

Movies

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introduction of the villain Sand Man is a strong one, and Venom's first appearance is nothing short of spectacular, the rest of the film is full of the same Peter and Mary Jane dinners and one very big missed opportunity. After being attacked by the space goo that creates venom, Peter discovers his evil side. The filmmakers had a golden opportunity here to really explore Spider-Man and Peter's dark side, but what they did, instead, is more than a little off the wall. Peter explores more of his annoying side than his dark side. He dances in the street as if he was John Travolta in "Saturday Night Fever" and he is snooty to everyone. What the filmmakers were thinking is unknown, but it is well known that the audiences were left scratching their heads. Even worse, at the end of the film, nothing is solved. Every one is right back where they started. It truly is a shame that a franchise that riveted audiences in the beginning seems to have lost its ability to spin that magical cinematic web.

Hollywood's Ups and Downs

By Trevon Pegram
News Editor

With this summer's main line-up of blockbuster movies being a slew of sequels, the question to be asked is "Has Hollywood run out of ideas?" Not saying that some of these sequels weren't good but, just how many times can you make the same movie with same basic plot structure?

Some movies are worthy of having sequels especially when they are extremely good movies. But for the same handful of movies to continuously hammer at the formula that has worked before becomes a bit boring. This is true especially when there are new and more creative stories out there to tell. Hollywood studios have gotten comfortable with continuously putting out movies that are just mediocre.

Gone are the days when Hollywood studios would challenge each other to put out bigger and better movies. The film industry used to be a form of art and now it's just something used to make a profit. Many of the Hollywood studios no longer care what it is they put out as long as they can reap some sort of financial



Of the many blockbuster movies that cease to stop making sequels, Spider-Man, left, is no exception. Studio Executives have signed on to create at least three more films to the web-slinging pest. Likewise, DreamWorks has announced Shrek 4 and Shrek 5 in the near future. Disney, on the other hand, has yet to disclose any information regarding Pirates of the Caribbean, right, or its future.

gain from it. Many of the best movies now are coming from outside of the Hollywood system; they are movies made by independent filmmakers. Hollywood sees this, that is why they go to the big film festivals like Sundance to see which films they can buy up and release under their studio. Hollywood can't fully be to blame for this lack of originality that they are experiencing because if people didn't go see these movies they wouldn't be able to make any money.

Hollywood will probably continue to put out movies that are lackluster because they can count on people to spend money to see them. In the end isn't that the Hollywood studio's reasons for making a movie- to get a financial profit?

Hope you enjoy your time at the movies watching things like "Pirates of the Caribbean 10", "Spider-Man 6" and "Shrek 12" because that's what you'll get if Hollywood continues to put out more and more film sequels. Until

Hollywood gets back to the real reason for filmmaking and that's to create something that's an art form.

Trilingual Hip-Hop

By Jade Johnson
Staff Writer

On Wednesday September 19, 2007, at 9:00 P.M the Wiestling Center was heated up with a vivacious live performance from D.C.'s very own trilingual hip-hop artist, Cristopolis. This emcee is fluent in English, Spanish, and French. He makes himself unique by rapping in all three languages, while bringing across a positive and knowledgeable message through his lyrics.

Cristopolis is an intellectual twenty-seven year old artist who graduated from George Mason University with a bachelor of arts degree in Philosophy. He has been

emceeing since the tender age of six. Cristopolis followed all the steps of hip-hop while growing up, which is breaking, dj, graffiti, and finally emceeing. He grew up listening to old school rappers like KRS 1, go go music, and salsa, which added to his inspiration. Cristopolis also traveled to France, where he lived for a year and adopted French as third language. There, he recorded two very cultured albums, some of which he shared with Penn State, during his visit.

The performance overall showed great character, energy, and a lot of involvement with the crowd. Cristopolis, DJ E. Boogie, the dancer, and guitarist all played a big part in the performance to

make it such a success. They all filled the Wiestling Center with energy and a lively sound.

Dj E. Boogie, who brought the lively beats to accompany Cristopolis' unique style, was amazing. He did not just play or mix the beats, he was in touch with his music, which made his djing even more attractive. Dj E. Boogie was raised in West Philadelphia, but now resides in Washington D.C. There, he is an aspiring singer; his sense of style is more so r & b and soul. His music is mostly about love, heartache, and every day life situations. Dj E. Boogie's inspiration came from the all time favorite, Michael Jackson. He wants to model Michael's energy and crowd connection with the

audience.

It was a pleasure to have Cristopolis invade on our campus. They were open to answer any questions and share their style of music with us. A few comments from students on the performance: Ivens Evans said, "He was hot." Mary Zanalari added, "I loved it." Jean Moiso said, "I thought it was fantastic, his versatility was off the chain." And Mike Francis followed with, "The dj was sick, the performance was great."

Cristopolis logo is "Thinking Hip-Hop." Penn State Mont Alto thought about it, and liked his style.

For more information on Cristopolis, please feel free to visit www.cristopolis.com.

