

Cinema Buns with Andrew Rosenfeld and Taigie McAvity

Casino

A: From the very short to the very long - 3 hours, in fact. *Casino*, the latest Scorsese film, is pretty heavy and pretty long.

T: Typical Scorsese, that is really the genre for this flick. Scorsese really has a way with film; his movies are always in the epic style, they follow characters through their lives showing you their respective successes and failures.

A: *Casino* seemed to be a documentary at times - a very violent, bloody documentary, but it was done in that style, with the voice-overs and everything. It was the story of Sam Rothstein, a gambler turned casino manager. It traces his rise, but more importantly, his fall, and the reasons for it.

T: Reason No.1, his involvement with Ginger, a small time scam-artist/hustler, who's sole ambition in life is to have lots of money for drugs. However, in the beginning it all seems perfect. Sharon Stone, who I usually hate, actually does a great job as the "bitch," Ginger. Combined with Deniro, as Sam, their performances are excellent, you actually feel the frustration that Sam feels in dealing with Ginger and her lying, cheating, and general disloyalty.

A: I thought Sharon Stone made a great junkie. The acting was top rate, all around. However, I thought that the entertainment value of this movie was pretty low. It had a great plot and great acting, but it was just too long

and too erratic - the blood just erupts at times, when you least expect it. I guess that's just the style and it makes for a really horrific effect, but I wasn't out to be horrified. So it alternates between slow and gruesome.

T: This movie was definitely reminiscent of *Goodfellas*; even the characters were somewhat similar. Pesci plays his usual short gangster with an extremely short temper, which really seems like a stretch for him, but it's not, he is fairly convincing. Although it's kind of funny seeing him with Stone because he only comes up to her armpits.

A: The movie was pretty good, I guess, but I'd only recommend it to people who are into this kind of thing.

T: Precisely, this is a gangster movie, and as is typical of the genre, it has a few scenes which could even make the most desensitized of viewers shudder with shock. But it was nonetheless a well done gangster movie. Great acting, a realistic plot, and classic Scorsese directing make this a one of a kind movie. However, the length is really too much for the theater, I might have enjoyed it even more had I been able to get up and stretch after the first hour and a half.

Toy Story

A: Last Friday saw the release of the first feature length film done completely with computers, *Toy Story*. It was quite the visual trip. A very intense, albeit short, film.

T: As the first venture of this sort, Disney has really come up with some killer graphics; the fully rendered characters are a blast to watch as they galavant over a computer generated landscape of epic proportions.

A: Definitely. This movie was a visual treat - everything was so surreal and super-realistic - more real than reality. Everything seemed so "perfect" looking, but it still struck me as just the ultimate cartoon.

Perhaps it was the subject matter; perhaps it was the characters; perhaps it was the look of the "real" people (the toys seemed so much more "real" and alive - intentional, most definitely) - it seemed little more than a cartoon. A very good cartoon. I'm curious to see how this entirely computer-done approach makes the transition to other styles - the action flick, the sci-fi, etc.

T: Along with the great animation job, the makers of this movie also made wonderful casting choices. Tim Allen, as the voice of Buzz Lightyear, contrasted with the voice of Tom Hanks, as Woody, made for an amusing combination. But that's just it. This movie looked great and sounded great, but it wasn't the greatest "movie". The plot was very simple, the action was fast paced, and it was more than short enough, but all in all it was a highly commercial technological showcase.

A: You said it. I couldn't have put it any better. I really thought that they could have done more with this movie, but perhaps they thought it would be more than enough for the kids with just the visuals. Perhaps it was the time limitations. I don't know. And by the way, I never noticed any of the celebrity voices, whatsoever. I guess I don't watch enough TV (smirk).

T: While I watch too much (snarl). The main thing to remember is that this is a Disney film. Therefore, its main goal is to advertise for up and coming products. The fact that the movie was released a month before Christmas almost proves my point. Really, it was an hour and fifteen minutes worth of advertising for Disney's new Buzz Lightyear toy.

A: I'm getting one! Action sounds, karate chop action, he is a pretty stacked toy!

Rankin Family heading to town

by Jethelo E. Cablete
Brunswickan Entertainment

Cresting the wave of success from their third album, *North Country*, the Rankin Family have done it again with *Endless Seasons*. Showcasing a rich blend of English and Gaelic music, the five, brother-sister group from Cape Breton have come a long way from their origins as little known performers. Now, this Canadian band is one of the hottest groups to hit the music scene.

Winning four categories at the 1994 Juno Awards, the band has captured the hearts of many people with their Celtic harmonies. The siblings, Raylene, John, Cookie, Jimmy and Heather Rankin display their various talents through their roles as either singers, songwriters or instrumentalists. The musical mosaic of traditional and contemporary melodies provides a backdrop for the strong vocal talent evident in the group.

Endless Seasons is the fourth production from the Rankins, highlighting the success of their previous albums. This album has an interesting fusion of traditional Celtic melodies, Country and certain pop elements. The songs in *Endless Seasons*, such as 'I Roved Out', 'Oganaich An Or-fhuil' 'Bhuidhe/Am Braighe' and 'You Feel The Same Way Too', provide an endless wealth of harmonies that are a pleasure to listen to. The lyrical quality found in this album range from ballads, to catchy upbeat songs to country-like melodies. For those who look forward to hearing them, the Rankin Family will be performing December 9, 1995 at The Aitken Centre.

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