

It's a wonderful life?

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EXPOSURE



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Now it's time to say goodbye

From the Editor

by Kristen
Teffeteller



It's another Thursday and another issue of *Exposure*. There is a slight difference with today's issue. It's the last one for the semester. *Exposure* will return in late January but alas, I will not be back. Along with approximately 1,600 other MTSU students, I will be graduating in a couple of weeks. This is a record number of students, according to the 9 o'clock news on Tuesday. Congratulations, fellow graduates!

No one can celebrate just yet;

we are in the middle of "the most stressful time of the year." Even though papers and projects are due – probably all at the same time – everyone needs to take a deep breath and relax. The madness will all be over in exactly two weeks and then we can sleep.

This last issue includes a story on page 4 about a holiday classic: no, not "A Christmas Story," but "It's a Wonderful Life." The Murfreesboro/Rutherford County Center for the Arts has turned the movie into a play and director Chris Carnett has applied his own modern spin on the tale. Although many people have made it a tradition to watch the original film, I think students and the community should support our local arts scene by attending the play at least once. The players at the Center for the Arts are highly talented and should be given more exposure for their gifts. NEWSFLASH:

Tickets for the Dec. 9 and 14 performances are already sold out. In addition, the Center for the Arts will be showing "Miracle on 34th Street" on Friday, Dec. 1 at 6 p.m. for this month's installment of Cinema at the Center. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and students with I.D. and \$5 for children under 12.

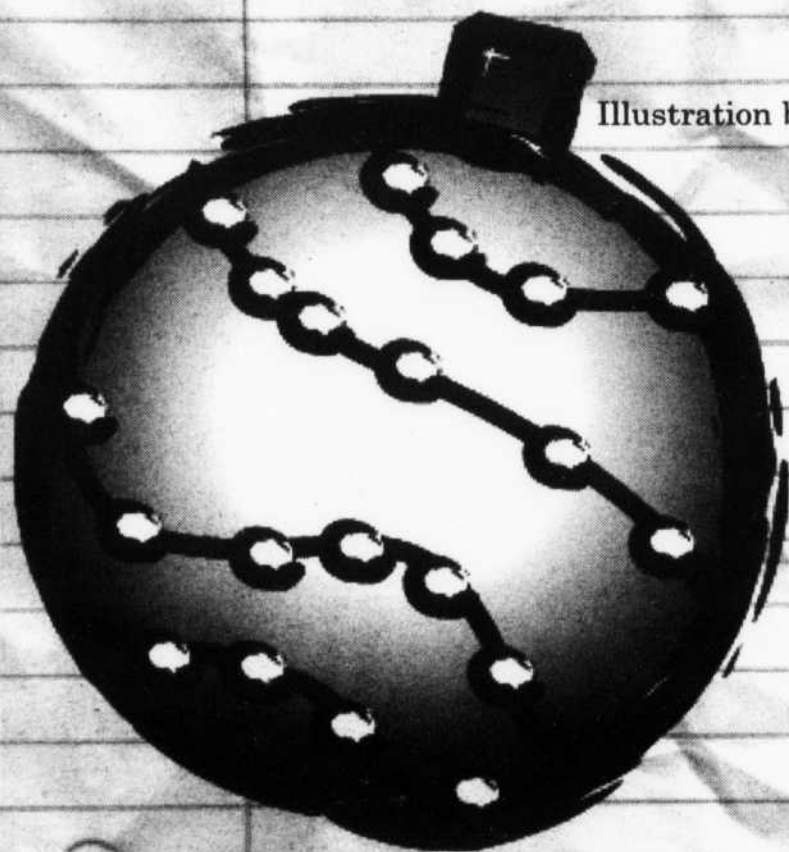
Our resident movie man Reid has compiled the movies slated for release in 2007, which appears on page 8. Several of them sound interesting, such as the Robert Rodriguez/Quentin Tarantino double feature, "Grindhouse." I'm awaiting the next Hunter S. Thompson adaptation, "The Rum Diary." Lauren Tingle, the host of WMTS 88.3's "Mermaid Café," wrote a wonderful review of Nashville musician Will Hoge's latest album and provided us with a little background on the man himself. Check out her article on page 3. In the spirit of

the holidays, Rodney wrote an article describing the history and principles of Kwanzaa, just in time for the Kwanzaa celebration on campus on Wednesday, Dec. 6. Get all your information on page 6.

