

Wallace & Gromit big screen debut full of humor

by Zach Browning
Staff Writer

Wallace and Gromit "Curse of the Were-Rabbit"

Directed by Steve Box and Nick Park
(Dreamworks, 2005)

★★★★

The dynamic duo has taken America by storm, and I don't mean Batman and Robin. I'm talking about Wallace and Gromit in their first big screen production.

The movie is about a small town's obsession with vegetable gardens. Wallace and his canine companion, Grommit, run a humane pest removal service called Anti-Pesto. With a vegetable contest coming up soon, all the towns' folk are nervous that rabbits might munch on their chances at winning the prestigious Golden Carrot

award.

The story is cute, and the effects are great. In a market flooded with computer animated cartoons, it's nice to see someone do it the old fashioned way. I understand it took five years to painstakingly piece together this film. There are a lot of rabbit's, as you might imagine, and lots of vegetables. It seems that the British are enamored with veggies.

Over the course of the flick, Wallace uses one of his wacky inventions to try and change the feeding habits of rabbits. He tries to re-wire the rabbit's brain so that it no longer finds vegetables appetizing; this struck me as sort of Freudian. Something goes seriously wrong and Wallace and the rabbit end up switching brain waves. The rabbit becomes more like Wallace, and likewise, Wallace becomes a rabbit. He then gets a first hand understanding of why rabbits love gardens so.

His silent partner Grommit comes

through in the end for his pal, saving him from the nasty Victor Quartermaine, a trigger happy hunter who is trying to woo the object of Wallace's affections, the beautiful Lady Totington.

This is a great family film, one I think even those without small children will enjoy. The message in this film is a good one, people and rabbits *can* live together in peace. There is enough humor to keep you going and the plot is a G-rated equivalent to any Werewolf movie you have ever seen. The effects are spectacular and worthy of a peek while it's in the theater. I give it 4 stars.

The Clarion Review Rating Guide

- ★★★★: Outstanding, well worth your time & \$\$\$
- ★★★: Not top-notch, but still worth a look
- ★★: May do in a pinch
- ★: Don't bother

Matt's Take

Too many people are emulating others' lives thanks to pop stars' life stories

by Matt Rutherford
Arts & Life Editor

Has anyone noticed how recording artists have a new trend of making biographical films? Or at least how all the ones that have come recently are crappy?

If not, that's great; if so, I'm sorry you had to sit through story time with Madonna or Fifty Cent.

This new trend of making a film whenever you have two albums out is an awfully arrogant way to show your climb to the top. I'm not even sure any of our current artists had to climb from anywhere. As I said in a previous take, our musical artists are manufactured in a way so that each group within our society can relate to them. Therefore these "climb to the top" films are just as much of a farce as our music.

I seriously doubt that the stories behind the films are 100 percent true. I would say the majority of this type of film starts with saying "Based on a True Story." Come on America, stop taking things at face value. Everything we see on a screen is not reality. Our lackadaisical attitude toward this very issue is exactly why we don't have a story of our own or an identity. We are far too busy trying to emulate the lives of the images that flicker on the silver screen. It has come to a point where it is time to wake up and make your own decision about who you are and what you want to do.

At least once a day I hear a conversation about someone who can relate in one way or another to some recording artist or some other type of celebrity. It's great that you have found someone to look up to, but it is not good or cool to be just like them. Take time to find out who you are, so that you will be able to contribute to your own identity and your own life. Life is not worth going through trying to act like something you're not. Originality is the key.

Food Review: Brevard Foods

by Jourdan Prange
Staff Writer

I went to Brevard Foods and found it was quite an interesting restaurant. When I walked in I noticed there were only 5 or 6 six tables.

They had soft drinks and beer and a wide variety of salads which included chicken or macaroni. I also noticed a lot of soups which included chicken noodle and potato. They also had some sandwiches as well which included pastrami, boiled ham, tuna, and egg.

I ordered the pastrami on rye bread with the beef and vegetable soup. The pastrami was good and lean. I was going to order dessert, but then I saw table with candy on it which probably was the dessert menu.

The "Brevard Foods" restaurant is open from 10:30 to 5:00 Tuesday to Saturday and closed on Sunday and Monday. It is located on west Main Street and in an alley to the left of the chamber of commerce store.