

SarZ's Media Virus

Slightly Contagious Film Reviews For The Average Joe

Datemovie

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The Details: Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation presents a film starring Alyson Hannigan and Adam Campbell, written and directed by Jason Friedberg and Aaron Seltzer. The film has a running time of 83 minutes and is rated PG-13 for continuous crude and sexual humor, including language.

The Low Down: A guy and a girl fall in love amidst hundreds of fart jokes.

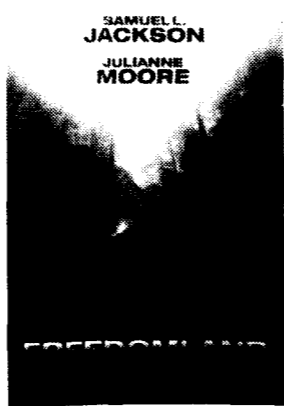
The Dirty: I think my eyes are bleeding; nope they are just tearing up out of pain. Last time I checked comedies were supposed to make you laugh, I think I giggled once, but the rest of the film was some strange method of torture that made me contemplate getting up and leaving. Let me explain to you before I go any further that I do love goofy comedies. I have a soft spot for films that spoof other films and work

in a sketch comedy type fashion. I honestly believed it could be somewhat amusing because of films like Scary Movie. Well I was wrong. Try combining the plot of My Big Fat Greek Wedding, and Meet The Fockers and then throw in a bunch of random references that require you to have seen every bad date movie from the past 10 years, and voila you have a big hunk of steaming crap. Where this film failed was its choice of subject matter and jokes. When a spoof film spoofs a comedy it is much more difficult to get a laugh out of the audience. If the films it spoofs are serious and the writers can find something funny in that, then it may actually make you laugh. That is why Scary Movie did so well, as well as classics like Space Balls, and Robin Hood: Men in Tights. This film can't hold a candle to any of these other films.

Avoid this film like the plague, don't rent it, don't watch it on cable, heck don't even watch the preview. Wait, the preview was the only funny part, and it is also the beginning of this film. Watch the preview with the girl dancing then be done with it, trust me. All I have to say is "Mel Brookes where are you? We need you more now than ever before!"



Freedomland



The Details: Sony Pictures presents a film starring Samuel L. Jackson and Julianne Moore, written by Richard Price and directed by Joe Roth. The film has a running time of 113 minutes and is rated R for language and some violent content.

The Low Down: A woman's child goes missing after a car jacking in the projects forces a complete lock down and racial strife.

The Dirty: Somewhere in my diluted mind I kept hoping and expecting some amazing twist to happen but I stopped believing that halfway through the film. It's sad that a film with so much hype behind it could fall so flat and uninspired. Maybe the studio executives knew this was going to flop and decided to promote it as much as they could in order to make some money off of it. Well they made six dollars off of

me, and five dollars per head for the room full of senior citizens that were filling the theater. I could see this film being on the Lifetime network and being something my mother would enjoy, but I don't see it as anything special. Another major downfall of this film is that it keeps going when it should be over, and there is tons of unnecessary footage. In other words, this director should never have control over editing his own films. Tell me the story and don't waste my time.

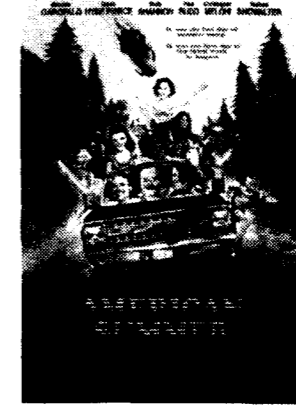
One other problem I had with Freedomland was the title. The story only takes you into the place called Freedomland for about five minutes, and in all reality has less to do with the place in the film than anything else.

The only saving grace this film has is Samuel L. Jackson who gives a great performance as Detective Lorenzo Council. Yes, his name is Council and this adds some confusion because it almost sounds like it could be his job title and not his name. Other than Jackson no one else seems to knock out a really good performance. If you must watch this film wait for it on cable, I can't justify paying any additional amount of money to view this.



Lost Treasures: Films you haven't seen but should

Wet Hot American Summer (2001)



The Details: USA Films presents a film starring Janeane Garofalo, David Hyde Pierce, Michael Showalter, and Michael Ian Black, directed by David Wain, and written by David Wain and Michael Showalter. The film has a running time of 97 minutes and is Rated R for strong sexual content, language and a drug sequence.