Before I close out my last letter, I want to thank everyone here at *Sidelines* and *Exposure* for the opportunity to work here and for all the assistance in creating and producing *Exposure* every week. Thank you, MTSU students, for allowing me to bring entertainment news to you. I have one last bit of gratitude: Thank you, MTSU. Between fiery dorms (Reynolds 2003), parking, classes, protests and everything else imaginable, the past four-and-a-half years have been nothing less than interesting. Happy holidays, and don't let finals get you down. It will all be over before you know it.

Kristen

Illustration by Jeremy Wyatt



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EXPOSURE
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The man who killed love

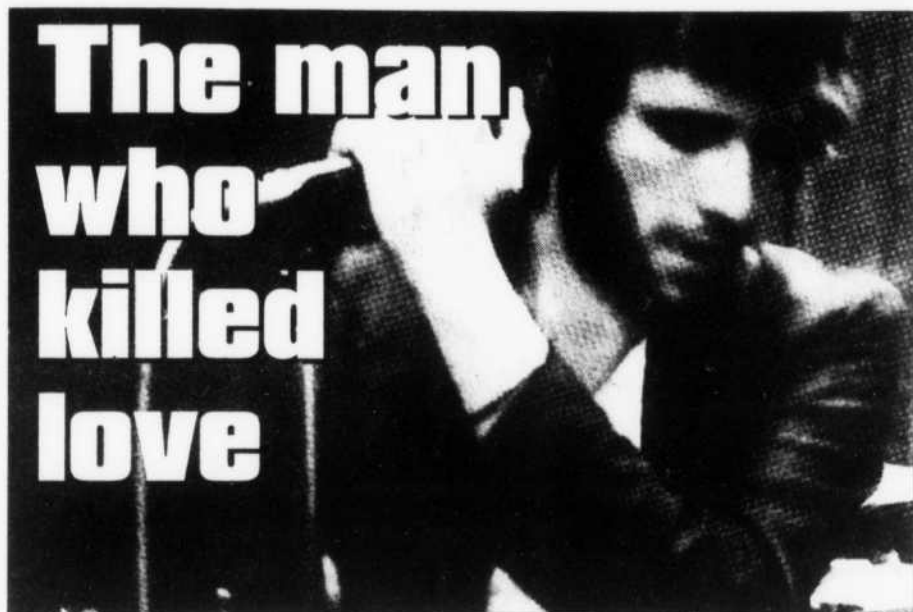


Photo courtesy of Will Hoge

Will Hoge, a singer-songwriter from Nashville, has released his latest album, "The Man Who Killed Love." This album includes songs "July Moon," "Pocket Full of Change" and "Hearts Are Gonna Roll."

Lauren Tingle

Staff Writer

While listening to a Will Hoge album, you are enticed to listen to his soulful rock music and poignant lyricism, and all the while he keeps you wanting more.

Working with Memphis' Ardent Studios engineer John Hampton (producer for the Replacements and Gin Blossoms), Hoge captures the rough, soulful sounds from his vigorous live shows on his new album, *The Man Who Killed Love*. It features haunting songs such as "Pocket Full of Change," "Woman Be Strong," "July Moon" and "Hearts Are Gonna Roll."

The first track of the album, "Pocket Full of Change," features a driving piano melody, backed by former Georgia Satellites guitarist Dan Baird, as Hoge sings visual lyrics about a traveling band "sweatin' blood and beer" from show to show. In this energetic song, the band uses "an ounce of pleasure to get over a pound of pain" to become successful in the music industry.

Hoge's main goal is to capture his passion by producing soulful music.

"Soul music to me ... is any music that has a part of a person's soul in it," Hoge has said, and his zeal is evident in his emotional song titled "Woman Be Strong."

