

FEATURE

Home videos recommended

NEW YORK — (CNS) The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a USCCB classification and a Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) rating.

The USCCB Office for Film and Broadcasting's list of the Ten Best Films of 1992 includes the following:

'Aladdin'

Vibrant animated Arabian Nights tale of a genie (voice of Robin Williams), a commoner in love with a princess and an evil vizier who conspires to capture the genie and marry the princess. As produced and directed by John Musker and Ron Clements, the story is sweet, the animation delightful and Williams wisecracks wedded to lightning-fast sight gags should hold adult interest. The USCCB classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences. (Disney)

'The Best Intentions'

Episodic Swedish family saga set in the early 1900s focuses on the troubled courtship and stormy marriage of a poor, strong-willed Lutheran minister (Samuel Froler) who had grown up in poverty and his bright, willful bride (Fennella August) whose wealthy family had opposed their wedding. As directed by Bille August, Ingmar Bergman's autobiographical script offers a moody meditation on the emotional affinity of two completely opposite temperaments whose bond of love withstands the resulting clashes and inevitable misunderstandings only because they are willing to forgive one another and go on together. Subtitled "Restrained scene of premarital relations with brief nudity, several scenes of domestic violence, a suicide and a life-threatening scene involving a small child." The USCCB classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (Facets)

'Brother's Keeper'

Compelling documentary about the Ward Brothers, four illiterate and elderly dairy farmers in upstate New York, one of whom is put on trial for the 1990 mercy killing of an older brother. Produced and directed by Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky, the film provides an eloquent portrait of the rural community which regarded the brothers as eccentric but harmless recluses and came to the defense of the accused brother whom they believed incapable of murder. Some complex justice questions and a graphic scene of a pig being slaughtered. The USCCB classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (Fox Lorber)

'Time Machine' is poor bit of fluff

By Anne Navarro
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK — Though possibly unfair, moviegoers are likely to have high expectations for an adaptation of H.G. Wells' novel, "The Time Machine," directed by his great-grandson, Simon Wells. But instead of preserving the political and social implications of the novel, which made the story layered and thought-provoking, director Wells strips them away, churning out a very Hollywoodesque fluff piece, and a poor one at that.

In "The Time Machine" (DreamWorks), 1890s scientist and inventor Alexander Hartdegen (Guy Pearce) is hurtled 800,000 years into the future — using his own time-travel contraption — in an effort to change the past. His fiancée (Sienna Guillory) was murdered four years ago, and his mission is to change the past and prevent her death. But traveling back in time does not change things. Convinced that the answer then must lie somewhere in the future, he lands in a mysterious time where Earth's population is divided into the above-ground Eloi and the monstrous, subterranean Morlocks.

In H.G. Wells' novel, these two futuristic races represented the working and leisure classes of his time. The Eloi enjoy life above ground while the Morlocks toil away in underground caves, working to preserve the Eloi's lifestyle. But Wells gave the classes a twisted symbiotic punch. The enjoyment of the Eloi comes at a high price, as they serve as the Morlocks' principal food source.

In director Wells' film, this warped relationship barely sees the light of day. Sure we see the Morlocks (which look like a fusion of the simians from "Planet of the Apes" and the creatures from "Battlefield Earth") attacking and scurrying away with



New Line Cinema/CNS

Guy Pearce stars as time traveler Alexander Hartdegen in the film "The Time Machine." It is the latest film adaptation of the novel by H.G. Wells.

the poor Eloi. And yes, the Morlocks' leader (Jeremy Irons, looking creepy in long white hair and opaque contact lenses) gives some kind of explanation for the world in which Alexander finds himself. But none of it is the least bit coherent or engaging.

