

# SHUNNING THE BORING IN 7 EASY STEPS

What's so big about Tom Cruise? I never liked him. Or Kirk Cameron, or all those crazy popular stars who look cute, smile pretty, and make big bucks. So WHAT if Patrick Swayze can dirty dance with the best of 'em? I say, to hell with the popular movie and popular stars. This applies to any "young talent" in any field. Music, acting, comedy, modeling...chances are they're all looks, no substance. (Ever noticed how this theory applies in real life too? My little sister B.G. had to put up with the most perfect student in her class for six years, making B.G. lose science fairs and speech contests aplenty, not to mention get the teacher turned against her and for Little Perfection. Now Perfection's got to change her name because B.G. is getting ahead! Unfortunately, B.G. has another genius to put up with....but witness how it's similar?) So what do I do:

**1) Avoid Debbie Gibson AND/OR Tiffany.** Nine out of ten times, if the singer is sixteen, writes, produces, sings, directs, plays backup on, and won't let anyone else help with their songs, he or she is only getting temporary fame and will soon fall out of the business pretty soon to become an accountant (remember Frankie Avalon in Back To The Beach?) or whatever. Teen fame rarely means lasting fame. Many times, such a "gifted artist" will only be acclaimed for a few short years and then, it'll be "Tiffawha? Whoffany?" because the music stunk in the first place. Instead, go for the rock artists who barely make it big, but at least make it to the "Pop/Rock" section in A&A instead of "N.B. Artist" (witness my Tu review last week)

## 2) Watch The Shows In Stinky Time Slots.

"Starman" never got a good time slot in its short life, and that was one of the best shows in history (ask around). Some shows never get critical acclaim and/or good ratings, and they somehow turn out to be wonderful. Example: "Star Trek" Classic. In 1968-1969, NBC moved it to 10:00 pm Eastern, Fridays and was then taken off the air due to "poor ratings" (demographics have since proven this dumb). Had the network followed through on its original plan, to air ST Classic at 6:30 Eastern Mondays, we might very well have seen the show run til about 1975 or so. Or "I Married Dora", doomed from the beginning by its 9:30 Eastern Friday slot last season, never to make it past summer. Making about 67th in the Nielsens, only a few spots behind "Mr. Belvedere", (surprisingly renewed!), Dora died peacefully with few people ever realizing she even existed, let alone married.

## 3) Never Watch A Movie Starring Such Types As Kirk Cameron, Tom Cruise, Elisabeth Shue, Sylvester Stallone, or All Of The Above, That Ever Made More Than \$2 Million.

The chances of the movie having a decent story, plot, or actor in it are amazingly small. Take "Adventures In Babysitting", a total BOMB. Even the stunts couldn't have saved it from being awful. Or "Three Amigos", which was ruined by the very three people (Steven Martin, Chevy Chase, and Martin Short) that should have made the movie wonderful... just because there's lots of known talent in there doesn't mean they get to use it. Look out. Instead, go to see movies starring maybe one super-talent, but make sure they're over 25. Look for unknown names like Brent Spiner, Marina Sirtis (Data and Troi, new Star Trek) or Elizabeth Pena (La Bamba, I Married Dora), who haven't found their audience yet. Chances are, you might find something special in them....

**4) Don't Read or Watch Sequels!** Only established series with a good reputation (the Alien or Star Trek series, for example) ever really turn out. Too often the movie will either be just the same as the original (e.g. Rambo, Friday the 13th), or so different that all but one or two original stars remain to generate box-office appeal (e.g. Short Circuit II) so then nobody likes the movie because it's "too different", or have a mediocre script because the producers feel the stars are all that they need (e.g. Crocodile Dundee II, which worked for money

only). The Superman series was doing alright up until the fourth movie... "Ooohhh, Myyyyy, Gaaaawd!" was the only reaction I heard. And it wasn't a good one. (A good reaction would have been "Wow." Excellent, "HOT DAMN!!!")