In this cut, he mixes a lazy drum rhythm with the low hum of a drawn-out organ, as Hoge begs and pleads with his love to stay. Toward the end of the tune, a horn section prevailingly chimes through as his

narrator overpoweringly convinces his love to stay.

Hoge continues to bare his soul as *The Man Who Killed Love* progresses. He lures his audience to a fun and heavily humid summer evening in his song "July Moon," wherein he convinces his audience to spend an evening with him as he "shares his dreams" under a shining moon while his lazy guitar riffs build behind a slow, grinding organ. "The world keeps spinning 'round and 'round" as the music spins out of control to a sharp, lashing rhythm with an overwhelming horn section.

While writing "Hearts Are Gonna Roll," Hoge learned to not wear his heart on his sleeve.

"I was going through a time with an insignificant other ... where she gets extra dressed up to stagger in and break your heart again," he has explained. With forceful guitar licks and backing drum rhythms, he sings "it's time to pay 'em back for all those times" for "leaving 'em all alone out in the cold."

Hoge satisfies his fans' insatiable hunger for his captivating music by touring heavily around the world. He was enthusiastically welcomed to the United Kingdom in March, playing packed venues in London and other major cities.

"I think that they have a real appreciation for what's going on here," Hoge said, regarding how British citizens listen to American music.

With the success of independently selling more than 4,000 copies of his *All Night Long* album in 1999,

officials at the Atlantic record label noticed his undeniable talent and signed him to a record deal in 2001. According to "All Music Guide," rock fans around the country became addicted to Hoge's no-nonsense, straightforward music delivery captured on his major album release, *Carousel*.

After extensively touring with artists ZZ Top, Marc Broussard and Edwin McCain to support his *Carousel* release, Hoge worked with John Stamper of Sunset Sound and Henson Studios in Los Angeles to release *Blackbird on a Lonely Wire* in 2003, a disc that features radio-friendly songs "Be the One" and "TV Set" that were authentic to his singer-songwriter rock style. The last track on the album, "Baby Girl," encompasses his country roots growing up in Nashville while featuring melodic slide guitar solos.

In 2004, Hoge attributed one of his musical influences, Bob Dylan, with the release of *The America EP* featuring his rendition of "The Times They Are A-Changin'." His version rocks like a lullaby with crickets chirping in the background of the song. While recording *The America EP* album, he wanted to venture into writing more music with a message.

"You want to be able to say something and not just write songs about girls, cars and sex and things like that," he has said. "But those are great songs, too."

Hoge grew up in Franklin, Tenn., with his little brother, Josh Hoge, and his parents. As a child, he was fascinated with his father's record collection, and when he was 14, he attended a Bo Diddley concert in Nashville with his father and uncle.

"He came on stage," Hoge said, regarding Diddley. "And I felt like the gods of rock came down and opened this book and said, 'Here, read this.' It was like one of those moments when you see your future."

Since then, Hoge said, he was destined to be a rock musician. And with the release of his new album, *The Man Who Killed Love*, he hopes to inspire and reach a new audience with endearing and personal songs.

"I think that there's a real line you can cross where songs become so personal that it becomes universal," he said. "Those are the songs ... that people say, 'I feel like you wrote that song for me.'"

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

"It's Effing Fantastic!"

Effie's Club Follies, an Athens, Ga.-based vaudeville revue, will be joining our own Juan Prophet Organization at Wall Street on Saturday, Dec. 9. JPO first brought burlesque to the 'Boro earlier this fall with Nashville's Lady & the Tramps.

"They are extremely funny, sexy and entertaining," Jeff Holt of Juan Prophet Organization said. "We have performed with them a few times in Athens and they have never disappointed."

The troupe formed in January 2005 and has 25 members, including "two very brave gentlemen." Effie's Club Follies combines the traditional burlesque striptease with contemporary music and themes. They also perform comedic skits and choreographed dance routines.

This marks Effie's Club Follies' first visit to Murfreesboro. If you're interested in a night of music and entertaining ladies, head to Wall Street on Dec. 9. Biffs Deville opens the show at 9 p.m., followed by Juan Prophet Organization and then Effie's Club Follies.

