

Season offers appealing crop of films

By Gerri Pare
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK — Following heroic portrayals in *The Untouchables* and *Dances With Wolves*, Kevin Costner re-creates another legendary figure — *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves* (Warner Bros.).

This vigorous version of the oft-told tale opens during the Crusades in Jerusalem, where Robin escapes imprisonment alongside a grateful Moor, Azeem (Morgan Freeman), who returns to England with Robin to serve as his trusted protector.

Appalled by the treachery of the sheriff (Alan Rickman), who has left the peasants impoverished, Robin and Azeem join the ragtag outlaws of Sherwood Forest in robbing the wealthy to feed their starving families.

The movie is filmed with a giddy bravado that maximizes the sense of adventure.

Because of some gory violence and mild sexual innuendo, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

'City Slickers'

To survive their vacation, three buddies find they must rise above being *City Slickers* (Columbia).

Bored with his job and scared of reaching the big "Four-0," 39-year-old New Yorker Mitch (Billy Crystal) has lost his zest for life.



Looking for adventure and freedom from their high-pressure careers, Billy Crystal (center), Bruno Kirby (left) and Daniel Stern become cowboys on a weeklong cattle drive in the comedy *City Slickers*.

However, lifelong buddies Phil and Ed (Daniel Stern and Bruno Kirby) come to the rescue, convincing Mitch to join them on a he-man working vacation — driving cattle across the Southwest.

This is a wonderful movie that embraces life while exploring a genuine "coming-of-middle-age" crises.

Because of occasional sexual references and vulgar expressions, the USCC classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The MPAA rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

'The Rocketeer'

Sprung to life from his comic-book origins, *The Rocketeer* (Disney) propels himself onto the big screen to combat the forces of evil, complete with dastardly Nazis.

Fleeing the feds in 1938, gangsters stash a stolen fire-powered rocket pack. Hollywood matinee idol Neville Sinclair (Timothy Dalton) — secretly an avowed Nazi — offers one of the hoods a king's ransom to turn over the streamlined contraption, so that the Nazis can copy the device and overwhelm Washington with an army of rocket men.

But daredevil pilot Cliff Secord (Bill Campbell) happens on the rocket pack first, and there's no holding Cliff down until the villainous Sinclair kidnaps Cliff's girlfriend (Jennifer Connelly) as bait to ground Cliff permanently.

High-flying special effects keep the fun afloat in this wholesome old-fashioned movie.

Due to sporadic comic-book violence, the USCC classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The MPAA rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

'Dying Young'

A young woman's love is sorely tested when her beloved faces the imminent possibility of *Dying Young* (20th Century Fox).

Despite an offer of free room and board in a San Francisco mansion, Hilary O'Neil (Julia Roberts) hesitates before accepting the job of seeing leukemia victim Victor Geddes (Campbell Scott) through debilitating chemotherapy.

Together they face chemo's horrific side-effects, until Victor seems to be in remission. Then romance blossoms in an ocean-front house they rent in Mendocino. But Hilary soon discovers that Victor lied to her, and wants to go on pretending everything is all right.

Dying Young might exercise some tear ducts, but it's better as an exercise in appreciating the precious gift of life.

Because of discreet unmarried sexual encounters, intermittent rough language and a flash of rear nudity, the USCC classification is A-III — adults. The MPAA rating is R — restricted.

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