

# 'Hannibal' Serves Up Gore, Poor Characterization

By MICHAEL WOODS  
Staff Writer

As one of the most graphic scenes in film history squeals to a close, Dr. Hannibal Lecter (Anthony Hopkins) pulls in close to Special Agent Clarice Starling (Julianne Moore) and delivers a classic line.

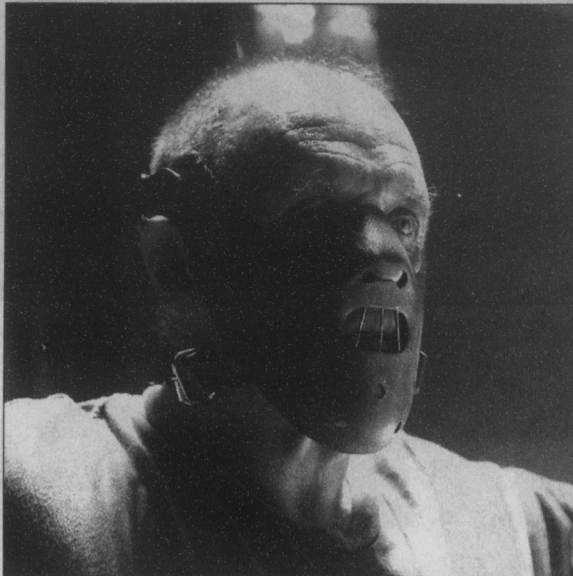
"I came halfway around the world to watch you run, Clarice. Will you let me run?"

Starling's response is never really in question. But the moment might have been suspenseful had the quarry been posed to Ridley Scott, the director of "Hannibal."

In adapting Thomas Harris' novel, Scott succeeds in resurrecting Dr. Lecter but fails to create an atmosphere equal to that of "The Silence of the Lambs."

For those who have yet to hear the lamb cry, a brief summation: the critically acclaimed "Silence," released in 1991, introduced FBI trainee Starling. She was assigned to track down a serial killer who took the idiom "you are what you wear" a little too seriously.

Starling, then played by Academy Award-winner Jodie Foster, visited incarcerated cannibalistic murderer Dr. Lecter to learn more about the new killer and ended up trading pieces of her life story for details about the case. "Hannibal" picks up their stories a



Anthony Hopkins reprises his Oscar-winning role as Hannibal Lecter in "Hannibal," the horrific sequel to "The Silence of the Lambs."

decade later. Starling, now a hardened veteran of the FBI, is being publicly flayed for her involvement in a botched drug raid, while Hannibal has relocated to Florence, Italy, where he is vying for

a position as a museum curator.

Starling receives a letter from Dr. Lecter, and the parcel attracts the attention of Mason Verger (Gary Oldman), a wealthy and influential recluse. Verger, who managed to survive a bad date with Dr. Lecter and is obsessed with exacting vengeance, decides to use Starling as bait to recapture him.

To this point, "Hannibal" is a painfully clumsy spectacle. Once Hopkins

finally graces the screen, the audience feels more relieved than excited.

Things pick up as Dr. Lecter is pursued by Detective Pazzi (Giancarlo Giannini) in Italy. Hopkins' scenes with Giannini are the film's most compelling because Pazzi's interaction with Dr. Lecter feels fresh.

A genuine tension permeates this portion of the movie and recaptures some of the intensity of "Silence." Sadly, Pazzi doesn't have the guts to hang with the sophisticated sociopath for very long.

After eluding capture in Florence, Dr. Lecter disappears until Starling is threatened, courtesy of Verger's Justice Department lackey, Paul Krendler (Ray Liotta).

The remainder of "Hannibal" is exceptional only in the amount of grotesque violence Scott manages to cram into 40 minutes. Scott doesn't fail to adapt the horror of the novel to the screen so much as he neglects to adapt the characters to the violence.

By failing to develop, or even to include, some of the more powerful characters from the novel - Verger, Krendler, and Starling especially - Scott resigns "Hannibal" to being a tour de force for Sir Anthony.