For more information and photos of this "veritable army of cute, creative, talented, remarkable women (and men)," visit www.myspace.com/effiesclubfollies. You can listen to Juan Prophet Organization at www.myspace.com/juanprophetorganization.

All Hail the 'Roo

The Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival won Best Festival award at the 2006 Billboard Touring Awards on Thursday, Nov. 9.

Bonnaroo has won the award three times in its five-year history, beating out Austin City Limits and Lollapalooza festivals for this award. The award is based upon the box-office figures reported to Billboard's Boxscore.

Eighty thousand fans attended Bonnaroo 2006, camping out in droves to see Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, Radiohead, Beck, Matisyahu, Sonic Youth and more. Bonnaroo 2006 was completely sold-out before the June festival began.

Next year's Bonnaroo dates and line-up should be announced in early 2007 by Knoxville's A.C. Entertainment and New York-based Super Fly Presents. See ya at the 'Roo!

It's a Wonderful L

Center for the Performing Arts
presents classic Christmas play



Life?

Dara Tucker
Staff Writer

Step into Murfreesboro's Center for the Performing Arts on any given weekday evening and you'll find a group of amateur performers hard at work on the theatre's latest production of a Shakespeare play or an ambitious adaptation of a film classic.

This week is no different.

The modest 100+ seat theatre is bustling with preparations for the Dec. 7 debut of the Center's rendition of the 1946 Frank Capra classic, "It's a Wonderful Life." The perennial holiday favorite, presented as a part of CPA's Center Stage Series, is familiar to the altergoers of all ages.

"We try to put on productions that are accessible to the entire family," says CPA Managing Director Gary Davis.

As the actors complete their final read through, director Christopher Carnett strives to maintain his cool while giving orders for several last-minute staging changes.

The pre-show tension is palpable.

Carnett has decided to stage the complex production in the highly stylized "Black Box" format to simplify the production and give it a less literal and more surreal quality.

"Certain elements of the movie would be impossible to reproduce on the stage," Carnett explains. "This is a very theatrical way of allowing the actors to interact with one another with very simple staging."

Carnett's vision of the fictionalized town of Bedford Falls might give original director Frank Capra some cause for alarm. He's given the play a new millennium sensibility by recasting many of the roles for the play — set in 1940s small town America — to include more women and minorities.

Among the many cast changes is George Bailey's guardian angel, Clarence (now Clara) Oddbody, played by African American actress, Tosha Webb.

"He wanted to switch things around a little to add some shock value."

See "Wonderful," page 7

Photo by Dara Tucker. Contributing Photographer Peter Hawkins and Lydia Helm perform a scene from "It's a Wonderful Life" during a dress rehearsal. Hawkins plays the hero George Bailey and Helm's cast as his wife, Mary.

Black Box Theatre

Courtesy of Wikipedia.

Black box theatre is composed of a simple, unadorned performance area characterized by a large square room with black walls and a flat floor. These types of theatre productions usually have limited sets and simple lighting, but it focuses the audience's attention on the story and performance rather than the physical set.

In the '60s and '70s, black box theatres became popular because any open space, such as a warehouse or café, could be turned into a performance stage. There are some who believe more "pure" theatre can be explored in the black box, since the human element — not the technical — is the focus.

November 9 - 15

X Kwanzaa X

EVENT

CALENDAR

TODAY

- Bluesboro – **Acoustic Nights in the Boro**; 8 p.m., \$5, 18+; **Joe Harvey**; 10:30 p.m., \$7, 21+
- The Boro – **Second Childhood**; 8 p.m., \$5, 18+
- Casa Burrito – **The Turncoats and Ferocious Bubbles**; 9 p.m., 18+
- Café 24/7 – **Andrew Johnson**; 10:30 p.m.
- Liquid Smoke – **Jazz and Hip Hop**; 9:30 p.m., no cover, 21+
- Mellow Mushroom – **Ray & the Examples**; 10 p.m.

FRIDAY

- Bluesboro – **Stephen Simmons**; 8 p.m., \$7, 21+
- The Boro – **Biffs Deville CD Release Party w/ Victor Furious and the Murder of Men, The Vermicious K'nids and The Black Soul Choir**; 10 p.m., \$5, 18+
- Liquid Smoke – **Colossal Head**; 9:30 p.m., no cover, 21+
- Mellow Mushroom – **Ribbon Pigeon**; 9 p.m.

