

# Films offer horrific humor, jumbled island mystery

By Judith Trojan  
NC News

NEW YORK — "The 'Burbs" (Universal) is innocuous fun that should see its biggest success on the home video circuit as a big-ticket Halloween rental.

When some mysterious neighbors move next door to Ray and Carol Peterson (Tom Hanks and Carrie Fisher), their picture-postcard neighborhood turns into nightmare alley. Burdened with too much free time and vivid imaginations that seem to have frozen in adolescence, Ray and his two neighbor cronies (Bruce Dern and Rick Ducommun) decide to investigate the spooks next door.

Of course, halfway into the movie, it's unclear who's weirder, the goofy surveillance team in Bermuda shorts and tube socks or the fearsome folks who seem to be cremating corpses in their basement furnace.

Earmarked as a TV sitcom parody by writer Dana Olsen and director Joe Dante ("Gremlins"), "The 'Burbs" pulls lightweight laughs from its boys-will-be-boys theory and Hanks' likeable turn as a Mr. Nice Guy who unwillingly gets sucked into the middle of a Hitchcockian hell night.

Due to some incidental vulgar references, the U.S. Catholic Conference

classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

## 'The Mighty Quinn'

The screen adaptation of A.H.Z. Carr's award-winning mystery novel, "The Mighty Quinn" promises much more than it delivers. An exotic thriller, it opens with a bang and ends with a whimper, as its intriguing plot is gradually diluted by pointless subplots that sap the suspense out of its central murder investigation.

Hometown boy Xavier Quinn (Denzel Washington) has returned to his unnamed Caribbean island to become chief of police. Trained in the States by the FBI, Quinn takes his post seriously, which doesn't sit well with the natives or white power-brokers who view him as a puppet to be manipulated.

The grisly murder of a white businessman sets Quinn on the trail of a murderer who may turn out to be his boyhood chum, Maubee (Robert Townsend), the local ne'er-do-well. While Quinn continues to believe in Maubee's innocence, he's stymied by white and black officials who seem determined to pin the crime on Maubee at any cost.



Tom Hanks and Carrie Fisher star as suburbanites Ray and Carol Peterson in "The 'Burbs."

Had Swiss director Carl Schenkel fleshed out Quinn's past ties with Maubee and clarified the racist and political roots of the crime, he would have had a mighty fine thriller on his hands. Instead, time is spent dillydallying with extraneous dull reggae and R&B music numbers, in addition to pointless asides from Quinn's cranky wife (Sheryl Lee Ralph), who also happens to be a frustrated singer. The story is further confused by concentrating on unresolved animosity between a mysterious white innkeeper (James Fox) and his sexually frustrated wife (Mimi Rogers). If all that's not enough, we're also forced to endure mumbo from local witch Ubu Pearl (Esther

Rolle) and her nemesis, sleazy U.S. agent Miller (M. Emmet Walsh).

Exotically filmed in Jamaica, with too much focus on local color and not enough on the crime at hand, "The Mighty Quinn" is a meandering muddle highlighted in its best moments by the talents of Washington ("St. Elsewhere") and Townsend ("Hollywood Shuffle") who, we hope, face better roles ahead.

Due to some grisly violence, rough language and sexual innuendo, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

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## Hornell hospital opens non-emergency clinic

HORNELL — St. James Mercy Hospital officials recently announced the opening of an Urgent Care Center at 432 Canisteo St., Hornell. The Urgent Care Center is designed to provide treatment for victims of non-life threatening illnesses and accidents and for those who have no regular physician.

The facility has opened in response to needs expressed through patient questionnaires, letters and comments. The goal is to reduce both waiting time and costs associated with the emergency room for treatment of such non-life threatening medical

problems such as earache, high fever, nausea or nosebleed.

According to Janis Conklin, director of the hospital's community relations department, the cost of an emergency room visit can range from \$75 to more than \$180. Costs for the center will be much lower than emergency room fees, but higher than the average charge at a doctor's office.

The center will be staffed by a physician, registered nurse and secretary. Initially the hours will be Tuesday and Wednesday, 1-5 p.m., and Thursday from 1-8 p.m. The center will be a walk-in clinic.

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