

Chaotic plot and slack action sink summer features

NEW YORK (CNS) — Constant chaos and interminable menace delay the predictably sappy ending in "Gremlins 2 The New Batch" (Warner).

The teenage couple from the original movie, Billy (Zach Galligan) and Kate (Phoebe Cates), have relocated from Smalltown, U.S.A., to the Big Apple, working for Clamp (John Glover), a real estate and media magnate a la Donald Trump and Ted Turner.

Billy rescues Gizmo, the cuddly creature who was his pet, from a bizarre genetic engineering lab in his office skyscraper, but when the little critter is inevitably doused in water his flying furballs become killer gremlins bent on bedlam.

Things get quickly out of control and unless Billy can contain the murderous monsters within the building, they will overrun the city overnight.

To beef up the nearly non-existent plot, director Joe Dante has packed his sequel with an elaborate visual design so remarkable that each creature has its own individual appearance. Sight gags abound as the gremlins step up their malevolent mayhem and, given their frenzied pace, a few are bound to fracture the funnybone. The movie is so wackily self-confident that it stages a gag breakdown in the print being projected on the screen when a video reviewer begins panning the original "Gremlins" movie.

The humor, so broad and obvious, seems aimed at kids, but the violence — especially attacks on office workers similar to Alfred Hitchcock's "The Birds" — could



The Brain Gremlin is one of a new group of cheerfully malevolent Gremlins that run amok in a giant office complex in "Gremlins 2 The new Batch."

give young kids nightmares.

While adults and adolescents may find the Trump/Turner parody amusing, they are more likely to be bored by the other insipid characters and the drawn-out destruction.

Due to many scenes of intense menace and some nasty violence, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

'Dick Tracy'

Much like the comic-strip drawings on which it is based, Warren Beatty's "Dick Tracy" (Touchstone) is a one-dimensional rendition of Chester Gould's cartoon detective.

The story begins with Tracy out to dethrone the self-proclaimed mob kingpin, Big Boy Caprice (Al Pacino), a prospect which exasperates his steadfast sweetheart,

Tess Trueheart (Glenn Headley), but exhilarates Kid (Charlie Korsmo), the street-wise orphan ever at his side.

The key to the gangster's downfall is sultry songstress Breathless Mahoney (Madonna), who has witnessed Big Boy's rub-outs firsthand. However, her cooperation comes at a price: She wants Tracy in the worst way. Tess is too much of a lady to fight for her man, and Tracy is utterly incapable of expressing his emotions.

Big Boy, meanwhile, surrounded by useless aides buried alive under mounds of makeup, rants about how to deep-six Tracy. Along the way, Tess is kidnapped during a large-scale but silly shoot-out, only to be rescued at the finish by a mystery character known as No Face.

Grandstanding as producer, director and star of "Dick Tracy," Beatty sadly strikes out in all three categories.

Gould's lean comic-strip detective seems out of place in this bloated, overblown production where Depression-era sets and

backgrounds prove more interesting to watch than the slack action of the movie's tired, threadbare plot.

The Dick Tracy character is colorless and remote, unchanging, and unable to relate to anyone else in the story, which makes the film a study in stagnation.

Tracy's one-note characterization prevents the other principals from developing much in the way of flesh-and-blood personalities. Madonna as the come-hither Breathless cannot seduce him, nor can Tess, the woman he loves, coax a marriage proposal from his reluctant lips.

Only Pacino as his adversary is given free rein, in a performance of deafening proportions that is all theatrics and boring bluster.

The mask-like makeup on such interesting characters as Mumbles, Little Face, Flatop, Lips and Pruneface is applied with a shovel, making it impossible to recognize several name stars in these cameo roles.

Its only delights are Richard Sylbert's stunning visual design and Vittorio Storaro's gorgeous cinematography that richly evokes the pre-World War II era in which it is set.

Shot as it is in bright cartoon colors, the violence is highly stylized, but may prove unsuitable for some younger adolescents.