SATURDAY

- Blue Coast Burrito – **Blue Coast After-Hours**; 8 p.m., \$3
- The Boro – **German Castro, Lockheed, The Most Amazing Century of Science and The Black Soul Choir**; 9 p.m., \$5, 18+

- Liquid Smoke – **Hang Night, No Live Music!**

SUNDAY

- Bluesboro – **Chris Young**; 9 p.m., \$7, 21+
- The Boro – **Acoustic Night**; 8 p.m., no cover, 18+
- Mellow Mushroom – **Casey Williams**; 7 p.m.

MONDAY

- Bluesboro – **NSAI Songwriter Night**; 8 p.m.
- Liquid Smoke – **Monday Night Football**

TUESDAY

- Bluesboro – **Karaoke contest**; 7 p.m., \$7, 21+
- LADIES NIGHT ALL NIGHT
- Liquid Smoke – **Jazz**; 9 p.m., no cover, 21+

WEDNESDAY

- Bluesboro – **Save the Music w/ Murphey, Brittany Moses, Penguin and Finding Steve Cunningham**; 9 p.m., 18+, \$5 for 21+, \$7 others
- Liquid Smoke – **Luke Pruitt's Cheap Ass Beer Night**; 5 p.m., no cover, 21+
- Temptation Club – **Zombie Bazooka Patrol, Cause Celebre, Most Amazing Century of Science and Seth Moore**; 9 p.m., \$5, 18+

Rodney Henry

Staff Writer

Every culture has different celebrations or rituals that they part take in that display their culture. Within the African culture, Kwanzaa is at the top of those celebrations. MTSU's Multicultural Affairs and Kappa Xi chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. have come together to give the campus a taste of the Kwanzaa celebration.

Tracy Early will be the speaker for the celebration, which will take place Dec. 6 at 6 p.m. in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building.

"This is an annual [event] for our chapter," said Marcus Fritz, a member of Alpha Phi Alpha.

Maulana Karenga, professor in the department of black studies at California State University, founded Kwanzaa in 1966 during the Black Freedom Movement.

"Kwanzaa was created to reaffirm and restore our rootedness in African culture," Karenga has said.

Kwanzaa is a celebration held from Dec. 26 through Jan. 1. Since Kwanzaa takes place during the Christmas holiday, many blacks have replaced Christmas with Kwanzaa.

"I started celebrating Kwanzaa in 1990 as a substitute for Christmas, because I do not believe in what Christmas has become," said Rosemary

Templeton, business department chairperson at National College.

Kwanzaa is much like the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah, although it is a cultural holiday and not religious. Kwanzaa focuses on the Seven Principles called The Nguzo Saba in Swahili.

Many may wonder why Kwanzaa is important to blacks.

"Kwanzaa stresses people coming together and working as one," Templeton said.

Collectiveness, or Ujima, is important to all cultures and allows a culture to learn about its past and future as a whole. Since the start of Kwanzaa in 1966, many who celebrate the holiday have noticed changes within the holiday and themselves.

"I have a better understanding of the principles of Kwanzaa and how they affect my life, race and community in which I live," Templeton explained.

The African culture in American has seen many changes since arriving in America hundreds of years ago. In the beginning, all members of the race understood the importance of their culture. Today the African culture experiences less collectiveness from its members and therefore has to have some way to develop a better understanding within its members. That is the foundation of Kwanzaa – celebrating the family, community and culture.

The Nguzo Saba (The Seven Principles)

Courtesy of Rodney Henry and Wikipedia

Umoja (Unity) –To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.

Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility) –To build and maintain our community together and make our brothers' and sisters' problems our problems and to solve them together.

Kujichagulia (Self-Determination) –To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves.

Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics) –To build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to profit from them together.

Nia (Purpose) –To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.

Kuumba (Creativity) –To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.

Imani (Faith) –To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

"Wonderful"

continued from 5

Webb says.