## 5) Shows Based On Movies Don't Work!

This is a RULE OF TELEVISION! Anything that was good, lovely, a megahit in theatres, as a miniseries, or a TV-Movie (witness "Dirty Dancing", "Baby Boom", "War Of The Worlds", "Something Is Out There") is bound to flop. "Fame" had to be syndicated as free if your station took the ordered ads and came out boring; "M\*A\*S\*H" was the only exception to the rule. Besides, it's ever so rare that the movie stars take the TV roles, because the stars are too smart to think otherwise (unless they're starving artists!). The same is often true when it comes to the reverse, take "Twilight Zone".

## 6) Forget Critically Acclaimed Foreign Movies!

Siskel and Ebert don't know what they're talking about. I haven't seen a good foreign film since "When The Wind Blows" and it's never worth renting one. (Emmanuelle and Ilsa don't count. I can't say, I don't watch pornography. If you do, then get away, this is mainstream.) If

it's French, Swedish, Hungarian, Polish (at the risk of offending a dear Polish friend), Communist European, or Canadian Quebecois, LOSE IT! You DON'T WANT IT!

## 7) Revivals Are NADA!

"Back To The Beach", "Gidget Reunion", "Eight Is Enough", "Bonanza" and other Westerns, all couldn't event hold a spark from the match that lit the candle to original. Unless it's TOTALLY DIFFERENT ("Star Trek: The Next Generation" made it great! BEST SHOW I EVER SAW!!!), with a new cast and/or new characters, it's going to be "let's look at the photo album, rehash memories, do flashback scenes, and see how much hair Dad lost" for the entire thing. Unless you're a die-hard fan, forget that option. (Like I said, new characters... or anthologies. "Twilight Zone" is resyndicating as a new show, and there's a chance...) The same goes for REMAKES! Watch BOTH if you have to (original first) and compare. A revival with NEW characters (an NEW GENERATION!) that isn't just the sons and daughters of the original is the ONLY ROUTE!

The above 7 steps should lead you to entertainment extraordinaire.... I warn you. It's either that or... to forever watch old episodes of "MOONLIGHTING!"

DEANNA T.

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# SPLAT!

Pumpkin Akimbo and boy, do the seeds fly

"Tis the season to be scary!", and last Monday night's ritualistic celebration of "The Great Pumpkin Sacrifice" certainly came through with its share of scaryness! But why, you say, is an entertainment writer doing a news story? Hey! It was great! "The Great Pumpkin Sacrifice" WAS entertainment! I was expecting far less of a light show than I actually received; jack-o-lanterns in every Harrison window, torchbearers, lightning, and the massive, fire-eyed melon with a pleasantly tortured rictus! A word of commemoration also to the sound guys! No show would be a good show without a good sound track, and these boys had it! One minute the hauntingly twisted pipe organ was at Harrison, then suddenly it was at the Dunn! Of course, I am a tad biased because Hallowe'en is my favorite holiday, but the hundreds of ghosts, ghouls and goblins who showed up seemed to have a good time as well.

The procession of pumpkin-god worshippers started their death march at Harrison, and moved creepingly up the hill to Lady Dunn. At that point the entire crowd shifted over to Harrison House to view the return of the sect and to see the hecatomb from the roof.

At a few minutes before midnight a wizard-like authority, escorted by two hooded figures, appeared on the rooftop with the Great Pumpkin. He proceeded to say a few sacrificial words, the pumpkin was lit, and... Yeah! As the immense, fire-breathing creature erupted against the ground, the crowd broke out in chants and cheers. Then they quickly dispersed either to be one of the first /&& people into the Harrison House post-pumpkin gathering, or so as not to be chosen to clean up the mess of orange goo! (Yum! -Ed)

The best part of the whole night was that it was absolutely free! I had the opportunity to see my first pumpkin sacrifice and have a great time without spending any money (well, very little money)! For those of you in Bridges House - sorry, your "Save The Pumpkin" campaign was ineffective, and to those of you who missed the sacrifice - see you there next year!

Rod the Bod



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PACC PIG:  
LEADER...  
OR  
LUNCH!?



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