

# FEATURE

## Films feature 'the temptations': devil, sex, etc.

NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are capsule reviews of movies recently reviewed by the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. The review includes the USCC rating, and, where available, the Motion Picture Association of America rating.

### The Devil's Advocate

Overwrought fantasy in which an ambitious criminal attorney (Keanu Reeves) nearly sacrifices his morals and loses his wife (Charlize Theron) when lured into a powerful New York law firm by the devil in disguise (Al Pacino). Drama and comedy clash badly in director Taylor Hackford's shrill potboiler, which relies on a lame cliché to reach its drawn-out conclusion. Gory violence, sex, recurring full nudity and much rough language with profanity. The USCC classification is O — morally offensive. The MPAA rating is R — restricted.

### Boogie Nights

Gritty melodrama about the sleazy world of porn movie-makers begins in 1977 with the rise of a new star (Mark Wahlberg) who after a few years of big money and drugs hits the skids until being rehired by the director (Burt Reynolds) who gave him his start. Writer-director Paul Thomas Anderson doesn't glamorize the dysfunctional characters and their self-destructive way of life, but this attempt to humanize the porn trade lacks any larger moral or social perspective. Gory violence, explicit sex acts, full nudity, recurring rough language and occasional profanity. The USCC classification is O — morally offensive. The MPAA rating is R — restricted.

### Red Corner

Framed after a one-night stand for rape and murder, an American lawyer (Richard Gere) in China must rely on a government-appointed defense attorney (Bai Ling) to save him from imminent execution, but uncovering the facts puts her own life in jeopardy. Director Jon Avnet's dense thriller hinges on a barely credible plot twist but manages to maintain suspense up to a mushy conclusion. Violence, bedroom scene and brief nudity. The USCC classification is A-III — adults. The MPAA rating is R — restricted.

### In & Out

Sex farce about the comic confusions of a 40-year-old small-town teacher (Kevin Kline) whose life goes topsy-turvy days before his wedding when an Oscar-winning former student announces to the world that the teacher is gay. Director Frank Oz mixes warm-hearted humor with broadly funny performances as the farcical proceedings poke fun at gay and straight



Warner Bros.

Al Pacino, as the devil, tempts and sets out to destroy an ambitious attorney played by Keanu Reeves in the melodrama, "The Devil's Advocate." The USCC rated morally the movie offensive.

stereotypes. Flippant treatment of homosexuality, brief male kissing scene, occasional profanity and an instance of rough language. The USCC classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The MPAA rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

### Fairy Tale: A True Story

Romanticized version of the controversy stirred in 1917 England by two little girls whose photographs of what they said were tiny fairies frolicking in their garden aroused the skepticism of Harry Houdini (Harvey Keitel), though were proclaimed genuine by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (Peter O'Toole). Director Charles Sturridge spins an enchanting tale of childhood innocence in a sweet family film marred by a few rude words. The USCC classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The MPAA rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

### I Know What You Did

#### Last Summer

Formula thriller in which four teens ac-

identally kill a pedestrian and hide his body, then a year later begin receiving threatening notes from an unknown sender whom they try to identify in hopes of saving their lives. Directed by Jim Gillespie, the manipulative proceedings elicit the expected jolts in a slickly photographed but rather gory suspense pic-

ture. Intermittent violence, fleeting sexual innuendo, some rough language and occasional profanity. The USCC classification is A-III — adults. The MPAA rating is R — restricted.

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