

Craig rants, raves and reviews

By Craig Welsh

Welcome to Dalhousie. If you're like a lot of first year students then you've landed here and just received a student loan. Now, you could do something sensible with it like pay your tuition, find a place to live or buy some food. Or you might do what a lot of people do when they suddenly receive a lot of money: blow it all on something silly. If that something silly happens to be movies, here's some of your choices currently playing around town:

Forrest Gump (Empire Bedford, Park Lane 8, Penhorn Mall)

Yes, it's blatantly manipulative and it's too cute for its own good sometimes. But who cares since *Forrest Gump* is still one of the best movies you're likely to see this year. And forget about *Philadelphia*, this is the movie that Tom Hanks should win an Oscar for. Also look for solid performances from Gary Sinese (last seen in *The Stand*) and Robin Wright.

The plot? A look at some of the major events that took place in the United States from the early 1950s right through to the early 80s from *Forrest Gump's* rather unique view. Rating: \$7.75 out of \$8.00.

True Lies (Empire Bedford, Empire Dartmouth)

Question: Are the Special effects, explosions and stunts amazing?
Answer: Yes, they are. This is

James Cameron after all. Some of the effects involving the Harrier jets are unbelievable.

Q: Is it better than *Last Action Hero*?

A: Yes, it is. However, that film is not nearly as bad as some people would have you believe.

Q: Is it as sexist and racist as some people have said?

A: No. Oddly enough, movie companies tend to be reluctant to spend \$125 million on a film that would be considered racist and sexist. Those that have slammed it as such are over-reacting.

Q: Is it as good as some of Cameron's other films like *Terminator*?

A: No, not really. Most of Cameron's films have had strong female leads, but this movie doesn't have one. Jamie Lee Curtis' character is not as interesting as, for example, Sigourney Weaver's character in *Aliens*. Also, the plot is much weaker than some of Cameron's other efforts.

Q: Should I go see it?

A: Sure, why not.

Rating: \$5.50 out of \$8.00

The Mask (Park Lane 8, Empire Bedford, Empire Dartmouth)

Jim Carrey. Most people seem to either love him or hate him. And even if you loathe him you still might want to see this film. Industrial Light and Magic (ILM) outdo themselves with some of the special effects in

this film about a nice guy loser who finds a mask with some... unusual abilities. And Carrey haters can take heart; the dog in the film upstages him several times.

Rating: \$6.00 out of \$8.00

People who called this film racist, sexist and homophobic should really get a life

Clear and Present Danger (Park Lane 8, Penhorn Mall, Empire Bedford)

I love Harrison Ford, but I dearly wish he had never taken over the role of Jack Ryan from Alec Baldwin. This movie merely confirms the suspicion that I had while watching *Patriot Games*; that as good as Harrison is, he's just not right for the part. And like *Patriot Games*, this film is nowhere near as interesting as *The Hunt for Red October*.

Rating: \$3.50 out of \$8.00.

Little Rascals (Empire Bedford, Empire Dartmouth)

Christ preserve me. Have we gone through enough old TV shows yet? In case you think it can't get worse, prepare yourself for the *Brady Bunch* film sometime next year.

Rating: \$0.50 out of \$8.00

The Lion King (Penhorn Mall)

As good as it is, don't let Disney brainwash you into seeing it more than once. The animation is top notch and most of the voices and characters are captivating, but it's still not up to the standard of *Beauty and the Beast*. That's due to the weakness of most of the songs (Face it, when the lion cub sings "I Just Can't Wait to be King" he means that he can't wait until his father snuffs it. Charming) and the flatness of Simba's voice.

Oh, and I agree with the Disney spokesperson who said that people who called this film racist, sexist and homophobic should really get a life.

Rating: \$6.50 out of \$8.00

Jurassic Park (Empire Bedford)

It's back. Don't ask why, it just is. This is your last chance to see it before it hits video. Sure it was over-hyped and it wasn't nearly as good as the book, but it was still fun and the effects were great. Give it a look.

Rating: \$7.00 out of \$8.00

Natural Born Killers (Park Lane 8, Empire Dartmouth)

I still have no idea how to review this film. I enjoyed parts of it and loathed others. Whatever the case, you'll certainly have some kind of intense reaction to it. The controversial subject matter (two seriously disturbed people go on a mass murder spree with the media lapping every bit of it up) certainly marks it as an Oliver Stone film — but the directing style resembles something that David Lynch would do. Your tolerance level for Oliver Stone will also affect how much you'll enjoy the movie.

Rating: \$5.75 out of \$8.00

There are several other movies currently playing in town (I can't see them all) so make sure you check the local papers. And if you're into non-mainstream movies you might want to check out the *Wormwood*, which normally shows a variety of excellent movies that you would otherwise have to wait until they came out on video.

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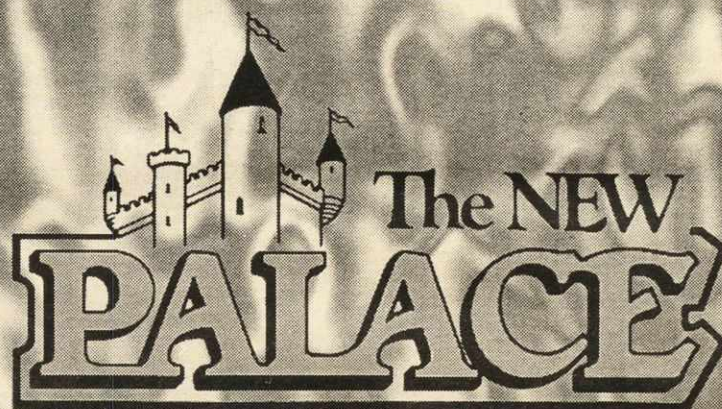
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Sandbox	Aug. 29—Sept. 4
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Shameless	Sept. 12—Sept. 18
Tara Tuma	Sept. 19—Sept. 25