Holiday Movie Season Offers Something for Everyone

by Becky Bradshaw

What's hot in theatres this holiday season? Currently "Home Alone," "Dances With Wolves," and "Three Men and a Little Lady" are dominating sales at the box office. Which of these should you spend your hard-earned entertainment dollars on? My money's on "Dances With Wolves."

This three hour spectacular was produced and directed by Kevin Costner, who also stars in the picture. His directorial debut is being heralded a success by movie critics and fans alike, and deservedly so. This is a scenic epic that features panoramic views, a moving and often amusing story, and superb acting.

But three hours? That's a bit long you may be thinking. Think no more, because the three hours fly by and you'll be wishing for more.

Of course it is exam time and you may not have three hours to spare on a movie. Okay, how about a great little 90 minute diversion? I recommend "Home Alone." It's a clever story about a young boy who is mistakenly left behind when his family goes on a holiday excursion to Paris. His holiday is spent outwitting two bumbling burglars who are determined to break into his house.

Name

You'll laugh out loud at his ingenious booby traps and you may get a bit misty at the film's sentimental ending.

Sentiment was what the makers of "Three Men and a Little Lady" seemed to be working toward, but they never quite made it. In fact, all they made was a mess of this sequel to "Three Men and a Baby."

Our three bachelors were back, looking just as good as they did in the original. Their story this go-round however, lacked the spontaneity and fun of the first film. I found it to be silly, even boring. I realized that I paid more attention to thinking about what I would have as an after-movie snack than I did the picture. Sometimes sequels just don't work.

A sequel that did work and is still playing in Raleigh is "Rocky V." Billed as the last in the "Rocky" series, this movie brings the story of the hero full circle, back to his roots and right back to where we found him fourteen years ago. It will remind you of the original "Rocky." It is full of sentiment and meaning. If you are a Rocky fan it's a must see.

Another movie worth seeing is "Reversal of Fortune," the true story of the murder trial of Claus Von Bulow,

starring Glenn Close and Jeromy Irons.

During this month a number of movies will open for your holiday viewing pleasure. "The Rookie," starring Clint Eastwood and Charlie Sheen, opened December 7. They portray cops working together on a car theft investigation.

Several films will debut on December 14, including the much talked about "Edward Scissorhands." It stars Winona Ryder and Johnny Depp, who plays a young man with scissors for hands. The previews look fascinating in a bizzare sort of way. "The Russia House" is a spy thriller featuring Sean Connery as a British publisher and Michelle Pfeiffer as a Russian woman with whom he becomes involved. "Kindergarten Cop" has muscleman Arnold Schwarzenegger playing a cop on a dangerous undercover assignment-in a kindergarten. Debra Winger and John Malcovich round out the list of stars coming to the screen on December 14 as they star in "The Sheltering Sky."

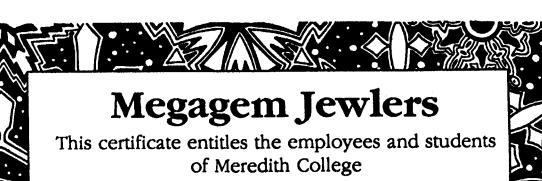
Three openings are scheduled for December 19. If you loved the book, will you like the film adaptation of "Bonfire of the Vanities?" Maybe, maybe not, but with a cast that includes Tom

Hanks, Bruce Willis, and Melanie Griffith, look for it to open big at the box office. In competition that week will be Robert Redford in Sydney Pollacks's "Havana," and Robin Williams and Robert De Niro in "Awakenings," the true story of a man who awakens from a thirty year coma.

On December 21 Winona Ryder shows up again in "Mermaids" along with Cher and Bob Hoskins. Cher's the crazy mom and Winona, along with Christina Ricci, are her daughters. What does this mean? I guess we'll just have to wait and find out.

And also scheduled for release in December are "Look Who's Talking Too" with the voice of Roseanne Barr (hope she doesn't sing) speaking for Mikey's new baby sister; "The Godfather, Part III, featuring Al Pacino and Diane Keaton; "Once Around," a romance starring Holly Hunter and Richard Dreyfuss. And last but not least, "Scenes From a Mall," what better way to get into the old commercial spirit, featuring Woody Allen and Bette Midler shopping for each other's wedding anniversary gifts.

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