

Features

End is sole saving grace of colossally boring 'Cocktail'

By Judith Trojan
New York (NC) — "Cocktail" (Touchstone), a blue-collar version of "Bright Lights, Big City," follows the less-than-meteoritic rise of a career bartender who takes a few wrong turns on the path to the big time.

Brian Flanagan (Tom Cruise) looks too young to have just completed a stint in the Army. With no college degree, but some degree of chutzpah, he thinks he's going to parlay knowledge from an assortment of self-help books into career success on Wall Street or Madison Avenue. No go.

Instead, Brian ends up the protege of trendy bartender Doug Coughlin (Bryan Brown), who takes Brian under his jaded wing and teaches him the ropes on New York City's singles bar and disco circuit. This includes dazzling the customers with fancy hand- and footwork behind the bar, heavy boozing, and stints as gigolos.

Although Brian is weak enough to get sucked into Doug's lifestyle, he never really believes in it. As Doug dissipates and connives his way to the short-lived top, Brian finally jumps off the fast track and earns his success and the love of a good woman.

Cruise ("Top Gun") is an appealing actor with an engaging toothy grin. He does his best with this empty-headed material, but his character is simply too bland to give Cruise anything to embellish.

Australian star Brown has some downright embarrassing moments as Brian's mentor-on-the-rocks. When he's performing behind the bar, Brown looks like he's doing a bad impersonation of fellow Australian entertainer Pe-

ter Allen. Even in quiet times when he's goading Brian into buying into his cynical view of life and love, Brown injects little to humanize his character.

Basically, "Cocktail" is a colossal bore that especially fizzles during romantic moments between Brian and his true love, Jordan (Elisabeth Shue). There are also two offensively stereotyped caricatures of rich women — an aging, single corporate executive (Lisa Banes) who briefly turns Brian into a lap dog, and an promiscuous, nubile blond (Kelly Lynch) who leads Doug to marriage and final destruction.

The film, adapted by former barkeeper Heywood Gould from his own novel and directed by Australian Roger Donaldson ("No Way Out"), lacks key ingredients for success. It's only saving grace is that it has a positive, upbeat ending with Brian opting out of Doug's morally bankrupt world before it's too late to make an honest go of it.

Because of several sequences involving sexual promiscuity — one of which leads to pregnancy outside of marriage — as well as excessive alcohol use and abuse, an off-camera suicide and some profanity, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

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"The Rescue" (Touchstone) might have played better if it turned up 30 years ago as a serialized segment on the old "Mickey Mouse Club" TV show. As a full-fledged theatrical film, circa 1988, its simplicity insults the intelligence of the very audience for which it was intended.



'RESCUE' — A group of Navy brats decide to rescue their fathers after the Navy abandons a similar attempt. Above, actors Ian Giatti, Marc Price, Ned Vaughn and Christina Harnos spring into action. The U.S. Catholic Conference calls the movie an "implausible fantasy." The USCC rating is A-II (adults and adolescents).

No one, not even youngsters, will buy into the dumb premise that four teen-agers and a 10-year-old child can move covertly from South to North Korea and rescue their fathers from a prison camp. These brave and crafty Navy brats even put Rambo's agonizing efforts to free Colonel Trautman in "Rambo III" to shame with their larkish, bloodless entry into a secure prison fortress to set their brutalized fathers free.

Of course the kids use the advantage of their slight builds and quick reflexes to slip past every obstacle en route. And once blood does flow during their escape, it's through the intervention of their fathers and adult Korean sympathizers who know how to handle sophisticated weaponry.

As directed by Ferdinand Fairfax and scripted by Jim Thomas and John Thomas (the screenwriters of "Predator"), "The Rescue" is basically an implausible but harmless Hardy Boys' adventure with minimal suspense until its improbable finale. The adolescent actors and actress (Kevin Dillon, Marc Price, Ned Vaughn, Ian Giatti, and Christina Harnos) look good, but only Price (from TV's "Family Ties") adds some comic relief to this farfetched fable.

Due to some rough language, incidental menace, and comic-book climactic violence, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

Pope John Paul imagines youth as radically resisting injustice

By Michael Warren
How does Pope John Paul II imagine the lives of young people?

Some of what he has said to young people over the last five years shows a quite radical way of imagining the contribution youth can make to our world.

