

Home Alone 2 is palatable, Dracula's empty

By Gerri Pare and Henry Herx
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK — Mack is back — child star Macaulay Culkin, that is — and so are those boneheaded bandits in *Home Alone 2: Lost in New York* (20th Century Fox).

Writer-producer John Hughes and director Chris Columbus play it safe by simply repeating the formula that made *Home Alone* (1990) the highest-grossing comedy ever.

This outing, as his frazzled family flies off for a Florida vacation, Kevin (Culkin) accidentally boards the wrong plane, ending up alone in the Big Apple.

And who should also turn up in Fun City but good old Harry (Joe Pesci) and Marv (Daniel Stern), the "wet bandits" crafty Kevin outwitted when he was left home alone in Chicago.

Thanks to Dad's (John Heard) credit cards, Kevin's living it up at the Plaza Hotel while Harry and Marv are plotting to knock off a posh toy store at midnight on Christmas Eve.

When Kevin finds out, it's bandits beware, as the 10-year-old lures them to an empty townhouse and unleashes no end of agony on the hapless hooligans.

Typical of sequels, more-is-better seems to be the prevailing philosophy, which is precisely why they seldom stand up.



20th Century Fox
Kevin McCallister (Macaulay Culkin) is back, with all of New York City for his playground in *Home Alone 2: Lost in New York*.

This time around, the funny first half leads into a syrupy scenario with a Central Park pigeon lady (Brenda Fricker) Kevin befriends and an endless escalation of assault against the

bungling burglars. Although treated comically and shot in cartoon-like fashion, the mock electrocution and brick-throwing from the rooftop won't thrill parents and isn't very funny.

Aside from that, Culkin carries the bouncy sequel on his sturdy little shoulders, enjoying his adventure in the big city and ingeniously outsmarting the hotel staff with more variations on the pranks he employed in the original movie.

And once again, the movie stresses the value of family and friendship, which goes a long way in making what is only a copycat movie both palatable and pleasing.

Because of much slapstick violence and some menace to a child, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

Bram Stoker's Dracula

In *Bram Stoker's Dracula* (Columbia), director Francis Ford Coppola turns the haunting vampire legend into an overwrought tale of perverse eroticism.

As lavish a production — or as soulless a vision — as this relentlessly sensual version has never been seen before. The vampire's satanic excesses hold center stage, with the power of religious symbols to deflect him just a

throwaway in the scheme of things.

The thrust here is on the seduction of repressed Victorian women Lucy (Sadie Frost) and Mina (Winona Ryder), Dracula's reincarnated love.

Gary Oldman's title character is repulsive, with zero sex appeal. Ryder's fatal attraction to him falls flat, as does this treatment of the classic as a doomed love story.

Viewers are in for eye-popping visuals and mannered performances from a rather stilted cast, including Anthony Hopkins as the cunning Professor Van Helsing, brought in to orchestrate Dracula's demise.

The sight of an aged, decrepit Dracula carelessly tossing a screaming baby to his three nearly nude vampire brides — who hungrily pounce upon the infant — is just one repelling image in a movie that has many.

In failing to adequately focus on the primal struggle between good and evil, which is the essence of the horror genre, the stark simplicity and compelling fear inherent in the story gets lost in a swirl of baroque visuals. And, in the end, that consigns this Dracula movie to the category of lush but empty spectacle.

Due to perverse, sexually suggestive scenes with recurring nudity and intermittent gory violence, including several decapitations, the USCC classification is O — morally offensive. The MPAA rating is R — restricted.

Dining Around the Diocese

AVON INN
55 East Main Street
Avon, NY 14414
(minutes off 390, exit 10)
716-226-8181

The Avon Inn welcomes all to experience the warmth of winter in this 170 year old Greek Revival Mansion with five cozy parlors, each with a fireplace. The Inn provides a charming alternative to holiday entertaining.

Join us New Years Eve for our Dinner Dance Party for just \$35 per couple enjoy a dinner buffet, music with the band LEGACY, party favors and champagne at midnight, and a continental breakfast at 1:30. Call for reservations.

Now serving on Sundays a sit-down breakfast from 8:00-11. Enjoy a traditional country breakfast from our new a la carte menu. Reservations recommended.

Try our \$75 OVERNIGHT GET-AWAY PACKAGE. It includes a room for two, a bottle of champagne, \$25 dinner certificate, and a continental breakfast. Please call for reservations. Not available on Saturdays.

The Avon Inn is the perfect place for Wedding Receptions, Showers, Meetings and Banquets for up to 200 guests.

Make plans to experience the timeless elegance of the historic Avon Inn today.

