

Sarz's Media Virus

The Brothers Grimm

I give it 2.5 Outbreaks out of 5

The Details: Dimension Films presents a film directed by Terry Gilliam and written by Ehren Kruger. The film has a running time of 118 minutes and is rated PG-13 for violence, frightening sequences and brief suggestive material.

The Low Down: Wilhelm and Jacob Grimm are traveling con-artists playing off of people's fears for a quick buck. During their travels, they manage to get forced into a real-life fairytale involving the disappearance of maidens from a small town surrounded by enchanted woods. Red Riding Hood, The Gingerbread Man, and many other classic stories' origins are fictitiously explained throughout.

The Dirty: Wow... For once Sarz

is speechless. And I don't really think that this is a good thing. Have you ever walked out of a movie theater and was unsure if you enjoyed the film you had just seen? Well that is what happened with *The Brothers Grimm*.

When Terry Gilliam directs a film, you usually expect great things. His past credits include *The Adventures of Baron Munchhausen*, *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, *Twelve Monkeys*. So why was this movie so average?

It is hard to point a finger at what went wrong with this film. I believe the main problems all deal with casting and setting. The whole casting issue almost makes me believe Terry Gilliam threw darts at a board of hip Hollywood actors to pick his cast. Mr. Gilliam made some really good choices, mixed with some really bad ones. Heath Ledger did a wonderful job playing Jacob Grimm, the brother seeking

redemption for a naive mistake in his youth. Matt Damon, Wilhelm Grimm, on the other hand cannot act his way out of a wet paper bagged cliché. You are never supposed to dislike your main characters. Heck, *Scarface* was a bad guy and people still were able to get behind him. So you know you have a real problem when the main character is so easily hated. Mr. Gilliam, what were you thinking by giving him the lead? Did Hollywood force you to make such a bad mistake for marketing reasons? Either way, Matt Damon was not the correct choice.

The second problem with the film is almost as glaring as the first. When it comes to Terry Gilliam directing, you expect a fantastical journey of the senses. This, although based on fairytales and set in an enchanted forest, was just not quite fantastic enough. When you pay eight dollars to see a fantasy film, it better immerse

you in a fantasy. It indeed falls short by never quite letting you release from reality.

In the film's defense, it does have some things going for it, mainly the idea of being able to sit through it and pick out what fairytale they are referencing. It is almost as though every storybook character from your childhood makes a cameo throughout the film. This is entertaining and would make a great drinking game.

Another strong point of the film is that even though it is a fairly straightforward plot and it ends exactly where you expect it to end, it does take some unseen twists and make you feel as though you don't know what is coming next. It's like taking the scenic route around a film instead of going straight to the already predictable end.

Overall I still do not know if I liked it and would recommend renting it when it comes video or cable.



Photo by Francois Duhamel/grimmfilm.com

Heath Ledger and Matt Damon as Wilhelm and Jacob Grimm in Dimension Film's *The Brothers Grimm*.

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Sarz's Media Virus

The 40 Year Old Virgin

I give it 4.5 Outbreaks out of 5

The Details: Universal Pictures presents a film directed by Judd Apatow and written by Judd Apatow and Steve Carell. The film has a running time of 116 minutes and is rated R for pervasive sexual content, language and some drug use.

The Low Down: Andy is a 40 year old geek who collects toys, plays video games, works in an electronics store, and has never had sex. When his coworkers find out, they make it their personal mission to find Andy a girl. When Andy falls in love, his fear of sex causes more problems than it's worth.

The Dirty: Ok, where do I start? Funniest friggin movie I've seen in a long time! I laughed, I laughed, and I laughed some more... And when I thought I was done laughing, it started all over again.

Steve Carell does an outstanding job playing the awkward outcast. Most people know at least one person who is socially devoid, so it is easy to see how well he truthfully portrays the part. His ineptitude at interacting with the opposite sex, or people in general, makes him shine as an underdog. It makes you want to hop into the film and give him a hand. If Steve Carell nailed one part in his entire career, this is it.

The plot is actually fairly

believable. I wouldn't be surprised if this film were taken from actual events. I had a friend who made it to about 27 years old before he lost his virginity and I saw a lot of my friend in the character of Andy. The characters easily relate to friends that most of us have in real life, and this is a main strength. If it weren't for the supporting cast representing such a broad range of personalities, the film would have died early on. I found it extremely easy to relate to almost every character in the film. When this happens, it makes the whole experience much more enjoyable and comfortable.