The Low Down: A day in the life of camp counselors and campers on the last day of the summer.

The Dirty: This is how comedy should be. Anyone who has ever seen the shows *The State*, *Reno 911*, or *Stella* will truly appreciate this film. It is random nonsense comedy at its finest. Some may

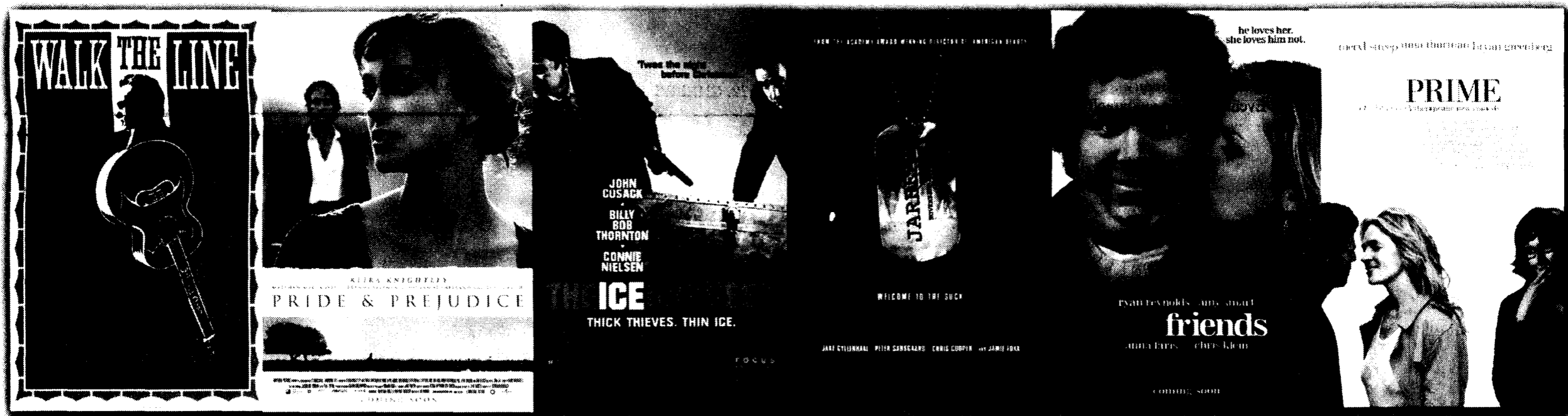
call it stupid, some may call it annoying, but others will hail it with sheer genius. If you want to watch a film whose comedy styling is extremely bizarre and based almost entirely on wordplay, smart idiocy, and slapstick then I recommend picking this one up. This is a comedy that people had fun making and it shows.

The performances shine for what they are and make it enjoyable to watch the whole way through. Not once will you question how well one of the actors pull their parts off, mainly because it is so ridiculous that you won't know how someone should act. This is why the film is so great, you just have to toss reality out the window and have fun for an hour and a half.

If you are looking for an Oscar winning performance, it isn't here, but what is here is lots of turn your brain off and have fun. I recommend turning your brain off for a bit and renting or buying this one. You can find it at Best Buy or Circuit City for \$12.99 or buy it used on Amazon.com for under \$10.



IMDB.com's new DVD releases



Feb. 28, 2006

Walk the Line

A chronicle of country music legend Johnny Cash's life, from his early days on an Arkansas cotton farm to his rise to fame with Sun Records in Memphis, where he recorded alongside Elvis Presley and Jerry Lee Lewis.



Feb. 28, 2006

Pride and Prejudice

The story is based on Jane Austen's novel about five sisters in Georgian England. Their lives are turned upside down when a wealthy young man and his best friend arrive in their neighborhood.



Feb. 28, 2006

The Ice Harvest

A dim-bulb lawyer attempts a Christmas Eve crime, hoping to swindle the local mob out of some money. But his partner, a strip club owner, might have different plans for the cash.



March 7, 2006

Jarhead

Based on former Marine Anthony Swofford's best-selling 2003 book about his pre-Desert Storm experiences in Saudi Arabia and about his experiences fighting in Kuwait.



March 7, 2006

Just Friends

This story follows a man who comes face-to-face with old high school crush -- a woman whose rejection of him turned him into a ferocious womanizer.