Fortunately, Hopkins is as stunning as he was a decade ago, but the support isn't there. Moore is a poor substitute for Foster. Her acting lacks depth, leaving Starling limp and making it impossible to become attached to her story. Sadly, the innocence and subtlety that made "Silence of the Lambs" compelling is hopelessly lost.

The Arts & Entertainment Editor can be reached at [artsdesk@unc.edu](mailto:artsdesk@unc.edu).

# Film Flaunts Cheap Humor, Revealingly Clad Actress

By DAVID POVILL  
Staff Writer

It's a story as old as time itself. Guy meets girl. Guy proposes to girl. Guy's friends kidnap girl.

Oh yeah, guy and girl's friends idolize Neil Diamond.

Well, maybe it's not the most traditional love story, but it's the story of "Saving Silverman."

"Saving Silverman," the new comedy from director Dennis Dugan - the very same man who brought us such juvenile favorites as "Happy Gilmore" and "Big Daddy."

The movie stars America's favorite dessert-sodomizing loser, Jason Biggs, as Darren Silverman, the patsy with the heart of gold. He falls for Judith, a domineering, manipulative demon of a fiancée, played by Amanda Peet.

Spicing up the story are Silverman's two best buddies, Wayne and J.D., brought to life by the consistently hilarious Steve Zahn ("Happy, Texas") and Jack Black ("High Fidelity"), respectively.

As mentioned, the duo attempts to rescue their friend from a life of marital servitude by kidnapping Judith, tying her up in their garage and making her wear extremely revealing clothing throughout the entire movie (the last part may have been the producer's idea, actually).

The movie has already been slammed by critics for its uncanny resemblance to "There's Something About Mary," coupled with its allegedly more offensive and more juvenile humor. Many argue that whereas "Mary"'s humor was good-natured, "Silverman"'s is tasteless and misogynistic.

It's a tough call. Yes, some of the gags do have a Mary-esque odor to them,

and yes, some of the jokes will piss off some people, but to say that "Mary"'s frank-and-beans jokes are any less tasteless than "Silverman"'s flaming nipples gags is to kiss the Farrelly brothers' asses undeservedly. "Mary" did have a certain indescribable charm to it, but let's call a spade a spade here. Jizz-in-the-hair scenes are still jizz-in-the-hair scenes - no more, no less.

Arguments aside, "Silverman," like "Mary," will leave you with a guilty stitch in your side from all those shameful laughs.

As for the writing, the script is formulaic and predictable. There's the obligatory retro-reference, in this case to Neil Diamond, that piles on the kitsch with so-stupid-you-have-to-laugh jokes (like Diamond himself noting as they approach America Avenue, "We're coming to America").

There's the goofy buddy humor of Zahn and Black, which, though terribly underutilized, still accounts for nearly 93 percent of the film's laughs.

There's the not-so-surprising happy ending of the obvious couple, the unlikely couple, and the ridiculous couple, a la "Billy Madison" and "Happy Gilmore."

The only real surprise is that, with all this predictability, I still laughed my ass off. Be warned, however - I'm not too proud to say that I also loved "Billy Madison," so judge accordingly.

If cheap gags, slapstick humor and borderline offensive jokes aren't your thing, you might want to skip "Silverman." It's the intellectual equivalent of "America's Funniest Home Videos."

But for those who can appreciate the simple pleasures of a good baseball-bat-to-the-crotch clip, "Saving Silverman" is a must-see.

The Arts & Entertainment Editor can be reached at [artsdesk@unc.edu](mailto:artsdesk@unc.edu).

**SOHO SHOES**  
A concept store for men & women

Donald J. Pliner  
Camper  
Charles David  
Kenneth Cole  
Nine West  
DKNY  
BCBG  
Coach  
bebe  
Via Spiga  
and more...

**SOHO SHOES**  
Northgate Mall  
Durham 416-3963  
[www.sohoshoes.com](http://www.sohoshoes.com)

Paint a perfect evening.  
See how the art of fondue will please everyone's palate.  
For reservations, call (919) 878-0477.