When asked how much of her portrayal of Clara was based on Henry Travers' Clarence in the original film, Webb quickly retorts, "None of it."

"Back when the original film was produced, black people had no voice," she adds. "[Carnett's changes] have given the story a fresh twist."

Other casting changes include casting a black actor in the role of small town cop, Bert, and placing a female actress in the role of Ernestine (formerly Ernie) the taxi driver. Longtime Bailey household maid Annie, formerly black, has been replaced with Aunt Tilley – Uncle Billy's wife who was deceased in the 1946 film.

And if you look closely, you may notice talented actress Dana Richardson, who will "drag" out her deep baritone register especially for this role. She is bringing grumpy old Mr. Potter to life.

In spite of the obvious changes, it's Carnett's belief that the play will retain the charm of the original film classic.

"Most of the scenes that everyone knows and loves will remain in tact," Carnett says.

The cast and crew are hoping theatre patrons will turn up in droves to witness the play's opening, if for no other reason than idle curiosity. Once their curiosity has been quelled, Carnett plans to give them a show to remember.

According to Tosha Webb, who's appeared as an extra in "Elizabethtown" and "The Perfect Stranger," people's receptiveness to the casting changes will depend on each audience member's individual mindset.

"There's still racism in America," Webb says plainly. "There may be people who will have hang-ups about the whole 'black angel' thing."

The actor and actress in the roles of George and Mary

Bailey aren't the least bit worried about Carnett's potentially controversial casting decisions.

"People who like the movie will enjoy a fresh portrayal of these characters," says Peter Hawkins, who portrays the hero, George Bailey. "This is an exciting new take on a timeless story that captures its essence. All the essential elements and emotions are still there."

Lydia Helm, who portrays Mary Bailey in the play, is looking forward to shaking up audience expectations a bit.

"We're straying a little," she says. "Most people are going to be expecting the movie. We're going to give them some surprises."

Most of the actors involved in the play have been a part of the theater in some capacity for many years. Jan Harle, who plays Mary Bailey's mother Mrs. Hatch, has honed her skills as a singer/dancer/actress in musicals for the past 20 years.

She was looking for a creative outlet in the Murfreesboro area when she spotted the open casting call for "It's a Wonderful Life."

"I just moved here from California in January," Harle explains. "I was involved in community theater there for many years."

Harle has been impressed with the level of talent Murfreesboro has to offer.

"There are so many talented people associated with this play. It'll be a good show," she says.

"I'm a big believer in community theater," says director Carnett. "All of the actors involved with the play are members of the community. Some of the people involved are on their 30th show; some are on their first. We welcome anyone who wants to be involved with open arms."

Lead actor Hawkins knows bringing a group of talented people together to depict such

a well-known and much-beloved story can be a daunting task – even without the challenge of shifting audience expectations.

Still, he believes that audiences will come away with an equally hopeful outlook on humanity as they do when viewing the film.

"I saw a quote in the original film," Hawkins says. "It was posted in cross-stitch below a picture of George Bailey's father, Peter Bailey, in the old building and loan. It encapsulates what both the film and the play are really about at their essence. The quote stated: 'All you can take with you is that which you give away.'"

What the diverse group of actors assembled at the Center for the Performing Arts hope to give away is a fresh perspective on a timeless tale. What the cast and crew hopes audiences take with them is the knowledge



Photo by Dara Tucker | Contributing Photographer

Tosha Webb plays Bailey's guardian angel, Clara Oddbody, in director Chris Carnett's update of "It's a Wonderful Life."

that acceptance and brotherhood can truly help to make this a wonderful life.

"It's a Wonderful Life" runs from Thursday, Dec. 7 through Sunday, Dec. 10, and again from Thursday, Dec. 14 through Sunday, Dec. 17. Thursday through Saturday,

shows begin at 7:30pm; Sunday shows start at 2pm. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children under 12 and \$8 for seniors over 65 and students presenting a valid student I.D. The Center for the Arts is located at 110 West College Street in Murfreesboro.