March 7, 2006

Prime

A career driven professional from Manhattan (Uma Thurman) who is wooed by a young painter, who also happens to be the son of her psychoanalyst (Meryl Streep)



Games of old for a new audience

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Retro seems to be all the rage these days. From the rebirth of late model cars to fashion designs, retro look has taken center stage. Now with the Sonic Mega Collection from Sega video gaming is getting on the retro bandwagon.

Amidst a market of high definition graphics and next generation systems most older generation gamers are frustrated at how video games have lost the simplicity of their roots and given into the demand for instantaneous visual gratification.

Today's gamers drool over the thought of the latest Madden football game, which has such graphic detail it allows you to see the sweat on the player's brow. Fans of Final Fantasy VII have been fanatically crying for a re-release of the game on the new Playstation 3 platform ever since last year's E3 demo. The demo featured no new level of game play

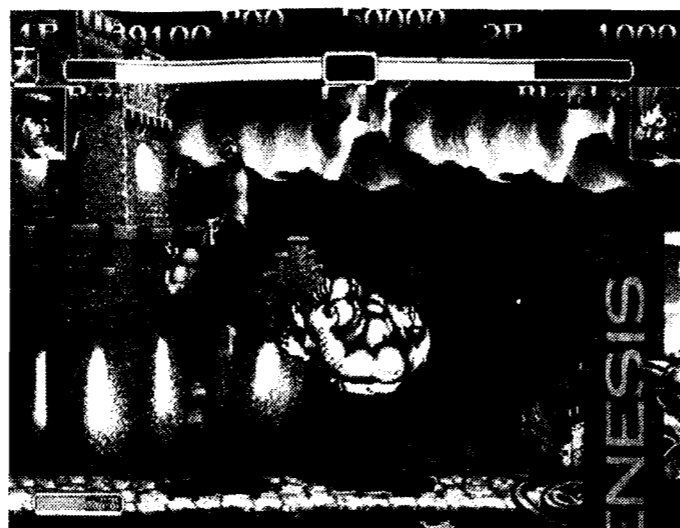
or plot changes, but instead offered an appealing eye candy upgrade to the graphics.

With so much attention being placed on how a game looks and less on how a game plays there has been little expansion in recent years with new ideas and concepts. Most long time gamers that are now in their mid-twenties can recall a time when Pong on the Atari was amazing, Italian plumbers saved a princess, or a blue hedgehog saved wild animals while collecting bling.

Sega has given gamers of old a chance to return to their roots without needing to find an old, sold-as-is Sega Genesis on EBay. Sega released the Sonic Mega Collection some time ago, but it has spurred a return to classic 2D gaming at a time when games are nothing more than sequels to previous installments.

Some of the best selling releases in

recent months have been Resident Evil 4, Silent Hill 4, Devil May Cry 3, Prince



Street Fighter and Sonic are just two games that throwback to games of years past.

of Persia 2 and Tony Hawk: American Wasteland. While all of these games are excellent to play they are similar to newer model cars. Same basic engine and minor tweaks to the frame, but it's

the accessories that count.

Sonic Mega Collection is available on all three of the major systems and features every Sonic game ever made, with the exception of Sonic CD. All of



Photos courtesy of google.com

the original 16 bit releases run with perfect emulation and a few minor tweaks that prevent slow down.

When the game is initially run on the console there will be a few game options and a lot of question marks. The question marks are locked secrets like videos, interviews and other games that are opened based on how far your game progresses. Of course, since the compilation is in its original form, that means no saving the game either so for a player to unlock any option you need to set aside a decent amount of time to play through an entire game.

Sega Genesis games are not the only ones that are emulated on this compilation. All of the Sonic games that made it onto Game Gear have also been brought over.

Music and game play remain exactly the same as in their original releases, and before long a player will be humming along to the tunes.

Sega is not the only company that has gone retro in their releases. More recently in gaming releases was the Capcom Classics Collection. This title has 22 of Capcom's greatest hits and first original releases.

The original Street Fighter, Bionic Commando and Ghosts 'N Goblins are just some of the releases that appear on this single game.

This is another non system-specific title and it is a great throw back to 2D gamers.

While the game does leave out certain titles that hard core fans would have loved to see make the cut, Capcom has gained favor with classic gamers that have had to get rid of old systems, but still love their original eight bit and 16-bit games.

Put away the twelve-button, dual joystick, vibrating controller and get lost in a simple game that will challenge you greater than any new 3D adventure. Lose yourself and pass the time by playing a game where every button does just one thing: jump.