

Sarz's Media Virus

Slightly Contagious Film Reviews For The Average Joe

V for Vendetta



The Details: Warner Bros. presents a film starring Natalie Portman, Hugo Weaving, and John Hurt, directed by James McTeigue, and written by The Wachowski Brothers. The film has a running time of 132 minutes and is rated R for strong violence and some language.

The Low Down: A masked freedom fighter uses radical tactics to combat the evil, all controlling government of a futuristic United Kingdom.

The Dirty: Wow, who would of thought that "Agent Smith" from the *Matrix* trilogy could be such a great lead for a film? You won't recognize his ugly mug behind the mask, but that is in fact him underneath the "Sophisticated Ronald McDonald on Crack Mask." I guess you can't really gauge his acting all that well, mainly because he doesn't have to deal with facial expressions, but what he does do is bring a very

interesting character to life, and he does it in such a way that you can believe and enjoy every moment of his on screen time.

This is one of a few films that do a good job of transforming a comic book into a movie that you can take seriously. The dark roots of the graphic novel are felt throughout, but at the same time you are able to forget what the original source material actually was.

Another great strength of this film is its scene composition; interesting locations framed up in such a way that you can sit back and just enjoy the eye candy.

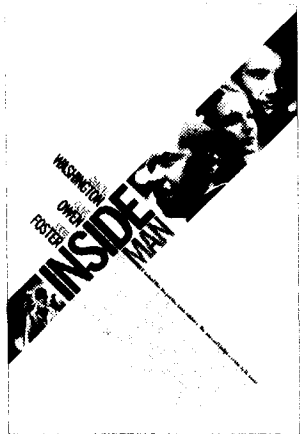
One problem with this film is its continuity. Last time I checked it did not take a year for a bruise to heal, yet somehow throughout the course of the film Natalie Portman's character sports a dent to her head that just never seems to heal.

Somehow in my enjoyment of this film I overlooked this, but it was quickly pointed out to me by some of my compadres. Another issue which fall right along the same lines is that time does not seem to make sense in the film. It is supposed to take place over a one-year period, but somehow you find it hard to believe that a year has passed in the film, or even that a month has passed for that matter.

Overall it is a theater film. See it now while you still can enjoy it the way its meant to be seen.



Inside Man



The Details: Universal Pictures presents a film starring Denzel Washington, Clive Owen, and Jodie Foster, directed by Spike Lee, and written by Russell Gewirtz. The film has a running time of 129 minutes and is rated R for language and some violent images.

The Low Down: A cop is forced to deal with a bank robber who has taken hostages to pull off the perfect bank heist.

The Dirty: Spike Lee, when will you cease to amaze. Now this isn't your best film, but you know what, I still liked it. I still enjoyed my time spent. That said please allow me to address my readers, if you could please give us a few minutes.

I kissed Spike's butt a little, sorry about that, his stuff is usually hit or miss, but when it hits, it hits hard, and I'd have to call this one a small broken bone in your non-dominant hand. There is no wonderful social commentary like in previous

"joints", there are no cool color schemes, no exceptional framing of shots, but there is an interesting story and some decent acting to back it up.

What we have here is your typical heist film with an interesting pay off. It's no *Usual Suspects* payoff, but it will have you asking, "who is Kaiser Soze?" or at least "did we forget where we put Kaiser Soze?"

There are some parts of the film that tend to drag a bit, and Jodie Foster's character is next to useless in the development of the story, but where it lacks it makes up for in cleverness. I must say that this is one of the most well thought out criminal acts that I have ever witnessed, and I don't think you will ever hear about a bank robbery this clever in real life. Then again I think I am giving real life bank robbers too much credit with that last statement, because last time I checked handing a stick up note to a teller written on the back of your cable bill seems to be the common fare for today's criminals.

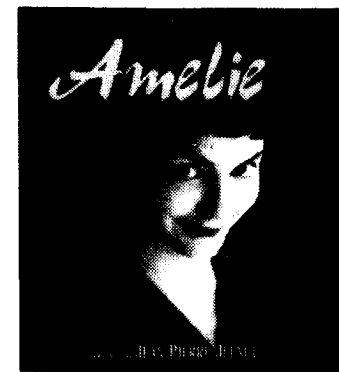
Overall the film is a good waste of time, and it should hold its weight on DVD. I recommend seeing it either in the theater or on DVD when it comes out.

OK Spike, sorry about that. I was just telling them they should definitely check it out, and that you are all that is awesome, and other great things like that. Anyway, I have to go write another review, have a good one.



Lost Treasures: Films you haven't seen but should

Amelie (Le Fabuleux destin d'Amélie Poulain) (2001)



The Details: Miramax Films presents a film starring Audrey Tautou and Mathieu Kassovitz, directed by Jean-Pierre Jeunet, and written by Guillaume Laurant and Jean-Pierre Jeunet. The film has a running time of 122 minutes and is rated R for sexual content.

The Low Down: Amelie discovers a box of childhood treasures and decides to return them to their rightful owner. After this experience she devotes her time to helping those around her and falls in love along the way.

The Dirty: "Come on Sarz," you say, "you don't expect us to believe that you even watched a French love story. You're kidding right?" I must say that even though it sounds like a joke, it isn't.

I have never seen a more engaging piece of art in my life, subtitles and all. When I first popped this film into my DVD player I said to myself, "oh god, this thing is in French, and it looks like a chick flick." To be honest

I almost didn't watch it, but it came highly recommended, so I gave it a chance. All I can say is that this film is pure genius, it is amazing from beginning to end, and I have never seen anything that could rival it.