The pope is aware of the fact that the world constantly is being imagined for the young. In Canada, he noted how young people today are "buffeted in every direction by loud and competing claims upon their attention and allegiance."

The messages youths hear are about "conflict and hostility, of greed and injustice, of poverty and despair," he said. The pope is concerned about the messages youths hear because he thinks the decisions they are making right now "will determine the prospects for peace today and tomorrow."

As the world prepares to enter a new century and a new millenium, the pope sees the future of humanity being entrusted to a new generation — the young people of today. He sees that the decisions they make about peace, justice, and political and economic systems will determine the future of the race.

In an address to the world's youth, Pope John Paul said that he saw arising in them a new awareness of responsibility and a new sensitivity to the needs of our fellow human be-

Coming of Age

ings. In contrast with some TV and film depictions of youth as concerned only with sex and money, the pope imagines youth as people of radical concern for their world. He also thinks that young people are capable of facing serious challenges, and he offers one himself paraphrased in the following words:

Ask yourselves what kind of people you want yourselves and your fellow human beings to be, what kind of culture you want to build. Ask yourselves these questions and do not be afraid of the answers, even if they require a change of direction in your thoughts and loyalties.

The pope challenges youths to take seriously their contribution to the world, and to think in terms not only of themselves or of their own country, but also of the needs of the human family.

The pope frequently imagines young people as resisters and encourages their active re-

sistance to what is dehumanizing. In a talk to Canadian youth, the pope portrayed young people as opposed to injustice and as actively resisting it. He encouraged youth to defend their friends, saying: "Never allow anyone among your own acquaintances to be deprived of his or her rights or put down by others because he or she is not of your social milieu, or your color, or does not speak your language or share your faith?"

If youth resisting injustice is one side of the pope's imagination of youth, then youth working for justice is the other side. He wants young people to be present in situations where their voices are needed. He encourages them to give their wholehearted support to those working

to build a more human world. He encourages youth to imagine a world "in which persons are more important than profits, in which the world's resources are justly shared, and in which peaceful negotiations replace threats of war."

The pope's imagination of the importance and possibilities of youth is very impressive — almost the opposite of the depictions of self-centered young people we sometimes find in films and on TV. The world he imagines for us is based on the imagination of Jesus, who re-imagined for us the meaning of human life.

Michael Warren is a religious educator at St. John's University in Jamaica, N.Y.

Annual Red Mass planned at Our Lady of Victory parish

The 43rd annual Red Mass will take place at 12:15 p.m. on Friday, September 9, at Our Lady of Victory/St. Joseph's Church, 210 Pleasant St., Rochester.

Father William F. Laird, JCL, head of the Officialis Tribunal of the Diocese of Rochester, will be the celebrant. The homily will be given by Father John J. McDonald, rector of McQuaid Jesuit High School. Following the

service, a luncheon reception will take place in the rectory.

The Red Mass, which was initiated locally in 1945, commemorates the opening of the courts following summer recess. Since 1975, the Red Mass has been organized by the St. Thomas More Lawyers Guild. The public is invited to attend.

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We received 12 correct entries identifying B.J. Thomas as the artist who recorded "Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head."

The winner was Kelley Beeley of Rochester

MUSIC TRIVIA

This week's question:
 Who wrote the 1973 hit "You're So Vain?"

A: _____

Rules:
 Each week, the Courier-Journal, in conjunction with the House of Guitars will feature a Music Trivia contest. All you have to do to enter is answer the question, fill in your name and address and the school you attend (if applicable), cut out the coupon, and send it in to the Courier-Journal. If more than one correct entry is received, a drawing will be held and one winning entry will be drawn. If yours is the winning entry, you will be mailed a coupon for a free album or tape of your choice redeemable at the House of Guitars, 645 Titus Ave.
 All entries must be received within seven days of this paper's issue date. Winning names and answers will be printed the week following each drawing.

The Courier-Journal Music Trivia
 1150 Buffalo Rd.
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We received 11 correct entries stating that Ron Hunt, second baseman for the Montreal Expos, was hit by a pitch to reach base a record 50 times in 1971.

The winner was Bill McClare of Fairport

SPORTS TRIVIA

We would like to offer a warm thanks to Zambito's Sport Shop for sponsoring our sports trivia for the past several months. We are presently in search of a new sponsor and hope to reinstate our sports trivia as soon as possible.