

USCCB rates films' morality

NEW YORK (CNS) — The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting has rated the following films based on moral suitability.

USCCB classifications: A-I — general patronage; A-II — adults and adolescents; A-III — adults; A-IV — adults, with reservations; O — morally offensive.

Motion Picture Association of America ratings: G — general audiences, all ages admitted; PG — parental guidance suggested, some material may not be suitable for children; PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13; R — restricted, under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian; NC-17 — no one 17 or under admitted.

- About Schmidt, A-III (R)
- Adaptation, A-IV (R)
- Antwone Fisher, A-III (PG-13)
- Catch Me If You Can, A-III (PG-13)
- Confessions of a Dangerous Mind, O (R)
- Gangs of New York, O (R)
- Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, A-II (PG)
- The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers, A-III (PG-13)
- Maid in Manhattan, A-III (PG-13)
- Narc, A-IV (R)
- The Pianist, A-III (R)
- Two Weeks Notice, A-III (PG-13)

'Married' deemed insipid

Gerri Pare/CNS

NEW YORK — Young newlyweds return from their European honeymoon ready to split up in the insipid romantic comedy "Just Married" (20th Century Fox).

A mean-spirited tone is set right away as the feuding couple arrives back at Los Angeles' airport, shoving each other and glad when either one falls. There is a fair bit of this minor comic violence throughout the film, such as when the bride hits the groom hard with a heavy marble ash-tray — and it's really not at all funny.

Told primarily in flashback, we learn that radio traffic announcer Tom (Ashton Kutcher) and Beverly Hills beauty Sarah (Brittany Murphy) met, moved in together soon after and got engaged within the year despite her wealthy family's disapproval.

Lots of scenes with Murphy acting flirty, smiling provocatively and prancing around assume the audience will just find her so adorable, and easygoing Kutcher so handsome, that a well-written script is beside the point.

Just before the church wedding she feels guilty for not telling Tom she got tipsy one night and slept with the rich, still-interested Peter (Christian Kane). And he lied to her in pretending he wasn't responsible for her dog's accidental death.

After a pathetic crying jag on their wedding night when Sarah realizes they are too tired for intimacy, they fly off to what should be a fabulous honeymoon in France and Venice. However, unfortunate cir-



20th Century Fox/CNS

Ashton Kutcher and Brittany Murphy star in "Just Married."

cumstances, Tom's foolish behavior and Peter's showing up lead to arguments that prevent them from consummating the marriage night after night.

Director Shawn Levy lets the self-absorbed couple sulk, pout and scream until the predictable sappy-happy ending when they come to their senses and lock lips once more.

Background scenery of Venice relieves some of the tedium and their getting trapped in a snow bank has its comic moments, but more often the humor is staler than last week's croissant.

At least the couple, presumably Catholic, decide to commit to marriage, but it's off-putting how casually they leap into bed, live together and refer to past affairs-so casually.

Everything changes when Tom's father tells him to grow up and work at the marriage, and while that's a good development the romantic comedy that precedes this advice is not.

Due to a live-in relationship and many sexual references, some comically intended violence, occasional crude humor and minimal profanity, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Pare is the director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.

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