

# Cinema

## Tom Hanks makes a 'Big' hit in his engaging comedy

"If only I were young again." How often have adults said that? But when we were kids, we dreamed of being big. In the new Tom Hanks film, "Big," that wish is fulfilled.

In this delightful comedy, 12-year-old Josh Baskin makes a wish on a carnival's fortune-telling machine to be big. Imagine his surprise when he awakens the next morning with the body and face of Tom Hanks.

When his mother thinks this 30-year-old man is a rapist who has kidnapped her little boy, Josh runs out of the house and tries to figure out how to deal with this unusual predicament. The rest is a fun-filled yet touching view of the world, seen from the eyes of a boy trapped in a man's body.

Tom Hanks gives his best performance since his role in "Splash" as the aged Josh Baskin. He manages to maintain a wide-eyed but innocent expression throughout the movie with his reactions on target for the confused young

**James Mills**  
Cinema

man. The comedic scenes succeed largely because of Hanks' reactions. One genuinely feels for Josh and for his situation — thanks to Hanks' first-rate performance.

Elizabeth Perkins appears as the obligatory love interest in the film. Her character, Susan, is a hopelessly high-strung executive whose sole purpose is to succeed in business. Yet when Susan meets Josh, the child in her struggles to come out. She finds Josh's naive view of the world refreshing and becomes attracted to him.

"Big" is directed by Penny Marshall of "Laverne and Shirley" fame. Marshall proves her talents as a director with "Big," after her uneven debut with "Jumpin' Jack Flash." She directs the comic scenes well but misses chances of milking

the comedic possibilities of several scenes. However, she captures Josh's sadness in this confused situation.

"Big's" poignancy is what sets it apart from other recent role reversal films such as "Like Father, Like Son," "Vice Versa" and "18 Again." Poignant scenes in "Big" are few, but they all work.

When Josh cries himself to sleep his first night alone in a seedy New York City hotel room, the audience genuinely feels for him. When the 30-year-old Josh tells his best friend, 12-year-old Billy — the only person he can confide in — that he's going out with a girl rather than spending time with him, the rage and hurt Billy feels is very real. When Josh says goodbye to Susan, the viewer also feels the pain a farewell can bring.

Moments such as these distinguish "Big" as a cut above the rest. They raise "Big" from good to great and make it worth the time of any moviegoer — regardless of age.

## Get out the popcorn: New video releases heat up the summer

By **BETH BUFFINGTON**  
Arts/Features Editor

If the summer sun gets too hot, come in from the heat and hibernate in front of the tube while watching the hottest newly released movies on videotape.

Here are several movies available at most videotape rental stores in June and worth checking out:

■ "Fatal Attraction" — Michael Douglas, Glenn Close and Anne Archer star in a suspenseful thriller in which a man's love affair with a deranged, obsessed woman turns fatal and threatens his marriage in more ways than one.

■ "Overboard" — In this zany comedy, Goldie Hawn's boring life as a spoiled heiress is spiced up a bit after she falls off a yacht, loses her memory and gets paired up with Kurt Russell, a carpenter.

■ "Nuts" — Barbra Streisand and Richard Dreyfuss star in this courtroom drama which places Streisand, an anti-social woman, at the mercy

of the judicial system as she fights against being institutionalized.

■ "Like Father, Like Son" — In this comedy, Dudley Moore and Kirk Cameron star as a father-son team who get their roles reversed for a wild time.

■ "Full Metal Jacket" — Matthew Modine stars in Stanley Kubrick's powerful story about Vietnam and the Tet offensive. Kubrick shows reality with the emotional effects of war on a squad of Marines.

■ "Ironweed" — Meryl Streep and Jack Nicholson portray life on the streets in the late 1930s as they fight for survival.

■ "The Couch Trip" — Dan Aykroyd is joined by Donna Dixon, Walter Matthau and Saturday Night Live's Victoria Jackson in this rollicking comedy about an escaped psychiatric patient who sets up his own psychiatric practice and ends up becoming a leading radio sex therapist.

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