

BJ's top and bottom ten scare-fests

by BJ Wanlund
Movie Fiend

Top 10:

10. Psycho, which is Hitchcock's very best. If you only watch the shower scene, you will be scarred for life, because that is such a scary scene!
9. The Nightmare Before Christmas, Tim Burton's masterpiece for Disney. There's also a new DVD, so go ahead and see it!
8. Hocus Pocus. Who doesn't like Bette Midler? Oh, and the song "Almost Unreal" by Roxette was intended for this movie, but it was paired with the utter train wreck that was the Super Mario Brothers movie instead; it's a great song that was utterly ruined by the EMI Sweden management at that time.
7. Sleeping Beauty. This Disney flick isn't entirely a Halloween movie, but I believe it counts. Don Bluth, the guy behind Dragon's Lair, Space Ace, Anastasia, An American Tail, and the original Land Before Time movie worked as an assisting animator on this film.
6. Batman Begins. Great movie, and Liam Neeson plays a supreme villain.
5. Spiderman. The first movie, before Sam Raimi (of Evil Dead fame) started mucking around with the character.

4. The first Nightmare on Elm Street movie.
3. Ghostbusters. Who you gonna call? (Oh, and if someone has any pictures of their Ghostbusters Halloween costumes, send those to me please!! Even if it's only Janine Melnitz!)
2. The Pirates of the Caribbean trilogy. It's not "scary" by any means, but it does have scary elements.
1. This may be a total surprise to some people, but my #1 movie you absolutely have to see is Independence Day, starring Will Smith. I don't normally like Will Smith (I think he's annoying half the time), but he is absolutely brilliant in this movie. Of course, the speech by the President right before we kick the alien invaders' asses is also a part of it.

Bottom 10:

10. Final Destination 3. A slasher flick surrounding a failed roller coaster accident, it isn't a movie I'll ever see.
9. I Am Legend. How could Will Smith fall so far, so fast? This is a total train wreck, only watch it if you can't look away.
8. The Number 23. Another real train wreck, and goes to prove that the vast majority of funny guys cannot do serious

roles to save their lives, and Jim Carrey is no exception to the rules.

7. Star Wars: Episode I: The Phantom Menace. The "phantom menace" here is Jar Jar Binks, a train wreck of a character that is bad enough that he should never have sprung from the fatal loins of George Lucas's imaginative mind.
6. Flubber. Robin Williams' one and only train wreck...
5. Bride of Chucky. Honestly, while I haven't seen this one, according to my horror movie expert, this one was the worst of all the Chucky movies.
4. Spiderman 3. One train wreck after another. Hey, this reminds me of the Evil Dead series, which was horrible after the first one!
3. Spiderman 2. The less said about this one, the better.
2. The Black Cauldron. Disney's biggest animated train wreck, it tells a ghost story of epic proportions.
1. The Haunted Mansion. Somewhat based on Disney's famous attraction of the same name, Eddie Murphy discovers that an old mansion in New Orleans is haunted (BUM BUM BUM). Disney's biggest live action train wreck, and Eddie Murphy is excessively out of character here.

Book Review: *Persepolis*

by Dabney Farmer
Staff Writer

Once you get past the names (which was hard for everyone to pronounce) *Persepolis* is a great book to read. It tells the story of a young girl's life growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. It is told through her views as a child as she sees things, not by someone telling her story.

We see her hopes and heartbreaks as a child growing up. It is a very unusual book as it is really a black and white comic book, but far from any comedy or super heroes.

The young girl has a loving, supportive, middle class family that have great expectations, thinking that the overthrow of the Shah of Iran will improve life in their country. Sadly the reverse takes place as the new rulers are harsher and force the people

to follow old-fashioned doctrines.

Despite the repression of women, she maintains a strong independent woman not afraid to speak her mind regardless of the consequences.

As a young girl she hates wearing the veil over her face, as do all the other girls but at first she agrees to this as her teacher speaks of the things coming from the new leader. That is until her father tells her the truth that her grandfather was once a prince but was overthrown. He was the last emperor of Iran and no great good came to the country after he was tossed out. She begins to disagree with her teachers and their cover up of the abuses of the new rulers.

Soon she strongly opposes the new government and buys American rock and roll records and a blue jean jacket. Together with her family they find ways to rebel,

but while her family does this quietly, she becomes too outspoken. Her family worries about her and sends her out of the country. Although she is free from war, she is racked with guilt about abandoning her country and misses her family terribly. The people around her in her new life take their freedom for granted try to make her feel ashamed to be an Iranian.

Reading this book gives you more insight of what the people in Iran are really like and what horrors they suffered during the Iran-Iraq war. We have so many advantages and freedoms here in America that we just take for granted. We do not execute thousands of people for breaking religious codes or their political beliefs. It shows that many people have no choice in their countries except to follow the leader or be thrown into jail or killed.