

Tom's Tomfoolery of Cinema

By Thomas LeClair
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Constantine 1/2 *

Warner Bros. Pictures presents a film starring Keanu Reeves, Rachel Weisz, Shia LeBeouf, Tilda Swinton, and Djimon Hounsou and directed by Francis Lawrence. Written by Kevin Brodbin and Frank Cappello, based on characters from the Hellblazer graphic novels. Runningtime: 120 minutes. Rated R (for violence and demonic images).

What *The Matrix* is for philosophy and science fiction, *Constantine* is for biblical folklore of angels and demons. There is also a link between these two films, Keanu Reeves. Reeves portrays John Constantine, a man who exorcises and kills demons in order to preserve and protect humanity. Why? Some might say that is God's plan for him, others would say since he tried committing suicide in the past, he's trying to save himself from

an eternity in hell. Constantine is aware that cancer is getting the best of him (he smokes at least a pack of cigarettes a day) and doesn't have much time left.

Rachel Weisz plays twin sisters Angela and Isabel Dodson. Angela is a police detective while Isabel is in a mental institution. Both women have a connection that allows them to see the world according to Hell. Isabel is seen exiting her chamber, going up the stairs to the roof and, to everyone who sees the security tapes, commits suicide. Why didn't anyone stop her? I don't think in insane asylums orderlies actually allow patients to exit their rooms and cavort on the roof. Angela, knowing her sister was a good Catholic, believes Isabel would not have committed suicide, and must have been pushed off the roof by a demon. She then decides to consult John Constantine on this issue.

Tilda Swinton plays the angel Gabriel in a very intriguing fashion. Swinton is known for films such as *Orlando* in which her characters have no definitive gender. In this performance

Swinton shows Constantine how it is possible for good angels to go bad a la Lucifer. In one of biblical folklore's most daring attempts to be different, Swinton actually plays a fallen Gabriel.

Constantine introduces Angela to Hell by forcibly submerging her in a bathtub full of water until she passes out. I'd like to see what happens when she finds herself against a criminal in the same situation. Angela tells Constantine that she and her sister shared this gift between them, but when everyone thought Isabel was crazy, she had the ability to forget the gift, leaving her sister to become the guinea pig for the doctors. Constantine now has to fight demons in order to bring Isabel's spirit out from Hell and into Heaven where she belongs.

As if these weren't enough plot points, how does this new demon arrive? In Mexico, a small band of friends are routing through an abandoned junkyard and come across the buried Spear of Destiny. That's right all you archaeologists; the spear that actually killed Jesus Christ, which

has been missing since World War II, is found 60 years later in Mexico, wrapped in a clean, almost mint condition Nazi flag. So what happens to this guy who finds it? In a state of shock and brainwashing, he walks away from his friends and is instantly nailed by a speeding car. The car is completely destroyed and this guy stands up without a scratch and instantly knows to go to Los Angeles. Because where else could you have the ultimate fight of good and evil, but in the city of angels. So this guy goes to LA and turns people into demons and Neo, sorry, Constantine kills him.

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If you're interested being the Cap Times film critic next semester, email captimes@psu.edu!



Photo courtesy of movies.yahoo.com

Keanu Reeves - cigarette always in hand - is John Constantine, who has literally been to hell and back in Warner Bros. Pictures' *Constantine*, based on the DC-Vertigo comic book 'Hellblazer.'

Cornerstone cozy with music, art, coffee

CORNERSTONE cont'd from 9

friendly specialties like White Christmas and Nuttin' But Kisses. Coffee may be purchased by the pound, and friendly employees will happily grind it for you if you ask nicely.

Several years ago, Sue and Al Pera, the shop's owners, came up with a simple, delicious lunch menu that changes day-to-day using seasonal ingredients, and put Cornerstone on the map as an easy, quick place for homemade soups like roasted tomato and basil or potato and leek, as well as a daily choice of three or four sandwiches, quiches, and other favorites like quesadillas. Those with a sweet tooth can satisfy the same at any time of the day - baked goods are abundant and fresh, from the decidedly decadent Mississippi mud pies to the baklava to cranberry biscotti.

