

Candy can't say 'Buck;' 'Abyss' is waterlogged

NEW YORK (CNS) — John Candy undertakes baby-sitting his brother's three children in "Uncle Buck" (Universal), a movie which occasionally gets some amusing mileage out of the situation.

The youngsters range in age from 6 to 15 and though precocious and high-spirited — as kids usually are in Hollywood movies — they prove no match for their crude yet common-sense relative.

Uncle Buck's biggest challenge is his teenage niece (Jean Kelly), who uses all kinds of tricks in trying to sneak off on a date with a crass, up-to-no-good boyfriend. In the end, she realizes the truth of her uncle's warnings and is grateful for his intervention.

Complicating matters is Buck's own problems with his long-suffering girlfriend and employer (Amy Madigan). Her willingness to put up with his doltish behavior is pushed to the very edge when she thinks he is using the kids as an excuse to leave her.

The situation generates laughs, but "Uncle Buck" has a problem in that it is little more than a vehicle for Candy to show off his talents as a buffoon. Fans of Candy's brand of invincibly innocent vulgarity will be pleased with the results. Others, however, may not be charmed by his self-satisfied boorish antics.

Written and directed by John Hughes, who is best known for such movies as "Ferris Bueller's Day Off," the work halfheartedly contrasts the materialistic values of suburbia with the more human concerns of someone who doesn't give a hoot about what is socially acceptable.

Buck's nonconformity is wrapped in a mantle of sentimentality, making sure no one misses the point that behind his outlandish behavior lies a heart of gold. The exercise leads nowhere further than shallow smiles and empty gestures.

Because of some sexual situations and vulgar language, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

'The Abyss'

Writer-director James Cameron ("Aliens") would have done well to let someone else write "The Abyss" (Fox), his childhood deep-sea fantasy. The tale is so water-logged with red herrings, glitzy underwater technology and splashy computer-generated effects that exhausted audiences will throw in the sponge long before the two-and-a-half-hour epic bumbles to a close.

Snapping plots from "Aliens," "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" and such recent dismal underwater fiascoes as "Deepstar Six" and "Lords of the Deep," "The Abyss" tracks the doomed efforts of a team of Navy and civilian divers to find and rescue the remains of a mysteriously zapped U.S. nuclear submarine nesting precariously 2,000 feet down on the edge of an Atlantic abyss.

Not only do a hurricane and the ultimate 25,000-foot depth of their operation prove to be real obstacles, but the mix of Navy divers and underwater oil riggers is unstable as well. Also testy is the estranged alliance between Bud Brigman (Ed Harris),



CNS
A visitor whose unorthodox approaches to household life are not always welcome, Uncle Buck Russell (played by John Candy) creates chaos when he stays with the Russell family in "Uncle Buck," a film from Universal Studios.

rig foreman on the manned underwater oil-drilling facility, and his soon-to-be ex-wife, project engineer Lindsey (Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio).

Although much sound and fury and actual underwater shooting (in specially constructed tanks) pump life into their descent and exploration of the submarine, more challenges await the divers when they are lured by otherworldly creatures who rise from the bottomless abyss.

The incidental sightings of these benign aliens immediately split the divers into good guys/gals and bad guys. The bad guys (Navy) want to nuke the aliens to kingdom come with one of the sub's warheads. The civilians, especially the alien's kindred spirit, Lindsey, mobilize to pulverize the Navy psychos, defrock the missile and protect the aliens at any cost. This leaves the hatch wide open for intense underwater maneuvers, including chases, fisticuffs, simulated drownings and miraculous resuscitations.

The problem with this costly, well-intentioned effort is that the effects and technology overwhelm the unfocused story

line. The angelic aliens play second fiddle to a host of dopey interpersonal distractions and too much technological razzle-dazzle. The aliens' identity, power and purpose is never clarified, and after their tantalizing early introduction, they inexplicably disappear until the end of the movie, leaving the humans on screen to fend for themselves and the viewers to make their own connections.

Despite some exhilarating moments and much promise, "The Abyss" is ultimately abysmal. The cornball ending will send audiences running to the exits if they haven't done so already.

Due to much intense underwater action, including chases, fisticuffs, drownings and resuscitations, a grisly scene of floating corpses plus some locker-room language, the USCC classification is A-III — adults. The MPAA rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Please patronize
our advertisers

"This instrument can teach, it can illuminate; yes, it can even inspire. But it can do so only to the extent that humans are determined to use it to those ends. Otherwise, it is merely lights and wires in a box."

Edward R. Murrow
October 15, 1958

At Greater Rochester Cablevision, we believe Murrow's vision achieves its truest realization through cable television. GRC leads the way into a new era of home entertainment with diverse quality programming and remarkable technological advances including the use of fiber optics, digital audio, high definition television and the USA's first full-time cable-operated television station, WGRC, channel 5.

Experience these innovations for yourself with Greater Rochester Cablevision.

GRC

We put the vision back in television.



Even astronauts warm their feet with Acorns™



Starting at \$18.99 at:

We Now Carry Tall Men's Sizes and XXXL Men's Sizes. The Country Ewe discounts up to 50% off retail every day...shop and compare.



Rt. 96, Phoenix Mills, East of Victor

Minutes from Eastview Mall • Across from Victoria Woods

NEW HOURS:

Mon. - Wed. 9-5 Sat. 10-5
Thurs. - Fri. 9-9 Sun. 12-5