Because of several relatively mild double entendres and much comic-book violence ranging from menace to elaborate shoot-outs, the U.S.C.C. classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

Dining Around the Diocese

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Fornataro's
2155 Long Pond Rd.
(corner Long Pond &
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(716) 426-1240

Along the streets of Rome or in the Italian countryside, the word "trattoria" conjures up images of a family-like dining room just off a

kitchen, fragrant with the rich aroma of simmering meat sauces, tomatoes and fresh peppers. Such could be a description of Fornataro's. Featuring Continental, Italian, American cuisine such as Salimbocca, Veal Frech, Fettucine Alfredo as well as traditional favorites like Steak Diane, Beef Wellington and others. Breads and pastas are homemade. Wines and liquors are used liberally in the cuisine as are atrichoke hearts and fruits. Lunch served Monday through Friday, dinner seven nights a week. Banquet and private party rooms are available.

The Holloway House
Rt 5 & 20, E. Bloomfield
1-657-7120

Enjoy the colonial surroundings of the historic Holloway House for birthdays, anniversaries or just plain dining out! Built in 1808 as a stagecoach stop, this restaurant (with a ★★ Mobil Guide Rating) offers both a full-course and a-la-carte menu including turkey, steak & seafood. Round out your meal with their famous Sally Lunn Bread and homemade desserts. Specials include a Friday night Seafood Buffet served from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. (7/6 - 9/14/90). Enjoy the Saturday Prime Rib Special, or try the Early Dinner Specials from 12-3p.m. Sundays. Owned and operated by the Wayne Family for 30 years, they welcome you for lunch from 11:30A-2P or dinner from 5:30-8:30P. Sat. til 9p.m., Sun. 12-7:30p.m. Closed Mondays.

Irondequoit Town Lounge
705 Titus Avenue
(716) 342-3465

Serving lunches 11:30-3p.m. daily except Sunday. Featuring an Early Bird Special every night but Friday. Fish Frys every Friday. Our party room can accommodate up to 60 people for your next gathering. Clip out this ad and receive \$5.00 off two dinners (not valid on dinners under \$8.00), offer good Sunday thru Thursday, during the month of August. Please present ad when ordering.



Mr. Dominic's at the Lake
4699 Lake Avenue
(716) 865-4630

Noted for their fine Italian dinners that include 11 veal dishes and homemade pasta, Mr. Dominic's is now open for lunch. Early Bird dinner specials Sunday-Friday. Also offering 10% senior discount. Delivery is available for your luncheon group of ten or more. Lunch hours from 11a.m.-2p.m. Tuesday-Friday. Dinner hours Monday-Friday 4:00-9:30p.m., Saturday 5:00 - 10:00 p.m., Sunday 3:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Mrs. Murphy's Smorgasbord Plus-Menu-Service
Bath, New York
(607) 776-6211

Smorgasbord served Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. From the menu; 18 Shrimp Feast Dinner: 10 Scampi Shrimp - 4 Broiled, 4 Grilled: \$9.95. Center Cut Tenderloin Steak Dinner: \$9.95. Fridays-All-the-Fish-You-Can-Eat: \$5.95. Fried or Broiled: \$6.50. Sunday Champagne Brunch: \$6.50. Take scenic Route 390 south to Expressway 17, exit 37 or 38.

National Hotel
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Rte. 20A & 39
Cuylerville, NY 14481
(716) 382-3130

Built in 1837, the 150 year old National Hotel is a landmark in and of itself. Serving dinners only, Tues.-Sat. 4:30-10p.m. and Sundays, 12-8p.m. A special Senior Citizen menu is featured nightly and Sunday. From Rochester, take 390 South to exit 8. The National Hotel Bed and Breakfast Inn is located on Rts. 20A & 39 in Cuylerville just 3 miles south of Geneseo or 3 miles east of Letchworth State Park. Reservations are appreciated.