

## Kid film flops; 'Rain' is powerful

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

### 'Heavyweights'

(Disney) Comedy clunker about a summer camp catering to overweight boys (among them Aaron Schwartz, Shaun Weiss and Kenan Thompson) taken over by a fitness freak (Ben Stiller), who instigates draconian measures to slim down the youngsters in order to produce an infomercial hawking his weight-loss program. Writer-director Steven Brill attempts to spoof America's fitness craze, but his script is a weak collection of sitcom situations, lame fat jokes and interchangeable youngsters who predictably rebel and triumph in their search for just desserts. Minor violence and occasional toilet humor. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

### 'Before the Rain'

(Gramercy) Intertwining tales of doomed love begin in contemporary Macedonia, where a young monk (Gregoire Colin) is dismissed for giving refuge to an Albanian girl (Labina Mitevska) being sought for killing a Macedonian, then shifts to London where the monk's uncle (Rade Serbedzija) leaves career and married mistress



Shaun Weiss, Aaron Schwartz and Kenan Thompson star in 'Heavyweights.'

(Katrin Cartlidge) to retire to the simple life of a Macedonian villager only to find the horrors of war at his doorstep. Writer-director Milcho Manchevski turns in a powerful, emotionally resonant anti-war movie despite the sometimes confusing narrative. Subtitles. Intense, sporadic violence, a scene of attempted seduction, a partially nude shower scene and occasional rough language. The USCC classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

### 'Once Were Warriors'

(Fine Line) Harrowing tale of abuse within a Maori family living in urban New Zealand, where a hard-drinking father (Temuera Morrison) habitually brutalizes his wife (Rena Owen) until one of their children (Mamaengaroa Kerr-Bell) meets with tragedy, awakening new strength in the grieving mother to stand

up to her husband. Though not sparing viewers horrific scenes of domestic abuse, director Lee Tamahori's drama clearly condemns the cycle of physical and psychological violence that destroys family life. Vicious spousal beatings and fierce barroom brawls, discreet treatment of a rape scene, an off-screen suicide, fleeting nudity and continuous rough language. The USCC classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The MPAA rating is R — restricted.

### 'Window to Paris'

(Sony Classics) Chaotic Russian fantasy in which the residents of a St. Petersburg apartment discover a magical window through which they daily step into Paris, where they amass consumer goods to take home, except for a music teacher (Serguei Dontsov) who instead falls in love with an eccentric Parisienne (Agnes Soral) but has problems getting his students to return home. Director Yuri Mamin carries the whimsical elements of the time-space warp to extremes in a clash-of-cultures comedy haphazardly combining romance and political satire. Subtitles. Fleeting full nudity, occasional drunkenness, minor violence and a few instances of rough language. The USCC classification is A-III — adults. The MPAA rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

## List proffers diverse fare

By Richard Philbrick  
Catholic News Service



Here is a list of books of special interest to Catholic readers.

"Christ is Risen" by Theresa Cotter, St. Anthony Messenger Press, \$9.95, 238 pp. Medi-

tations, projects, and prayers found highly satisfactory in celebrating Lent, Easter and Pentecost. Prayers range from traditional and familiar ones to a number written especially for the Paschal season.

"Believing in Jesus," by Franciscan Father Leonard Foley, St. Anthony Messenger Press, \$6.95, 224 pp. The third revised edition of a popular overview of the Catholic faith. This edition is cross-referenced to key concepts in "The Catechism of the Catholic Church."

"New Vision, New Directions," by Father Robert J. Hater, Thomas More Press, \$14.95, 92 pp. This book was commissioned by the National Conference of Catechetical Leadership as part of its ongoing efforts to help individuals and groups utilize in the most rewarding fashion the "Catechism of the Catholic Church." Father Hater received the conference's 1994 catechetical award.

"Capitalism and Christians," by Arthur Jones, Paulist Press, \$6.95, 90 pp. In a fierce critique of capitalism a veteran journalist charges that the reality of Western economic life is very much at odds with the prophetic teaching of Catholic and other church leaders in North and South America.

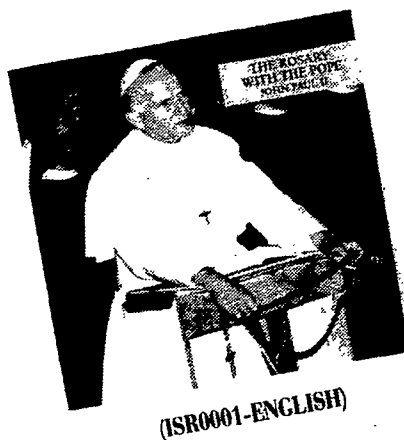
"The Collaborative Leader," by Brother Loughlan Sofield and Donald H. Kuhn, Ave Maria Press, \$8.95, 224 pp. Using information gathered from 42 lay Christians, two experts analyze all the factors that go into really successful Christian leadership. They highlight the practice of collaboration.

"Masters of the Dream," by Alan Keyes, Morrow, \$23, 214 pp. The author, the conservative black host of a national radio program on the American Media Network, calls for a return to the traditional moral values of the black community and a thorough overhaul of the bureaucratic state that he believes has destroyed these values.

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