

IN REVIEW FEATURE

Lots of laughs uncovered in 'The Mask'

Carrey scores with zany role

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

'The Mask'

(New Line) Cartoonish fantasy in which a nerdy guy (Jim Carrey) dons a mask with magical powers that turn him into a green-faced, crime-fighting superhero out to rescue a sultry torch singer (Cameron Diaz) from a gang of bank robbers. Director Charles Russell's wacky special-effects comedy generally hits its broad marks thanks to Carrey's zany impersonations, lightning-speed sight gags and overall madcap nuttiness. Much cartoon-style violence and minimal gutter language. 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.

'It Could Happen to You'

(TriStar) After promising, in place of a tip, to split any lottery winnings with a waitress (Bridget Fonda), a New York City cop (Nicolas Cage) wins \$4 million and gives her half, infuriating his money-hungry wife (Rosie Perez). Director Andrew Bergman's Capraesque romantic comedy makes good use of the Big Apple setting in this crowd-pleasing tale of blue-collar decency triumphing over deceit and greed. Fleeting violence and an implied affair. The USCC classification is A-III — adults. The MPA rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

'Black Beauty'

(Warner Bros.) Richly pictorial version of Anna Sewall's 1877 children's classic in which the spirited horse of the title recounts (as voiced by Alan Cumming) his life under good masters (Sean Bean, Jim Carter and David Thewlis) and bad (Eleanor Bron, Peter Cook and Alun Armstrong) until, old and broken, he's given a home by the former stable boy who had grown to love him. Scripted by director Caroline Thompson, the movie captures the beauty of the animal world and the picturesque nature

of the Victorian era, though the woes seem to outweigh the joys in this episodic chronicle teaching youngsters the responsibility of caring for animals. Scenes of the horse's mistreatment and endangerment by sickness, fire and flood may distress the very young. The USCC classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

'Foreign Student'

(Gramercy) On a semester's scholarship to a Virginia college in 1956, a Parisian student (Marco Hofschneider) learns about campus life from a redneck Southerner (Rick Johnson) while falling in love with a black maid (Robin Givens) who can't believe they could marry and live without discrimination in Paris. Director Eva Sereny soft-pedals the pronounced prejudices of the era to deliver an almost-nostalgic look at a bitter-sweet interracial romance and the clash of cultures surrounding it. Brief bedroom scene with shadowy nudity and some rough language. The USCC classification is A-III — adults. The MPA rating is R — restricted.

Book details development of Head Start

"Head Start: The Inside Story of America's Most Successful Educational Experiment," by Edward Ziegler and Susan Muenchow; Basic Books (New York, 1992); 274 pp.; \$27.50.

Reviewed by Mary Kenny
Catholic News Service

Children born and raised in poverty often are doomed to failure in school. Couldn't such children be reached before they fail? Couldn't they be prepared for school before reaching school age? Couldn't they be given a head start? Such was the premise of Head Start, the program for pre-school children which some call the only successful program from the War on Poverty.

Edward Ziegler, professor of psychology, is one of the founders of Head Start. Susan Muenchow, reporter and administrator, has been involved with Head Start and child care services for many years. Together in "Head Start: The Inside Story of America's Most Successful Educational Experiment" they trace the history of Head Start from the Johnson presidency to the 1990s. The book details the political and administrative challenges during each presidency.

As a casual reader I wondered what audience the authors intend to reach. Casual readers probably do not seek detailed history covering Head Start's more than 25 years. Early childhood educators, public administrators and Head Start personnel are probably more interested in current problems than past history.

Most interesting are the recommendations for the future. The authors recommend providing quality programs. They argue that it costs only slightly more to provide quality programs than to provide minimal programs and that research shows that quality is necessary for success. In short, if you are going to do it, do it right.

Second, recognize Head Start as a full partner in welfare reform. From the beginning Head Start was unique because it was a two-generation approach to poverty, providing not only early education for children but health and social services for children, and job opportunities for parents.

The book is detailed and well-written. It is mercifully free of education jargon. On the other hand it is clearly a one-sided view of Head Start by people who have shepherded it and love it.

The problems of welfare reform, of serving disadvantaged families and children, of giving every child in our society a chance are with us as much in the 1990s as they were in the 1960s. In dealing with these problems we need to learn from the past. This book provides some insights from the past for people interested in the welfare of the young child.

Mary Kenny is co-author with her husband of the CNS column 'Family Talk.'

Available at your bookstore or order prepaid from Basic Books, Keystone Industrial Park, Scranton, Pa. 18512. Add \$2 for shipping and handling.

BISHOP KEARNEY HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS BOOSTER CLUB PRESENTS:

THE STOCKING STUFFER THAT LASTS ALL YEAR LONG

**THE 1995 SPORTS BOOSTER
LOTTERY CALENDAR**

365 DAILY WINNERS

<p>SIX \$1000⁰⁰</p> <p>CASH PRIZES! ONE EACH ON:</p> <p>New Year's Day St. Patrick's Day Memorial Day Independence Day Labor Day Christmas Day</p>	<p>\$100⁰⁰</p> <p>CASH PRIZE EVERY SUNDAY (Except Dec. 25, 1995) Throughout 1995</p>	<p>\$50⁰⁰</p> <p>CASH PRIZE ALL REMAINING DAYS (Total Of 308 Days) Throughout 1995</p>
---	--	--

ONLY \$20 DONATION (Less than .06¢ per day)

- Your donation supports all of our sports and extra curricular activities
- Great Christmas gift idea!
- FUN to see if you've won everyday of 1995
- EXCELLENT ODDS 1 IN 27 Chances to win
- OVER \$25,000.00 possible to be given away throughout the year!

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS! Your official calendar number is a four-digit number printed on both halves of the calendar. The lower portion "year off" will then be registered in our Sports Booster Calendar computer. The calendar portion will be mailed to you. The winning four-digit number will be randomly selected daily beginning January 1, 1995. ALL PRIZE WINNERS WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE MAILED THEIR WINNINGS.

MAIL THIS COUPON ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK FOR \$20 TO:
THE BISHOP KEARNEY SPORTS BOOSTER CLUB
125 KINGS HIGHWAY SOUTH, ROCHESTER, NY 14617-6596

PLEASE PRINT
NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
DATE _____ CHECK ENCLOSED FOR \$ _____ FOR _____ CALENDARS AT \$20 EACH

The Bishop Kearney Sports Booster Club is a volunteer non-profit organization. No purchase necessary