

TOM'S TOMFOOLERY OF CINEMA

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Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow

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Paramount Pictures presents a film written and directed by Kerry Conran. Starring Jude Law, Gwyneth Paltrow, and Angelina Jolie. Running time 107 minutes. Rated PG for violence and brief language.

This film is a perfect representation of the best and the worst cinema has to offer. Using advancements in audio and visual effects, this film has the best that you can hear and see. However, even the best effects do not make up for the shortcomings of stories and ideas. The film companies are resorting to making prequels and homages to films of the past.

The story is about Sky Captain (Jude Law) and his global army trying to solve the mystery of why his base and cities all over the world are under attack from giant robots sent by a German named Dr. Totenkopf from his secret base in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Wanting the exclusive story, a reporter named Polly

Perkins (Gwyneth Paltrow) follows the Sky Captain wherever he goes. Angelina Jolie plays Frankie, a leather clad British commander with an eye patch, who looks more like a one-eyed dominatrix than a stern British commander. She revs her men and the audience when she says, "Release the Amphibious Squadron!"

The film attempted to be on the epic scale with its production design, but it fails because of one vital point. Shot in front of a blue screen, the actors and visual effects are blended throughout the film. The problem lies with the fact that the actors were also shot in a sepia tone. It was meant to pay more homage to the films of the forties, but when sepia is mixed with the blue screen it caused the actors to look digitalized. Instead of the epic feeling the film wanted to achieve, it comes off more like a Pixar animated film. Besides the visual problem, the continuity was astronomical. Have you ever been in New York City when it snowed during the day and then thunderstormed that night?

The dialogue in this film is awful. Clocking in under two hours, relatively short for a film,

it repeats lines such as "Good boy, Dex," or "I only have two [camera] shots left." There were so many opportunities to develop better conversations but did not happen. Also, Sky Captain and Perkins are in locations that one can only dream about and she ends up using her last two shots on Sky Captain.

Keep in mind that nothing bad has been said about the visual effects. They are impressive and Oscar caliber - especially with Dr. Totenkopf. He is composed of stock footage and old sound recordings of none other than Laurence Olivier. Olivier has been dead since 1989 and this is a stunning tribute to one of the greatest actors of cinema. This was only a minor visual; it would have been a pleasure to see him throughout the film. The chases and robotic designs were excellent as well, but not even Sir Olivier could save this film.

Look for Tom's next review of Ladder 49 in the October 25 issue.



Photo courtesy of Yahoo images

Regency brings a cappella to PSH

Almost all a cappella sounds pretty good with the acoustics of the gallery lounge

By Sharon Furfaro
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Toes were tapping and hands were clapping in the Gallery Lounge, Olmstead, as Regency sang favorites from Motown to Pop. On October 5th, from 12 noon to 1p.m., the five man a cappella vocal group from Baltimore, Maryland wowed the crowd with their humor and vocal ability.

"You know you make me wanna . . ." Regency would sing, nice and slow.

"SHOUT!" yelled approximately 50 students and faculty in reply.

"Did I mention that we have Kool Aid and cookies in the back?" Dewayne McNeill, lead singer, asked the crowd, completely changing the subject mid

song.

Laughter ensued as Regency continuously tricked its listeners into thinking they would finally sing The Isley Brothers' classic hit, "Shout," which they saved for the end of the show.

They sang more than "do wop,"

"Mostly we only rely on our voices."

-Dewayne McNeill

they sang everything from swing to country. Enthusiastically line-dancing and hee-hawing, Regency's "Achy Breaky Heart" was much funnier than Billy Ray Cyrus's original version. The audience was invited to join the action with dancing and singing along to such favorites as "Under

the Boardwalk" and "Chain Gang."

The group invited three ladies to join them in song. "Ladies, I want you all to have attitude," McNeill said. Brooke Messmer, Humanities major, immediately jumped up. "I can tell this one has got the 'tude," McNeill said.

Two other volunteers joined Messmer to sing and dance along with the group. Bouncing along to "Proud Mary," every time Regency sang "big wheel keep on turning," the ladies' arms went around in circles.

