



Photo courtesy of Alcon Entertainment

My Dog Skip

By Nicole Burkholder
Capital Times Staff Writer

Yes, I went to see a dog movie. And it was the best damn dog movie I've ever seen!

My Dog Skip is everything you'd never expect it to be. There are no clichés or calculated scenes to make you sob like a baby. It is funny, intelligent and socially conscious all at once.

The movie centers around Willie Morris, former editor of Harper's Magazine, and his childhood dog,

Skip. Sounds sappy, I know, but trust me on this one. I went into the theater with a little skepticism myself.

I was pleasantly surprised.

The content covers more than just a boy and his dog. Issues of race, war (the story takes place during World War II) and the social constructs of a small southern town.

Frankie Muniz ("Malcolm in the Middle") plays Willie Morris and he has to be one of the best child actors to ever grace American movies. Muniz actually acts rather than just looking cute, the general law for most

movie brats. Muniz and his adorable canine costar played off each other just as they would in real life.

Kevin Bacon was notable as usual as Willie's uptight father. Without seeming heavy handed, Bacon's performance as a bitter war veteran was heartbreaking. The movie manages to subtly discuss the terrors and tragedies of war without shoving it down your throat.

The greatest part about *My Dog Skip* is that it is the most non-traditional dog movie I've ever seen. I thought I'd be able to foresee the entire

plot within the first ten minutes, but the movie throws enough curveballs at you to eliminate any possibility of this. It was Willie Morris' life and nothing more. No Hollywood dazzle, just life.

Just a warning: As cute as the dog is, *My Dog Skip* is not really a movie for little kids. There is some violence and heavy material that small children would not understand and might be easily bored.

MOVIE REVIEW

My Dog Skip

Starring Frankie Muniz,
Diane Lane & Kevin
Bacon

Grade: A



Photo courtesy of Artisan Entertainment

Johnny Depp as Dean Corso

Radio Station WPSH Top 10 Albums - 2/29/00

Artist	Title	Label
Project 86	Drawing Black Lines	Atlantic
Aaron Sprinkle	-moontravler	Organic
Smashing Pumpkins	-- Machina! The Machines of God	Virgin
The Cure	Blood Flowers	Elektra
Devoted Molded	Mr. Bill's Wild Ride	Screaming Giant Records
Goldfinger	-stomping ground	Universal
Midtown	-Save The World, Lose The Girl	Drive Thru
Bloodhound Gang	-Horrar For Boobies	Geffen
Blindside	-A Thought Crushed My Mind	Solid State
Nerf Herder	-How To Meet Girls	Honest Don

Top 20 Movies Of All Time (Viewer's Choice)

Courtesy of the Internet Movie Database (imdb.com)

1. Godfather, The (1972)
2. American Beauty (1999)
3. Shawshank Redemption, The (1994)
4. Schindler's List (1993)
5. Casablanca (1942)
6. Citizen Kane (1941)
7. Star Wars (1977)
8. Godfather: Part II, The (1974)
9. One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (1975)
10. Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb (1964)
11. Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981)
12. Rear Window (1954)
13. Shichinin no samurai (1954)
14. Saving Private Ryan (1998)
15. Psycho (1960)
16. Empire Strikes Back, The (1980)
17. Usual Suspects, The (1995)
18. Pulp Fiction (1994)
19. Silence of the Lambs, The (1991)
20. North by Northwest (1959)

Johnny Depp Reaches *The Ninth Gate*

By Nicole Burkholder
Capital Times Staff Writer

It has been a long time since Roman Polanski has had a wide release in the United States. I myself never expected to see another one of his movies in a commercial movie theater again. I am glad I was wrong.

Another bout of Polanski's directorial genius astounds the United States in *The Ninth Gate*. There is no wonder as to why his name is still an incredibly common one regardless of his absence from the states. (He was convicted of statutory rape and forced to flee the United States in exile.)

The Ninth Gate revolves around the world of book collectors and a quest to find the authentic copy of the book entitled *The Ninth Gate*. When found, the book is believed to be able to summon the devil to earth.

The plot could easily fall short of interesting, but it never does.

Amazing attention to detail and twisted, multi-dimensional characters lure the audience into a mesmerized intrigue. Although the movie is already over two hours, I wanted it to keep going in order to find out more.

Johnny Depp plays Dean Corso, an antique book appraiser hired to find *The Ninth Gate*. Mr. Depp has redeemed himself since *The Astronaut's Wife* and

and now he is acting in a Polanski film of his own. Hmm.

Even though the previews imply a heavy amount of special effects, don't go expecting two and a half hours of fire and explosions. The fire does exist, but briefly. The bizarre and unnerving scenes come from the oddball characters such as the Spanish bookseller twins and the Baroness with an unexplained stump for an arm which she waves around when angry.

The Ninth Gate is worth seeing if only to be in awe of Polanski's amazing talents for the bizarre, not to mention the story is incredibly creative. Polanski may have a checkered past, but I'm all for bringing him back to the United States of America to teach Hollywood a lesson or two.

MOVIE REVIEW

The Ninth Gate

Starring Johnny Depp

Grade: A

has proven that he really can act, and quite well at that. His character is quirky and sly, yet stunningly intelligent. It is interesting to note that *The Astronaut's Wife* was a rip-off of a popular Polanski film (*Rosemary's Baby*)

