

IN REVIEW FEATURE

Family comedy successfully tugs at heart strings

NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are capsule reviews of movies recently reviewed by the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

'Monkey Trouble'

(New Line) When a lonely little girl (Thora Birch) finds a runaway monkey, she hides it from her parents (Mimi Rogers and Christopher McDonald), unaware that it has been trained in picking pockets and wrecking houses by an organ-grinding Gypsy (Harvey Keitel) hot on its trail. Franco Amurri directs a sweet, lively family comedy in which a youngster develops a sense of responsibility in caring for her hidden charge and reforming its behavior. Some bathroom humor and mild menace. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

'Cronos'

(October) Gruesome vampire tale in which a dying industrialist (Claudio Brook) and his sadistic nephew (Ron Perlman) try to rob an antiques dealer (Federico Luppi) of an ancient gold scarab which has restored the dealer's youth but at the price of turning him into a vampire. Mexican writer-director Guillermo del Toro's arty black comedy of horrors eventually disintegrates



The Gregorys, Amy (Mimi Rogers), Eva (Thora Birch) and Tom (Christopher McDonald), pose with Dodger, the newest addition to the family, in *Monkey Trouble*.

into a dehumanizing mess of gory blood-fests witnessed by an innocent child. Some subtitles. Excessive, sadistic vio-

lence and recurring rough language. The USCC classification is O — morally offensive. Not rated by the MPAA.

'Mother's Boys'

(Dimension) Having abandoned her husband (Peter Gallagher) and three young sons several years earlier, a disturbed woman (Jamie Lee Curtis) abruptly returns, obsessed with reclaiming her role as wife and mother despite her husband's plans to remarry. Yves Simoneau directs a routine thriller whose sinister atmosphere lingers listlessly right up to an unconvincing, melodramatic finish. Some sexual innuendo, fleeting nudity, brief violence and several instances of rough language. The USCC classification is A-III — adults. The MPAA rating is R — restricted.

'Savage Nights'

(Gramercy) Aware he has AIDS, a bisexual Parisian (Cyril Collard) deliberately initiates volatile, life-threatening affairs with a tough punk (Carlos Lopez) and a teenage girl (Romane Bohringer), whose possessive love edges her toward madness. Also written and directed by Collard, this corrosive drama gives sympathetic treatment to characters who are obsessed with their own sexual gratification, regardless of the consequences for others. Subtitles. Some brutal violence, including scenes of self-mutilation and sadism, numerous sexual encounters and brief nudity. The USCC classification is O — morally offensive. The MPAA rating is R — restricted.

Commentary offers profound analysis of the Passion

The Death of the Messiah: From Gethsemane to the Grave: A Commentary on the Passion Narratives in the Four Gospels, by Sulpician Father Raymond E. Brown; The Anchor Bible Reference Library, Doubleday (New York, 1994); two vols., 1,608 pp.; \$75.

Reviewed by Fr. Francis T. Gignac, SJ
Catholic News Service

"The Death of the Messiah" is a magnificent work, the fruit of a decade of intensive research. It culminates a life of scholarship on the part of Sulpician Father Raymond E. Brown, one of the foremost biblical scholars of our age. It is a companion work to "The Birth of the Messiah" and completes the cycle of the author's studies of Jesus in the New Testament, which include his Anchor Bible commentaries on "The Gospel of John" and "The Epistles of John."

The Passion narratives have fired the imagination of dramatists, artists and musicians through the centuries more than any other part of the Gospels. They constitute the central narrative in the Chris-



tian story. They recount the most public moments of Jesus' life, are summarized in the Creed, and have become a primary focus of salvation in both theology and popular devotion.

Father Brown divides the Passion into four "Acts" — three of which have two "Scenes" — to reflect the nature of the Gospel accounts as dramatic narratives. Act I consists of Jesus's prayer (scene 1) and arrest (scene 2) in the garden of Gethsemane. Act II consists of Jesus's trial by Jewish authorities (scene 1) and the mockery/abuse of Jesus, denials by Peter, and the betrayal by Judas (scene 2). Act III is Jesus's trial before Pilate. Act IV (Vol. 2) consists of Jesus' crucifixion

and death on Golgotha (scene 1) and his burial (scene 2).

This commentary in four acts is preceded by a very informative introduction explaining its perspective and general Gospel issues pertinent to the Passion narratives, along with a general bibliography of some 300 entries.

The author's explicit purpose is "to explain in detail what the evangelists intended and conveyed to their audiences by their narratives of the passion and death of Jesus." Father Brown simultaneously studies episodes as they are recounted in each Gospel, providing a literal translation of each Gospel passage followed by sections of comment and analysis. This is the horizontal approach.