The most recent broadening of the Cornerstone horizon is the Cornerstone Culinary Kitchen, a place so fabulous its chef Chuck LaPorta cooks something divine on abc27 every month. The Kitchen offers fun, hands on cooking classes that vary month to month and are a great alternative to going out to dinner at the weekend - many of the classes are BYOB and often feature specific cuisines, such as

sushi or southern Italian methods. Check out the website listed below for a complete schedule.

T.S. Eliot wrote:

"We shall not cease from exploration, And the end of all our exploring, Will be to arrive where we started, And know the place for the first time."

Would Eliot cringe at his beautiful words being used in a piece about a coffee shop? Or might he agree that those places that cling to us almost as fervently as we cling to them teach us in the most unexpected way how to live, and are sometimes the only consolation when the frontier seems insurmountable. For every visit to Cornerstone is unique, yet the same. Do stop and have a cup.

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www.thecornerstonecoffee.com

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Thursday 6:30am to 10:00pm

Friday 6:30am to 11:00pm

Saturday 7:30am to 11:00pm

Local DJ visits PSH

By Jim Dougherty
Staff Reporter
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Penn State Harrisburg is always connecting itself to the outside world each and every day. Feb. 23 proved to be no different, as Chris Tyler, a popular disc jockey on "The River" 97.3 FM's "Rock and Roll Breakfast," visited PSH to talk to members of the WPSH Radio Club. Tyler, who co-hosts with Dina Joseph on the highly rated River morning show, provided instruction and guidance to the fledgling PSH Radio Club.

Relating his experience in college radio at Syracuse University "many moons" ago, Tyler shared vivid war stories from his early radio days in dealing with late night gigs, unhappy administrators and over-zealous censors. In fact, he indicated that his business experience in the advertising end of radio "back in the day" helped him prepare for his current role as program manager of The River. Tyler detailed his instrumental role in the design, development and implementation of The River's "classic rock" format, which now can be heard in most major cities.

Chris Tyler abandoned the PSH auditorium podium and pulled up a chair to better communicate

with the eager WPSH members. His comfortable and colloquial radio style clearly came across as he easily joked with WPSH officers, members and guests. In fact, Tyler coaxed a WPSH studio tour from club members to inspect the facilities. He marveled at the high tech setup and considerable music inventory in the WPSH studios, but expressed puzzled amazement that WPSH has not yet gone on the air this academic year.

"Just get on the air, whether low-frequency, web-cast or even in-house cable broadcast...the format will follow...and so will listeners," said Tyler.

Good advice from one of the most popular DJs of one of the most popular radio stations in south-central Pennsylvania. WPSH members and the PSH administration would do well to heed his advice.

To find out more about getting involved with WPSH, Penn State Harrisburg's radio station, contact Station Manager Zachary Bailey at zsb105@psu.edu.