The screenplay written by John Logan lacks cohesion and is littered with inconsistencies and loose plot strands. The film devolves from romance to sci-fi to action without capturing the audience's attention. Alexander's original quest to bring his fiancée back to life is inexplicably abandoned to save an Eloi woman, Mara (Irish pop singer Samantha Mumba), and her brother (Omero Mumba, the pop singer's

real-life brother) from the deadly Morlocks. There is little time to develop any affection for the Eloi, most of whom don't speak English, or warm up to the new relationship Alexander seems to be forging with Mara (although the nearly see-through fishnet shirt Mara wears may explain why Alexander suddenly feels compelled to be a hero).

Because of intermittent sci-fi violence with a few grisly images and scantily clad women, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Heist, murder flick leaves much to be desired

By Anne Navarro
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK — A Miami bounty hunter tracking a small-time crook is accidentally caught in the middle of a murderous diamond heist in the pointless action comedy "All About the Benjamins" (New Line).

Poor Benjamin Franklin. Leader, inventor, founding father, Ben has been reduced to a dollar sign — the sole motivation of the cardboard characters in the feature debut of director Kevin Bray. Ice Cube stars as frustrated bounty hunter Bucum Jackson chasing down slippery con artist Reggie Wright (Mike Epps), who has skipped bail, when the two are embroiled in a botched diamond robbery that leaves behind several dead bodies.

Bucum wants to start his own private detective agency but can't get enough

seed money. Reggie just wants to get ahead of the game and live the easy life. Some \$80 million in polished carbon stones and Reggie's \$60 million lottery ticket — which mistakenly ended up in the hands of the robbers — inspire the pair to pool their resources and crack the case.

Bray shows the violence first in double-time speed, and then slows it down so the audience won't miss a single gunshot to the chest or blow to the head. And for the main characters, who emerge from dangerous car chases and rapid gun fire relatively unscathed, the violence has no consequences.

The screenplay, written by Ice Cube and Ron Lang, rambles on, sidestepping character development but filling up on stupid dialogue that does little to advance the plot. And the uninspired teaming of

Epps and Ice Cube's characters — two opposites who work together toward a mutually beneficial end — leaves much to be desired.

Due to much strong violence, a brief sexual encounter, fleeting nudity and constant rough language with many class sexual expressions, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Logan's FROM 50 TO 1000 PEOPLE SINCE 1955
FOR PRIVATE PARTIES
3 DISTINCTIVE DINING ROOMS
SPACIOUS PRIVATE • COCKTAIL LOUNGES
Banquets • Weddings
Retirement Parties • Dinner Dances
Sales Promotion Dinners • Clam Bakes • Buffets
R&R O'Connor's
1420 Scottsville Rd. • Rochester
Phone: (585) 235-6978

MR. DOMINIC'S AT THE LAKE
Smoke-free, dining room
(off street parking available)
Delicious appetizers, soups, veal dishes, vegetarian, chicken, fish, and homemade pasta

10% SENIOR DISCOUNT WITH THIS AD!
Lunch: Tues.-Fri. 11-2
Dinners Daily from 4:30-9 p.m.
4699 Lake Ave
(585) 865-4630
www.mrdominics.com

BOSDYK'S
Restaurant & Cocktail Lounge
Wishing You a Happy Easter
Easter Dinner Specials along with the regular menu
Make your reservations soon!
Party room for gatherings of up to 60 people
430 Spencerport Road (Corner of Long Pond)
585-247-7690
Visit our website @ www.bosdyks.com

Palm Sunday Brunch
March 24th - 10 am to 3 pm
Brunch includes quiche, ham, turkey, pasta, fruit, French toast and much more!
For reservations call 585-621-6230
Casino Niagara Bus Trip
Monday March 25th
Includes breakfast, lunch and snacks
\$24.95 per person

THE MILL
HOURS: Tues.-Sat.: Breakfast 7am - 11am
Lunch: 11am - 2:30pm • Afternoon Tea: 11:00am - 2:30pm
Dinner: Wed. & Thurs. 4:00 pm - 7:30pm
2485-A Dewey Avenue • Rochester, NY 14616
585-621-6230