**The Melting Pot.**  
a fondue restaurant  
Dip into something different.  
3100 Wake Forest Road  
Raleigh, NC 27609  
[www.meltingpot.net](http://www.meltingpot.net)

FEDERAL RESERVE NOTE  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

With this coupon or UNC Student ID, get \$1 OFF Dinner Buffet!

Come try the largest Chinese Buffet in the Triangle!

**35** Chinese Restaurant  
Chapel Hill

Dine-in Buffet Only **968-3488**  
University Square

**TODAY @ Carolina**

**Wrestling vs. NCSU**  
Carmichael Auditorium 7 pm

**Softball vs. Minnesota**  
Finley Field 2 pm

**Hardee's SPORTS SHORTS**  
Students & Faculty Admitted FREE w/ID!

Experience the Tradition of **CHAPEL HILL**  
AT THE **Holiday Inn**

"Where We Take Pride In Serving You!"

- \* 135 Comfortable Guest Rooms
- \* Great In Room Amenities
- \* Teddy's Restaurant - Open for Breakfast & Dinner
- \* Teddy's Lounge - Experience Fun, Food & Spirits
- \* Meeting & Banquet Facilities
- \* Fitness Center / Outdoor Pool
- \* Great Location!

Close to UNC & Area Attractions!

**919-929-2171 or 1-888-452-5765**

Located on 15/501 Bypass across from Eastgate Shopping Center

**Teddy's Restaurant & Lounge**  
**FREE APPETIZER**  
with purchase of two entrees or pastas!

Not valid with other coupons or discounts!  
Offer expires 4/3/01. Present coupon at time of order.

IF ONE OF MY SANDWICHES DOESN'T HIT THE SPOT, THERE'S SOMETHING SERIOUSLY WRONG WITH YOUR SPOT.

Jimmy John's

**WE DELIVER**

306 W. FRANKLIN  
CHAPEL HILL  
968.7827

**JIMMY JOHN'S**  
Since 1983  
WORLD'S GREATEST GOURMET SANDWICHES

[WWW.JIMMYJOHNS.COM](http://WWW.JIMMYJOHNS.COM)

2001-2002 **Theme Housing**  
APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE NOW!

Are you interested in something special? So are we!

Applications for the 2001-2002 academic year are being accepted now. There are nine Residential Learning Communities (Theme Houses) at UNC and you can be a part of them. From building your foreign language skills to increasing your multicultural awareness, there is something special for everyone. To learn more about these programs go to the Housing & Residential Education web page at: <http://housing.unc.edu>. Follow the link for undergraduate students to Theme Housing. The application is right there for you! Just download it and fill it out.

Turn in your application by Friday, February 16, 2001 to the Housing & Residential Education Office in the Carr Building.

**Learn more at these Information Nights:**

- February 12, 7:30-9:00pm  
**Health Science** - 2nd floor Carmichael Residence Hall
- February 13, 6:00-7:00pm  
**French House** - Carmichael Lobby
- February 14, 4:00-5:00pm  
**German House** - 1st floor Lounge (high side) Carmichael Residence Hall
- February 15, 7:00-8:00pm  
**Living Well** - 2nd floor Lounge Ehringhaus Residence Hall

**Theme Housing Options**

- Academic Enhancement Program
- French House
- German House
- Spanish House
- Health Sciences
- Living Well
- Substance Free UNITAS
- Women's Perspectives

Applications are available at: <http://housing.unc.edu>

For more information see your Area Director or call 962-5406

Department of Housing and Residential Education  
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
CB #5500, Carr Building  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-5500  
Email: [housing@unc.edu](mailto:housing@unc.edu)

NOTE: A \$200.00 housing deposit (due March 2nd) is required to be selected for a Theme House. If you are not selected for a program, you can apply the \$200 to the regular room renewal process later this spring. You can pay the deposit at the Cashier's Office.