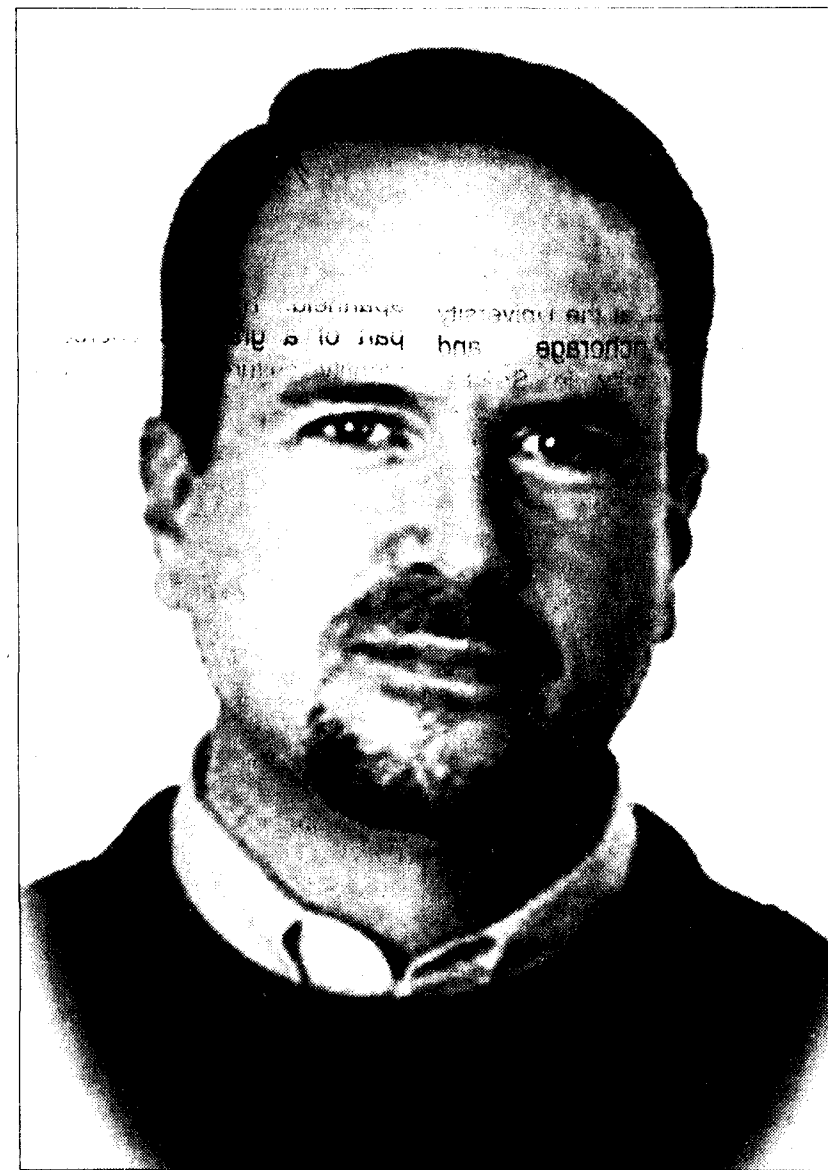


Photo courtesy of The River Web site

Chris Tyler, a popular DJ on "The River" 97.3 FM's "Rock and Roll Breakfast," visited the WPSH Radio Club on Feb. 23.

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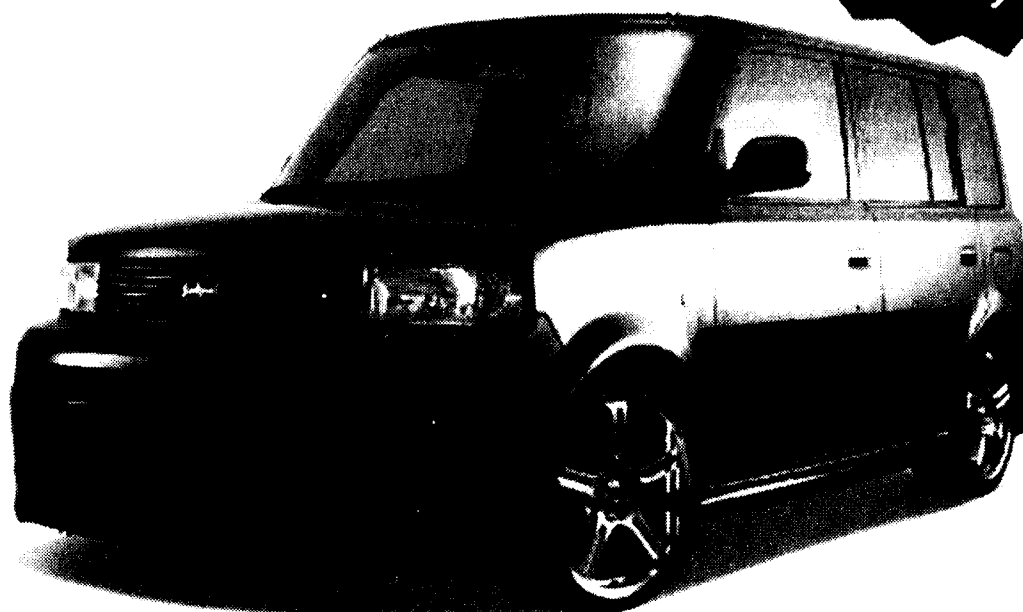
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