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Vanderbilt Medical Center

Say goodbye to 2006: A look ahead at the movies of 2007

Featured DVD of the Week



by Reid Conner

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As 2006 comes to a close, it's time to look at what 2007 has in store for movie aficionados. Although 2006 was a mostly dismal year for moviegoers, it ended on a high note with a string of original and visionary movies.

Hopefully, the quality of films that came out late in the year will carry over to 2007. So let's take a look at some of the highlights...

Early 2007/Spring

One of the first interesting movies to be released is the action-packed "Smokin' Aces." Jeremy Piven stars as a Vegas performer ready to testify against the mob, which has put a bounty on his head so high it attracts all types of hit men to shoot it out at Piven's casino. The movie has a strong cast with Ben Affleck, Andy Garcia, Ryan Reynolds, Jason Bateman and Alicia Keys making her screen debut as a gun toting hit woman. "Smokin' Aces" gets released on Jan. 26.

"Balls of Fury" and "Hot Fuzz" are two early comedies that may be worth a look. "Hot Fuzz" reunites "Shaun of the Dead" stars Simon Pegg and Nick Frost with director Edgar Wright in a comedy about a pair of British police officers. "Balls of Fury" is a comedic look at the world of competitive table tennis starring Christopher Walken.

"Fight Club" and "Seven" director David Fincher returns with "Zodiac," a psychological thriller about a serial killer who uses cryptic letters to taunt the police. The movie stars Jake Gyllenhaal, Robert Downey Jr. and Mark Ruffalo. "Zodiac" hits theaters March 2.

Frank Miller's graphic novel "300" comes to the big

screen on March 9. The movie is set in Ancient Greece and chronicles the Battle of Thermopylae, during which the united Spartans fight off the invading Persians. "300" has a very unique, stylized look that contains many epic battle scenes and early reviews for the movie have been very positive.

The biggest and most anticipated pre-summer movie has to be the Quentin Tarantino/Robert Rodriguez collaboration "Grindhouse." The pair of directors team up to bring back the cheap horror/exploitation movies of the '70s back in this double feature.

That's right, Rodriguez and Tarantino have each made a 90-minute movie that will be shown back-to-back. Robert Rodriguez's movie is the zombie pic "Planet Terror" and Tarantino's "Death Proof" is about a serial killer who uses his car as a weapon. There will even be fake movie trailers and commercials in between the two movies. Talk about getting your money's worth! This monster is unleashed on April 6.

Summer Blockbusters

"Spider-Man 3" hits the screen May 4. This time out Spidey will face-off against The Sandman, Venom and Harry Osborn will try on the Green Goblin costume to get revenge for his father's death. As if that was not enough, there are even rumors of a fourth, yet-unnamed villain.

"Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End," the third - and hopefully last - film in the series also arrives this summer. Those of you who have lost sleep wondering what happened to Captain Jack Sparrow at the end of

"Dead Man's Chest" will have all their questions answered on May 25.

"Armageddon" director Michael Bay will bring the popular '80s toy line "Transformers" to the big screen in a live-action movie. Expect a lot of fireworks and explosions as ten-foot robots beat the crap out of each other on July 4.

Harry Potter fans will be happy to know the fifth film installment, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix," arrives on July 13. Helena Bonham Carter joins the cast as Bellatrix LeStrange and the action-packed trailer looks promising.

"The Simpsons" finally get their own movie on July 27. It's too bad the show has not been funny in seven years, but hopefully the writers have been saving all the best material for the movie. We shall see.

Fall/Winter

"His Dark Materials: The Golden Compass" marks the beginning of the next epic fantasy series. The film stars Bond girl Eva Green and Nicole Kidman as the villainous Mrs. Coulter. The trilogy begins on Dec. 7.

Tim Burton and Johnny Depp will reunite yet again for their sixth film together. This time it's "Sweeney Todd," a popular Broadway musical about a murderous barber who seeks revenge against a judge that had earlier imprisoned him. Sacha Baron Cohen, Mr. "Borat" himself, co-stars as a rival barber. No official date has been set yet, but expect a release sometime late in the year.

Trailers for most of these movies can be found on Web sites such as Yahoo and other various movie sites. Whether any of these movies will actually be any good or not remains to be seen, but that's part of the fun of going to the movies.

