

## Movie Review: American Gangster

by Wayne Redden  
Contributor

*American Gangster* takes you into the underbelly of the real events that shook the Harlem drug empire in the 1960's and 70's, and it does so in an exciting and intelligent way.

The film stars Denzel Washington as Frank Lucas opposite Russell Crowe as Richie Roberts, a line up that mixes well, and gives a good balance to the film.

The plot centers on Frank Lucas, one of Harlem's biggest and most successful drug lords and tells his story of rising up to the top of the drug world. He becomes so successful because he cuts out the middle man, and gets his "stuff" straight from the source; which means that it is 100% pure.

To pull off this amazing feat he flies to Bangkok to get it

himself. In return he is able to sell a product that is twice as good as the competition at half the cost.

In doing so he gains many enemies who wouldn't mind seeing him locked up or dead. He has to be very cautious doing his work to not get



"snuffed" by his rivals.

Russell Crowe plays Richie Roberts, a cop who is almost too honest for his own good. Richie's role in the film is to make the big arrests in the drug world, such as the suppliers and so on.

The soundtrack didn't really stand out for me. Besides a few good tracks such as, "Hold on I'm Comin'" by Sam and Dave and "Can't Truss It" by Public Enemy, the movie overshadowed the music.

The atmosphere is generally dark and there is hardly any humor, but you can tell that the directors meant for it to be that way. You won't find any comic relief in this crime film.

All in all *American Gangster* is an excellent movie that keeps you thinking and is a great portrayal of the real life story of Frank Lucas and Richie Roberts.

## Movie Review: Beowulf

by David Ulloa  
Staff Writer

When you think of the director of *Forrest Gump* an obvious sense of brilliance comes along with it; a truly inspiring and decadent movie with the likeable Tom Hanks. Robert Zemeckis' work on *Beowulf* though visually arousing, comes short of the epic tale's awesomeness.

From the initial glance of crisp computer generated power, the movie establishes quite a feeling of wanting more and more of its aesthetic capabilities. The digital overdrawn effects on actors are impeccable. You practically couldn't tell a real drop of sweat from one that was placed by the tap of a mouse. Unbearable stimulation arises with each scene to scene action, given

the film's grand display of beautiful color and succulent hard bodies. The only thing tricky about the effects were the fight scenes where every action seemed weightless. It is a fantasy movie, I'll give it that, but when it comes to a man fighting a massive dragon, you gotta make it look at least a bit



scientifically accurate. Ray Winston plays Beowulf, who if you didn't know played Jack Nicholson's second hand man in *The Departed*. His performance was worthy and badass, as well as his dedication to the role because of his muscular transformation from being a chubster in *Sexy Beast*. John Malkovich and Angelina Jolie also delivered decent performances that kept the audience in medieval submission. Towards the end the movie the action becomes stale and seemed to be completed with little focus. The slaying of the dragon scene engulfs itself in common movie magic boredom, and the ending is done with awkward complacency. I strongly suggest that you either wait for a DVD release or see this film in 3-D with a power trip.

## HOROSCOPE

Aries: It time to throw out the Thanksgiving gravy...that's just gross.

Lucky Color: Black Diamond

Taurus: Watch out for things that may suddenly jump in front of your car this week.

Lucky Color: Blood Orange

Gemini: I think its time to get maxed out on Christmas carols.

Lucky Color: Lime Sorbet

Cancer: Let's have a look under the bed this week... it needs some cleaning.

Lucky Color: Michael Jackson's nose, or lack there of

Leo: I don't care that the Twin Buffet is all you can eat... it's doing a number on that digestion of yours

Lucky Color: Kung Pao Pink

Virgo: This week will be just like a fairy tale, so break out the old tiara.

Lucky Color: Chameleon

Libra: If necessary threaten those in charge to get the heat in your building working... you don't deserve to freeze!!!

Lucky Color: Selfish Yellow

Scorpio: Nalgens are not indestructible so try not to run over yours.

Lucky Color: Clear

Sagittarius: Why don't you try wearing that old pair of pants you hide in the back of your drawer this week... they will prove to be good luck

Lucky Color: Hydrochloric Acid

Capricorn: If you are going to drink old milk beware of the upchuck reflex

Lucky Color: Yoga Mat Green

Aquarius: You are an Aquarius so why not go for a swim this week...try not to get hypothermic

Lucky Color: Aqua (clever huh?)

Pisces: Try swimming in Aquarius, you fish.

Lucky Color: Mardis Gras Green, Purple, Gold and boobs