

# T O M ' S T O M F O O L E R Y O F C I N E M A

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The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou \*\*\*\*\*

Touchstone Pictures presents a film directed by Wes Anderson. Written by Wes Anderson and Noah Baumbach. Starring Bill Murray, Owen Wilson, Angelica Huston, Cate Blanchett, Willem Dafoe, Jeff Goldblum, and Michael Gambon. Running time 118 minutes. Rated R for violence, language, drug use, and partial nudity.

Wes Anderson, one of cinema's many complex writers and directors, has once again created a masterpiece that needs to be explored on multiple levels. This is not just a comedy with Bill Murray motivating the audience to roar with laughter within five minutes. Although the film does have its fill of laughs, the emotional aspects and the plot's drama create more than just mindless

entertainment. The story involves Steve Zissou returning from a voyage where his friend was killed by a breed of shark never before documented. Instead of returning to the open sea to research the shark and its habits; Zissou vows to avenge his friend and destroy the creature. While making the preparations for this upcoming voyage Zissou forms a crew consisting of a man claiming to be his son and a reporter who intends to write a story on Zissou and his plan for the shark. Throughout the voyage, each character supplies Zissou with multiple viewpoints concerning his life and the mission. Murray plays Steve Zissou, a marine biologist who creates and produces documentaries based on his discoveries. Angelica Huston plays Zissou's estranged wife, Eleanor who provides the money for this voyage mainly out of her sympathy for him. Owen Wilson plays Ned Plimpton; a pilot for Air Kentucky who takes a leave of absence to crew for the man he thinks is his

father, and Jeff Goldblum plays Hennessy, a wealthy and successful competitive marine biologist.

The journey to find the mystical shark is anything but calm. Everything from pirates to mutinies happen and through watching Zissou handle these scenarios, the audience finally sees his true persona. He believes that he is a failure because he has an estranged wife, and a failing career. Yet in the minds of his crew, his wife, and his possible son, he is a hero who saves their lives and possesses courage beyond their wildest dreams.

Wes Anderson, who also wrote and directed Rushmore and the equally dysfunctional family in The Royal Tenenbaums, brilliantly directed this film. Using entirely hand-held cameras to create the feeling of documentary, it amazingly creates two unique feelings; one of footage being shown after the fact, and the other makes the audience feel that they are right there on board

the Zissou vessel, Belafonte. The film had the right ensemble cast, with one of the most stand-out performances was by Seu Jorge. Jorge plays crewman Pele who entertains himself and the crew when he is on duty by singing David Bowie covers in Portuguese. The songs he sings also supplement the mood and emotion of Zissou throughout the voyage. From beginning to end the film envelops and takes the audience into a world no one would probably want to experience ever again. The film makes the audience laugh and more importantly makes them think, which goes beyond mere entertainment. Murray once again shows that he is not just a comedic actor. Although this film is being released past the deadline for Academy Award consideration this year, this definitely will not be forgotten next year. Films like Life Aquatic are films will be enjoyed and remembered long after the latest action film or teen comedy. It is films like this that filmmaking is all about.



Photo courtesy of Google Images

Bill Murray and Owen Wilson star in director Wes Anderson's latest film, "The Life Aquatic."

## Local venue rocks hard

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great bands from around here. I like to think of the scene as a little more all-encompassing and I include York, Lancaster, and Lebanon in with it. There are a lot of bands from the area who are touring and putting out records. Bands like Running From Dharma, Derringer, The Commercials, August Burns Red, and Sadaharu. All of them for such a small area is impressive. A lot of big bands come through the area, too."

Bavaria is also doing central Pennsylvania a huge service by booking prominent indie bands from around the country. In doing so, he brings a much needed breath of fresh air and culture to Harrisburg. Bavaria talked about the utility of bringing in popular national bands. "I think it's good, not only for our venue but for the scene in general," he said, "It gives local bands a chance to open up for large nationals. It all gets these national bands aware of our scene, and our area."

If you are in a local band and are worried about your ability to get a gig at The Champion Ship, rest assured. "Local artists and big nationals can get in pretty easily," said Bavaria, "All they have to do is get in touch. It becomes a littler harder for touring bands that don't have a

name for themselves yet. We would love to help out all of those bands but there are just so many."

The Champion Ship is not limited to putting on punk and hardcore shows. "We have some plays coming up, we've had some hip hop, and we'd like to get more into doing art shows," Bavaria said, "We're a club that's primarily focused on indie music. We have a lot of genres of music being played here. We're open to whatever."

Bavaria and the crew plan to open a recording studio at The Champion Ship in the future. He plans for the studio to cater to local bands who want to get their material recorded without breaking their budget. Currently, they do offer digital recording for any band that plays a show at the club. They digitally record the performance and mix it in a professional studio, all for a great price.

"If we can give something back, keep it going, and help keep the scene alive then we're happy to do it."

The Champion Ship also has an indie record store inside that is open Monday through Saturday. The store sells music at low prices and offers a wide selection of punk, hardcore, indie, and emo. Visit The Champion Ship on the web to check out upcoming shows at [www.championship.com](http://www.championship.com).