Messmer said she had learned of the event by the Penn State Harrisburg Student Handbook, which is free to students at the beginning of each semester. She came because she loves music, and also sings. "Regency was great. They weren't just about singing, they also included the audience and danced," she said. "I had so much fun up there."

Regency also gave another individual a chance to share the

spotlight. After much coaxing, JoVon Hill, Communications major, sang "Amazing Grace," to the thunderous applause of the crowd. Regency also cheered and said that they were touched.

"I was nervous, my voice was shaking," Hill said. He likes many styles of music, and appreciates a cappella because "it shows the real voice."

The men of Regency have known each other since youth. "We've been doing this a long time, about twenty-five years," McNeill said. "We grew up in Maryland, in the Inner Harbor area . . . in the projects."

The group learned by singing everyday. McNeill said it seemed like he did not see a cappella groups anymore, and he wanted to keep the music style alive. "Sometimes we throw in musical accompaniment - a little something something, include the DJ a little bit," he said, "but mostly we only rely on our voices."

A Student Activities Grant made



Photo by Dan Berger

this concert available. Lois Cochran, staff assistant in the Office of Student Activities, was responsible for booking Regency.

Regency has won Entertainer of the Year on the college market

many times, has done national commercials, and won the New York Regionals in 1993. They have not competed in several years and have instead devoted their time to campus performances.

Get thy arse to the Renaissance Faire

By Maruja Rosario
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Once a year, the Shire of Mount Hope prepares its streets for the arrival of the most prestigious visitor the Shire has the pleasure to entertain. Merchants bark final

orders to their staff, entertainers practice their acts one last time, and all upon the Shire warm up their voices and their hearts as they wait in anticipation for the arrival of Elizabeth Regina Glorianna, Queen of England, Ireland, and the new world settlement of Jamestown, Va.

As the gates open and the Shire is rushed by the thousands of people who want to attend the annual festival, I must pause to tell you that the scene I just described is not a work of fiction. Instead, it is a typical day working at the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire.

The Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire started in 1980 as nothing more than a weekend jousting event held in a parking lot. The Faire has since outgrown the parking lot and has become one of the top ten renaissance faires nationwide and the longest, running for eleven weekends and earning itself the nickname of the "Forever Faire."

The Faire boasts of over 100 artisans, 20 different food vendors, and 80 unique shows. However the stage is not the only place where one will be entertained. Walking among the crowd at all times are actors who thrive on finding an unsuspecting patron and making them the star of an impromptu show.

Every season features an issue that Queen Elizabeth needs to

deal with while attending the festivities. This year, her cousin, Mary Stuart, Queen of Scotland, has been exiled from her country and has come to England seeking her cousin's mercy and her crown. Elizabeth, not wanting to disrupt the merriment of the festival, challenges Mary to a human chess match, which turns out to be not as timid as she would have liked it. In the end, it is off to the final joust where the Duke of Norfolk has a few surprises for Elizabeth, including a cannon.

The Faire is unlike any amusement park in the area. The Faire does away with almost everything from the modern world that it can. Shielded behind its walls, a patron will not see a television, radio, computer, or automobile the whole time they are upon the Shire. Instead, they can see the magic of a glassblower making glass, Shakespeare giving lessons on wooing, and pirates teasing patrons and earning their keep through their rowdy pirate auction. It is a wonderful escape from the reality of life, a time cap-



Photo courtesy of

The Faire ain't over till the fat lady sings. Renaissance Faire Queen sings for the crowd at Saturday's performance.

sule journey back to merry olde England and much simpler times.

Located just off the Lebanon/Lancaster Turnpike exit, the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire runs until October 24th.

Tickets are \$23.95, parking is free, and the festivities begin at 10:00 a.m. and end at 6:30 p.m. For more information or directions, check out the website at <http://www.parenfaire.com>.



Renaissance Faire actors joust in front of an adoring crowd. Dauls like this are frequent scenery at the Renaissance Faire.