BOSDYK'S
Restaurant & Lounge
430 Spencerport Rd.
(corner of Longpond)
716-247-7690

Open 7 days a week for lunch and dinner, we offer a relaxing, comfortable atmosphere and reasonable prices. Whether you choose from our complete menu, or from one of our daily lunch or dinner specials, we're sure to please your palate. Come and try one of our lunch and dinner specials. Our party room is available for gatherings of up to 60 people. We hope to see you here!

CANNON'S
1551 Mt. Hope Ave.
(1 minute north of W. Henrietta Rd.
exit off Rte. 390)
(716) 461-1026

A Rochester favorite for 24 years, featuring a diverse menu including seafood, steaks, chops, veal, and Italian dishes. Dinners

served Sunday, 4:30pm - 11:00pm; Monday - Thursday, 4:30 - midnight; Friday and Saturday, 4:30pm - 1:00am. Bar opens daily at 4:00pm.

CINELLI'S
Country House Restaurant
6007 Lake Rd. (Rt. 18)
Sodus, New York 14551
(315) 483-9154

One of Wayne County's finest restaurants and Party Houses, Cinelli's Country House Restaurant is a really special place! Fine service, great view, wonderful food, and a marvelous menu are just the beginning.

A big, beautiful California-coast-style solarian dining room with real wood arches and glass commands an unparalleled panorama of orchards, farms, old woods, and Lake Ontario.

In addition to our extensive lunch and dinner menus, you may also choose from between 10 and 12 daily specials. Sunday Specials from our country oven include: Roast Leg of Montana Lamb, Fresh Roast Pork and Fresh Roast Turkey served with country dressing and pan gravies.

For your reception, banquet or dinner for two to be truly special, choose a really special place. There's no better choice than Cinelli's!

Open year-round, Fall Hours: serving lunch Friday only from 11:30a.m. to 2p.m.; dinners Tues.-Sat. from 5p.m.; Sunday 12:30-7p.m. Closed Mondays. Reservations are recommended. "A big city menu at country prices."

CONESUS INN
2170 East Lake Road
(East side of Beautiful Conesus Lake)
(716) 346-6100

Open until Christmas, it's time to take a leisurely drive to the Conesus Inn. Located on Conesus Lake, the Conesus Inn serves dinners Tuesday through Saturday from 5pm and Sundays beginning at 4pm. As always, you'll find the same spectacular Prime Rib, Alaskan King Crab Legs and Australian Lobster Tail that you've come to expect and enjoy from the Conesus Inn. The beautiful surroundings and atmosphere of the Conesus Inn make it an ideal spot for dinner. Whether it's an intimate evening for two or a large gathering of friends...the Conesus Inn has a perfect even-

ing of dining waiting for you.

While you're here, remember to choose a fine wine from our extensive wine list. Visit the Conesus Inn soon... "For The Prime Of Your Life". Just ten minutes from exit 9 off 390. Call today for reservations.

IRONDEQUOIT TOWN LOUNGE
705 Titus Avenue
(716) 342-3465

Serving lunches 11:30-3p.m. daily except Sunday. Featuring a 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 or Early Bird Specials), offer good Sunday thru Thursday, during the month of December. Please present ad when ordering.

MR. DOMINIC'S AT THE LAKE
4699 Lake Avenue
(716) 865-4630

If you're planning lunch or dinner out, take a drive to Mr. Dominic's at the Lake. Noted for their fine Italian cuisine, they offer delicious appetizers, wonderful soups, 11 veal dishes, vegetarian, chicken and fish specialties, and homemade pasta. Early bird dinner specials are served Sunday-Friday. Also offered is a 10% senior discount. Delivery is available.

ble for your luncheon group of ten or more. Lunch hours from 11a.m.-1p.m., Tuesday-Friday. Dinner hours Monday-Friday 4-9:30p.m., Saturday 5-10p.m., Sunday 3-9p.m.

PETALS
at the Marriot Thruway Hotel
5257 W. Henrietta Road
359-1800

Petals offers a rich wood and brass decor, serving traditional American cuisine. Popular for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Lunch, Mon. - Sat., 11:30a.m. - 2p.m. Dinner, Mon. - Sat., 5 - 11p.m. Sunday Breakfast Feast served 11:30a.m. - 2:30p.m.

SHERWOOD MANOR RESTAURANT
60 West Main Street
Honeoye Falls, NY
(15 minutes South of
Monroe & Clover Street.)
624-3580 (closed Mondays)

Your host, Andy Carafos, invites you to dine in relaxed elegance, sampling from a menu featuring the finest quality prime rib served in Upstate NY. Fresh seafood, veal, steaks, chops, pasta and poultry, as well as several daily luncheon dinner and early bird specials round out the extensive menu. Banquet facilities available for parties up to 125.



**THE PERFECT
STOCKING STUFFER
A GIFT CERTIFICATE**

From one of these fine dining establishments would make the perfect holiday gift giving idea.
Call The Restaurant of Your Choice Today