## Comic legend wins partial judgment

By Larry McShane  
AP Writer

NEW YORK - Stan Lee, the legendary cartoon hero creator who gave Spider-Man his powerful "spidey-sense," is feeling a tingling of his own \_ in his wallet.

A Manhattan federal judge has

ruled that Lee is entitled to a potential multi-million-dollar payday from Marvel Enterprises off profits generated by the company's TV and movie productions \_ particularly the box-office smash "Spider-Man," which earned more than \$800 million worldwide, and its hugely successful

sequel.

"It could be tens of millions of dollars," Howard Graff, attorney for Lee, said Wednesday. "That's no exaggeration."

The Monday ruling from U.S. District Court Judge Robert W. Sweet found that Lee was entitled to a 10 percent share of the profits generated since November 1998 by Marvel productions involving the company's characters, including those created by the prolific cartoonist.

Sweet's decision didn't mention a dollar figure, although Graff was anticipating a windfall since the ruling also included DVD sales and certain merchandise. "The court essentially ruled in our favor virtually across the board," Graff said. "This is a sweeping victory for Mr. Lee."

John Turitzin, general counsel for Marvel, promised an appeal. Turitzin noted that Sweet ruled that Lee was not entitled to money from certain movie-based merchandise, and that the judge withheld judgment on money from joint-venture merchandise sales linked to the Spider-Man and Hulk movies.

"We intend to appeal those matters on which we did not prevail, and to continue to contest vigorously the claims on which the court did not rule," Turitzin said in a statement. The remaining issues could go before a jury if

the two sides can't reach a settlement.

The lawsuit marks an acrimonious final chapter in the long and productive relationship between Marvel and Lee, who spent the last six decades working for the company. During a storied career, Lee created indelible Marvel fixtures such as the X-Men, the Incredible Hulk, Daredevil and The Fantastic Four.

"Mr. Lee did not begin this lawsuit without a lot of thought and reservation," Graff said. "He was not pleased to do it. He was saddened by the fact that things came to the point where he had to actually start a lawsuit against Marvel."

The 82-year-old Lee filed suit in November 2002, claiming an agreement he had signed four years earlier entitled him to 10 percent of Marvel's haul from its television and movie productions, as well as merchandising deals.

He already earns a \$1 million a year salary from Marvel as part of the agreement, but felt that he was getting stiffed on additional income due him under the deal.

The money involved was substantial, particularly involving the Spider-Man movie. Marvel eventually collected more than \$50 million in profits from "Spider-Man" earnings.

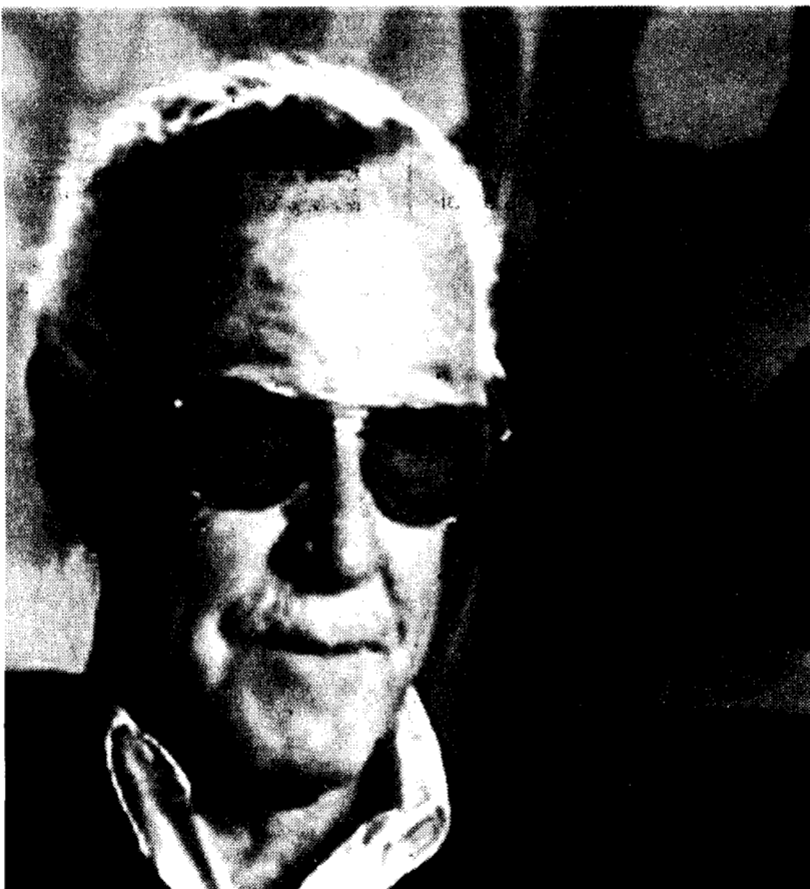


Photo courtesy of www.countdowntowednesday.com

Stan Lee, creator of the Spiderman comic, was recently awarded a judgement entitling him to profits from the Spiderman movies.

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