There are so many strong points that I don't even know where to begin. This is the most amazing use of color I have ever seen. The color themes in this film keep your eyes steadily glued to the screen begging for more. Each and every shot is carefully composed and would easily make a wonderful portfolio for the finest of photographers. The story is engaging, funny, sweet, and dramatic all in one amazing tale that keeps your attention and holds it long after the film has ended. The acting is perfect, and when I say perfect, I mean perfect. When you watch a foreign film you know that the acting is dead on when you can understand the emotions of the scene without even reading the subtitles. The casting even seemed to perfectly match the faces of the actors to what you would expect the characters to look like.

This film is perfect. I recommend buying this film, stealing this film, renting this film, anything this film, as long as it involves this film. The best price I could find was \$8.99 used on Half.com but someone beat me to it.



IMDB.com's new DVD releases

KRISTEN POOLE for THE CAPITAL TIMES



April 10
Greatest Game Ever Played

A golf drama based on the true story of the 1913 US Open, where 21-year-old Francis Ouimet defeated reigning champion Harry Vardon.



April 10
Hostel

Three backpackers head to a Slovakian city that promises to meet their hedonistic expectations, with no idea of the hell that awaits them.



April 10
Event Horizon

A rescue crew investigates a spaceship that disappeared into a black hole and has now returned... with someone or something new on-board.



April 18
Casanova

Heath Ledger plays the fabled romantic as a man who, after failing to win the affection of a particular Venetian woman, strives to discover the real meaning of love.



April 18
Shopgirl

A film adaptation of Steve Martin's novel about a complex love triangle between a bored salesgirl, a wealthy businessman and an aimless young man.



April 18
Match Point

At a turning point in his life, a former tennis pro falls for a femme-fatal type who happens to be dating his friend and soon-to-be brother-in-law.



Subsistence sets the bar high

By **MATTHEW MAHONEY**
Staff Reporter
MLM5039@PSU.EDU

Metal Gear Solid 3: Subsistence is a re-release of the game MGS3: Snake Eater, which features everything from the original plus enough extras to keep this game in your PS2 for months straight.

For those that have never played the Metal Gear Solid series, it is a game that involves tactical espionage. Although there are a slew of weapons at your disposal the object of the game is to sneak around enemies without being caught. The weapons gained through the game are used to fight battles where sneaking isn't an option. At the end of the game a rating is given for how well a

player did. To get the best rating a player must go through the entire game without killing, saving, or being seen.

Following the plot line of the original Snake Eater, Subsistence places Naked Snake, not Solid Snake, in the middle of a covert Cold War mission in Russia. The time line is set in the 1960s and if the player hasn't figured it out already this is the prequel to everything Metal Gear in the gaming world.

The game follows the usual tactics of gaining weapons as you go that are used for specific purposes. The tranquilizer gun is also available in addition to the directional microphone to hear where enemies are coming from.

One of the biggest changes to the game play is there is no radar

in the upper right hand corner of the screen. It's the 1960s; there is no such thing as personal radar devices!

Now Snake needs to get around enemies in wide open jungle areas that don't have many crawl spaces or objects to hide under. To get around without being seen Snake has different types of camouflage and face paints at his disposal to blend in with the surrounding terrain. The higher the camo index the more hidden Snake is. With the right camo configuration, an enemy can stand right in front of Snake while he hides in the tall grass.

Gone are the little round cans of rations now too. As suggested from the original title, food must be foraged and scrounged from the jungle. Snakes, birds, tree frogs, and spiders are just a small portion

of what Snake can eat. A good way to think of it is if it moves, Snake can eat it.

Eating doesn't replenish life either. Eating replenishes Snake's stamina. Snake's life will regenerate over time, but the more stamina Snake has the quicker his life bar will regenerate.

Subsistence is made unique from the original Snake Eater for one main reason: the online play. Metal Gear Solid has gone online in the form of Subsistence. While sometimes the online play strays away from the original form of the game it can be very interesting all the same. In some online games, the action moves too fast and the feeling of sneaking around and using espionage is lost, but for the most part the ideals of the game remain the same.

Players can choose from mass death matches, rescue missions, sneaking missions, and team death matches. Each one has their own objectives that play on different parts of the game.

The extras of this game also include the entire two games that first started the series. Metal Gear, made originally for Nintendo, and Metal Gear: Snake's Revenge, made for a long forgotten system called MSX.

There is a lot more that could be said about this game, but I don't

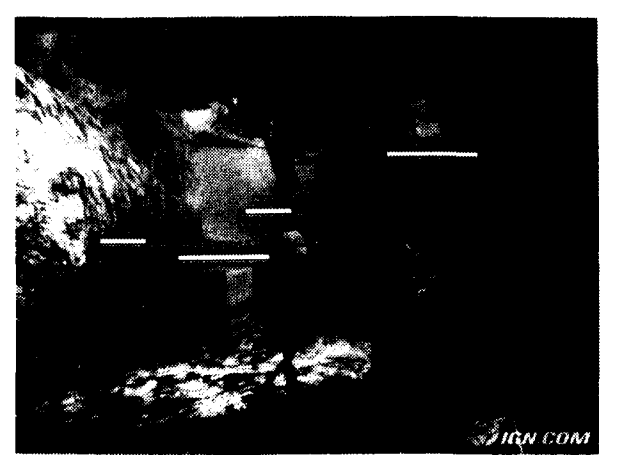


Photo courtesy of IGN.com

The new game in the Metal Gear Solid series, Subsistence, keeps up the hype of the previous games.

have time for that. It's time to play already! The final verdict: Buy this immediately, even if this is your first time in the Metal Gear Solid series.