familiar to you?

Of course, it's the Addams Family theme. But, who doesn't know that? It's been in everyone's head since the show aired on television more than 20 years ago.

People may not know who the Addams Family is, but they recognize the theme song. But, for those of you who missed the original television series, here's your chance.

Paramount Pictures has released an Addams Family movie. At first, you might wonder why. I, too, asked the same question. Why would they want to make a movie of a series that's been dead for over 15 years? I have no answer, just a review.

The producers of the film were lucky. They picked an ensemble of actors which could pass for clones of the original cast.

First, they chose Raul Julia to play Gomez, originally played by John Astin. Then, they cast Anjelica Huston as Morticia, originally played by Carolyn

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Jones. Lastly, they had Christopher Lloyd to play Uncle Fester, (my favorite character) originally played by Jackie Coogan. This trio was accompanied by a well-planned cast, including a Wednesday lookalike, Cristina Ricci.

As you know, the Addams aren't your typical American family. In fact, there is nothing typical about this family. The two children, Wednesday and Pugsley, try to out-torture each other throughout the film. An ax here, and an electric chair there. No problem.

The film's plot centers on the Addams' lawyer, Tully, (Dan Hedaya) and his attempt to obtain the Addams' fortune,

kept in a secret vault. The only way to get to the vault is to open up one of the literary classics Gomez keeps on the shelf. The only problem, is when the book is opened, it comes to life. For example, Tully opens *Gone With The Wind*, and a strong gale emerges from the pages.

Tully devises an idea. At a meeting with his loan shark and her son, Gordon, (who closely resembles Uncle Fester) Tully notices the resemblance and creates a plan to shave Gordon's head and pass him off as Fester, who disappeared 20 years ago. Except for Gomez, the missing Fester is the only person who knows the secret, and Gomez trusts him completely.

Tully brings the newly-found Fester to the home. Fester and Gomez begin to make up for lost time, but something isn't right. How could Fester forget so much? Gomez begins to smell a rat.

This film has a macabre attitude, much like that of the television series. It contains many of the series' idiosyncrasies

and characterizations. I was wondering when Cousin It would show up. I think he even combed his hair for the performance.

Of course, you can't forget the others. Lurch, the silent butler; Mama, Morticia's mother; and last, but not least, Thing, the maneuvering hand. In the screen version, Thing is not confined to a box; he actually walks. Thank goodness for special effects.

One of the funniest scenes is of Pugsley and Wednesday doing their rendition of Shakespeare. They had a classic sword duel, aided by props from Uncle Fester. One blade swipe--Wednesday's wrist squirted fake blood. Another swipe--Pugsley's arm was gone. Their family proudly watched and provided a standing ovation at the conclusion.

If you're a fan of the Addams Family series, or you want to see a good movie, I recommend the Addams Family.

I watched the series, but after watching the movie, I started to wonder about my neighbors.

Drug culture flick gives audience a rush

Ann Feeney-McGovern
Capital Times Staff

Novice Director Lili Zanuck brings us a different kind of suspense film, with a slow-paced, tension-filled story called "Rush," which takes you into the seedy world of two undercover narcotics cops who literally lose themselves in their work.

"Rush" tells the tale of an experienced undercover cop, Jim Raynor, played by Jason Patric. Raynor recruits policewoman Kristen Cates, portrayed by Jennifer Jason Leigh. Kristen is not only a rookie in police work; she also possesses little personal knowledge about drug practices. This presents to Jim the added task of educating Kristen about the proper habits of hard-core drug use.

Along the way, the two develop a love relationship. The movie handles this element of the story differently than love affairs in other films. Instead of depicting the relationship as a romantic one, it presents their attraction as a necessity of survival. This is one love story that has forgotten to include the glamour.

Early in the film, it becomes apparent that the pair is just asking to get caught--if not by the drug dealers, then by their supervisors. Their demise begins when the

couple bend the rules by shaving off parts of the evidence for their own personal use.

The performances in this movie are spectacular. Patric, as Jim, dares to be

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overly confident, if not cocky, as he lives on the edge with his "I can handle it" attitude. While he introduces the naive, yet committed Kristen to the drug culture, he cites the cure for drug overuse and abuse as "strong will" and a "few weeks in bed kickin' up the covers."

Leigh also delivers a great performance. Her character exudes the terror she feels about this assignment, but she never expresses it. She doesn't have to--her body language and facial expressions do it for her. The scene where we find her crawling around on the floor, groping at pieces of the carpet hoping to find some lost crumbs of cocaine, sums up her desperation.

At times, this movie is difficult to watch, but these scenes are a necessary part of the story.

This is a film for those with strong hearts and strong stomachs. Along with graphic bloody scenes, it also includes

footage of the characters injecting heroin. These scenes can really shake you up, but they're effective.

"Rush" is a different kind of police story. It spares us the good guy/bad guy routine, because none of the characters qualify as heroes. And, why is this? Simply because the cops and the druggies have the same value system.

Based on Kim Wozencraft's true story, Rush tries to explain why the drug culture is so prevalent in our society.

The music, by Eric Clapton and other artists, is reminiscent of the early '70s and completes the film's trip back to its 1974 setting.

You won't regret rushing out to see this one.

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program is the "Leadership Skills Certificate," said Dwight Collins, SGA's senior senator-at-large.

"By attending the conference and three one-hour programs presented throughout the semester, a student can earn the certificate," Collins said.

The topics of the hour-long sessions include stress management, time

management, conflict resolution, assertiveness training, and communication skills.

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