But Father Brown's theological focus is on how each evangelist organized and presented his material to reflect his community's understanding of Jesus's passion and death. This is the vertical impact. Matthew and Mark present Jesus abandoned by his followers and facing his hour alone, to which Matthew adds the haunting issue of responsibility.

Luke's presentation is less negative, for God's healing and forgiving power is already active in the Passion; Jesus died forgiving others and at peace with himself. John portrays Jesus triumphant throughout the Passion; the victim has become the conqueror.

This commentary avoids the pitfalls of a reductionist historical-critical methodology at one extreme and the jargon of hermeneutical structural analysis at the other. It is profound in its literary analysis, careful and orthodox in its theology, and sensitive in its pastoral concern. It provides a solid understanding of the meaning of the Passion narratives for further reflective interpretation by modern readers.

It is indeed a crowning achievement of Catholic biblical scholarship.

Father Gignac is chairman of the Department of Biblical Studies at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

At your bookstore or order prepaid from Doubleday, 30 E. Oakton Ave., Des Plaines, Ill. 60016. Add \$2 for shipping and handling.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
APRIL BINGO CALENDAR						
SPECIAL PAID ADVERTISEMENT						
St. Ambrose St. Rita's St. Theodore	St. Charles Borromeo St. Mary St. Michael	Holy Apostles Our Lady of Mercy St. Stanislaus	The Aquinas Institute Bishop Kearney Guardian Angels Holy Family Home School Assoc. Our Lady of Perpetual Help	St. Anne St. James St. Michael's St. Stanislaus St. Jude the Apostle	Most Precious Blood St. Cecilia's St. Mark's	Holy Apostles Good Shepherd St. Thomas the Apostle
Holy Family St. Ambrose St. Boniface St. Rita's St. Theodore St. Stanislaus	St. Charles Borromeo St. Mary St. Michael	Holy Apostles Our Lady of Mercy St. Stanislaus	The Aquinas Institute Bishop Kearney Guardian Angels Holy Family Home School Assoc. Our Lady of Perpetual Help	St. Anne St. James St. Michael's St. Stanislaus St. Jude the Apostle	Most Precious Blood St. Cecilia's St. Mark's	Good Shepherd St. Thomas the Apostle
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BINGO TIMES & LOCATIONS

1
Most Precious Blood
St. Mark's

2
Aquinas Institute
1127 Dewey Ave.
254-2020 Wed. 8pm
Bishop Kearney
125 Kings Hwy. S.
671-1065 Wed. 8pm
Good Shepherd
3288 E. Henrietta Rd.
334-3518 Sat. 7:30pm
Guardian Angels Church
2061 E. Henrietta Rd.
334-1412 Wed. 7:30pm
Holy Apostles
6 Austin St. 254-7170
Tues. 7:30pm
Holy Family Church
859 Jay Street 328-3110
Sun. 7:30pm
Holy Family Home
School Assoc.
699 Jay St. 328-4800
Wed. 7:30pm
Most Precious Blood
179 Stensson St.
458-6078 Fri. 7:30pm
Our Lady of Mercy
600 Denise Rd.
855-0775 Tue. 7:30pm
Our Lady of Perpetual Help
923 Portland Ave.
467-2725 Wed. 7:30pm
St. Anne
1600 Mt. Hope Ave.
271-3280 Thur. 7:30pm
St. Boniface
15 Whelan St. 271-1468
Sun. 7:30pm

3
St. Cecilia's
2732 Culver Rd.
457-4286 Fri. 7:30pm
St. Charles Borromeo
64 Maiden Lane
663-3230 Mon. 8pm
St. James
119 Brockley Rd.
482-9796
Thur. 7:30pm
St. Jude the Apostle
4100 Lyell Rd. 247-4322
Thurs. 7:45pm
St. Marik's
54 Kuhn Rd. 225-3710
Fri. 8pm
St. Mary Lyceum Hall
Autum 315-252-9545
Mon. 7:30pm
St. Michael's
858 Clinton Ave. N
325-4040
Thur. 7:30 & 9pm
St. Michael's
320 St. Main St. Newark
315-332-2297
Mon. 7:30pm
St. Rita's 1006 Maple Dr.
671-1100 Sun. 7:30pm
St. Stanislaus
1150 Hudson Ave.
467-1472 Sun, Tue &
Thur 8:15pm
St. Theodore
170 Spenceport Rd.
429-6811 Sun. 7:30pm
St. Thomas the Apostle
41 Colbrook Dr.
242-2323 Sat. 8pm