The only weak point the film has is that it is in fact a comedy. And as we all know, comedies just aren't as funny the second time around. The film has a lot of gag humor, which may only really work the first time you see

the film. There are also a lot of jokes that catch you off guard and have you laughing your heart out because you did not see it coming. Something tells me this film may fall short of having the replay value of something like *Billy Madison*, but in no way should this stop you from seeing it in the theater and then picking it up on DVD.

www.the40yearoldvirgin.com

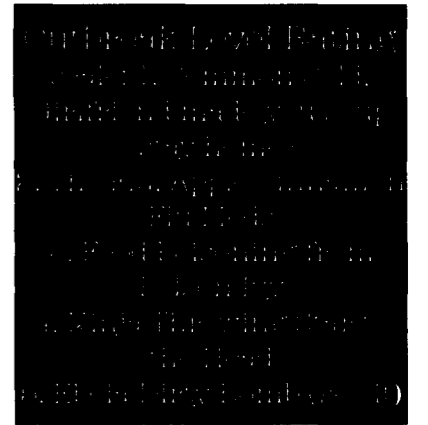
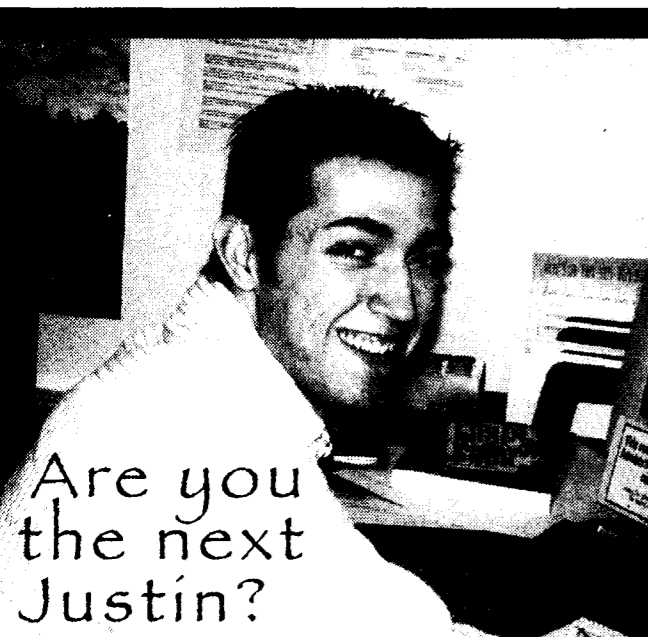


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Steve Carell stars as the 40 year old named Andy whose coworkers make it their personal mission to find him a girl.



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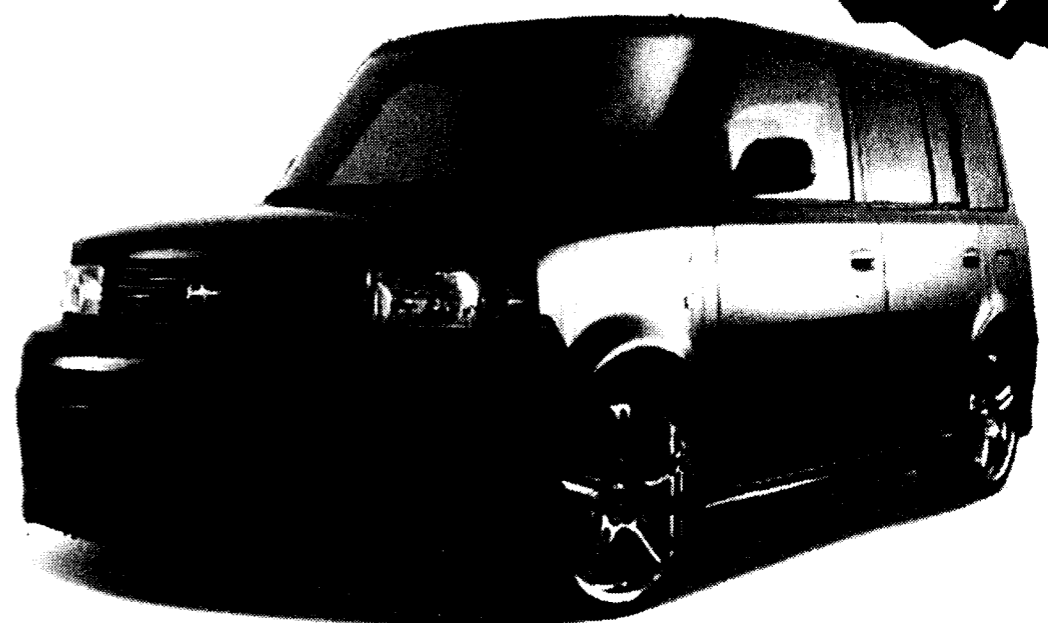
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