

Summer sizzlers previewed

by Susan Kass
The Collegian

Production companies strategically decide on the release dates and fight for ticket buyers' attention more during the summer season than any other time. Because more tickets are bought from Memorial Day to Labor Day than any other season, this is their chance to make up for box office failures.

The production company Orion has already gone bankrupt even after releasing popular movies like *Dances With Wolves* and the blockbuster of 1991, *Silence of the Lambs*. In fact many companies are struggling. Carolco will go bankrupt soon unless *Basic Instinct* becomes popular overseas.

This summer, like the summer of 1991, is filled with sequels, adventure and science fiction. The biggest movies are typically released in May and especially on Memorial Day because the three-day weekend gives audiences time to visit the theater. This May the new releases *Lethal Weapon 3*, *Patriot Games*, *Encino Man*, and *Aliens 3* are expected to be in the top ten

grossing films of the summer.

Lethal Weapon 3 is similar to the second one; it has Gibson, Glover, Pesci, and bad guys. This time Riggs has a new partner who is wasted by the arms smuggling ex-cop they're following.

Glover comes to help his friend even though he only has two days until retirement. This

brother swears revenge by stalking the family. Co-starring Anne Archer, who is most remembered for *Fatal Attraction*, this should be an intelligent action movie.

Encino Man stars Pauly Shore (from MTV fame) who digs up a frozen caveman. While Shore dreams of the archaeological fame, the caveman wants to party

best horror of the summer.

A few other movies that will be released sometime in May may not be blockbusters, but might be worth seeing. *Night on Earth*, a film by Jim Jarmusch (*Mystery Train*) starring Winona Ryder and Gena Rowlands, might be a bizarre movie about New York City but it could be interesting.

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should be an action packed adventure like the first two, but who's to say audiences are going to get tired of it.

In *Patriot Games*, Harrison Ford replaces Alec Baldwin in the next Tom Clancy novel (the first was *The Hunt For Red October*) about an intelligent CIA man who has a family and no involvement with spies. While vacationing, the family's fun is stopped by some international terrorists.

Ford kills one whose violent

and party hard. Of course this will be compared with *Wayne's World* and they all hope it makes as much, if not more, money.

Aliens 3 again finds Sigourney Weaver as Ripley fighting the creatures from hell! But this time she has shaven her head and the battle ground is Earth. This is the debut for director David Fincher who has previously only worked on music videos. Considering that *Alien* and the sequel, *Aliens* are terrific horror films this might be the

Poison Ivy stars Drew Barrymore as a seductive adolescent who falls for her best friend's father. It's supposed to be a good movie about someone so desperate for affection she kills.

The Waterdance stars Eric Stoltz and Wesley Snipes in a movie that won the Audience Award at the 1992 Sundance film festival.

And *Leaving Normal* stars Christine Lathi and Meg Tilly as two women who are basically unhappy with their lives. This is

a road movie that will be compared to *Thelma and Louise*, but the movies are quite different mainly because in *Leaving Normal* the women don't do anything illegal.

Another movie that has already been released, but is still waiting to be distributed around the country is *The Player*. Popular in Hollywood, it is a movie by Robert Altman that includes more cameo appearances by famous people than any other in history.

Cher, Julia Roberts and Dean Stockwell are just a few in the crowd. The story is about a producer who kills the wrong screenplay writer and falls in love with the man's girlfriend. This movie might be radical and bizarre, but nobody will say it's not interesting.

After May, the movie *Far and Away* starring Nicole Kidman and Tom Cruise and directed by Ron Howard will be released. Also, the much hyped *Batman Returns* which stars Michael Keaton, Michelle Pfeiffer and Danny DeVito will hit the screens.

White Sands has lots of teeth but no bite

by Rick Kastan
The Collegian

You know that when your mind gets seriously sidetracked during a movie, it really goes to show the merit of that movie. Likewise, the true test of a film's worthlessness is not simply the FACT that your mind wandered, but moreso where it went to.

When I'm watching a flick and I start thinking about what I'm going to be doing the next day, I know that I'm not going to give it a favorable review. Similarly, when I'm in the theater and get way off-the-track and start thinking about something like 'Why do men have nipples?', I know that the film has got to be trounced (I don't LIKE thinking about these things you see). *White Sands* must be trounced.

For those of you who haven't already guessed (and I hadn't), the title *White Sands* comes from the White Sands National

Monument, an expanse of dazzling white gypsum sands located in south central New Mexico.

It was often used as a location for secret governmental nuclear testing in past decades. Today the place is a national monument, but this movie contends that some terrible and highly immoral things are still taking place way out in the White Sands Desert. And if they are talking about filmmaking, I can agree.

The film starts with a suicide victim's body being found in some Anasazi Indian ruins deep out in the New Mexican desert. The police find this quite interesting, especially when they notice the man had a half a million dollars in his briefcase when he did himself in.

William Dafoe, once again playing a man with too many teeth for a mouth the size of his, is Deputy Sheriff Ray Dolzal, our hero and the cop

investigating the 'suicide'. He feels that the best way for him to find out exactly what happened out there is to become the dead man (keep his appointments, use his name, blah, blah, blah). This doesn't sound very smart in my book.

Pretty soon old Deputy Ray is out there planning and plotting with the bad guys even though he has no idea what it is exactly that he is planning and plotting.

Mickey Rourke plays a bad guy. He has a silver front tooth. This immediately makes him a bad guy since it's common knowledge that anybody with metal teeth is evil in some way. Can you say: cliché? Someone oughta complain.

Ray also meets up with a sleazy and enigmatic rich chick named Lane who has sex with everybody in the film and also happens to be funding this mystery project for Rourke and Dafoe. Lane is played by the attractive but ultimately miscast

Mary-Elizabeth Mastrantonio (whose teeth are all fine but whose name is just too darn long - go figure).

Pretty soon all hell breaks loose and it seems everyone starts to double-cross each other. Supporting characters come and go (and occasionally get killed, too). Along the way we meet one black Internal Affairs agent with buck teeth trying to figure out where Ray is, another black F.B.I. man with bloody teeth telling Ray where to go and a white coroner played by the once-great M. Emmett Walsh (whose acting is getting really annoying in his old age) in dentures telling Ray to chill out, grab a beer and watch the Pirates game with him.

Now, all this would be fine and dandy if it were just INTERESTING. After about fifteen minutes of Willem Dafoe playing Andy Griffith you start to get itchy for a car chase or dismemberment or something. Sadly, this never happens.

Most of the blame here can be directed at director Roger Donaldson who can't keep things moving. He's absolutely horrible, not only because he made this horrible film but also for being the director of the film *Cocktail* with Tom Cruise (who has nice teeth - probably braces) which caused riots in some countries. The movie's pace is slow and horribly boring and at times it is really hard to follow.

One thing that I can say in favor of the movie is that it's cinematography is brilliant and beautiful but, sadly, even beautiful scenery cannot help salvage a movie this bad.

In summary, *White Sands* is terribly boring, horribly cast, dreadfully written and urgently in need of a good dentist.

The trouncing's finished, I feel much better now.....

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