

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

FALL MOVIE REVIEW

Jennifer Cash
Staff Writer

As the weather gets colder, it's nice to stay out of the cold and go to the movies. A lot of good movies are coming to theaters this fall. Here's a preview of some of the biggest hits:

Fame. You are probably familiar with the catchy song, and some of you may have even seen the original movie. The new *Fame* features a very talented cast, including Naturi Naughton, who sings the updated version of the *Fame* song. *Fame* follows a group of students at the New York School of Performing Arts from audition to graduation. *Fame* hits theaters September 25.

Whip It: This is a story of a pageant girl who leaves her crowns behind to join a roller derby team. Directed by Drew Barrymore and starring Ellen Page (*Juno*), *Whip It* whips into theaters October 2.

Couples' Retreat: This comedy follows four couples on their journey to a tropical island resort to work on their marriages. As the couples participate in the mandatory couples' therapy, viewers see a hilarious look at real-life problems faced by couples. This movie features great comedians such as Vince Vaughn, Jason Bateman, Kristen Bell and Kristin Davis. *Couples' Retreat* comes to theaters on October 9.

The Stepfather: When Michael Harding (Penn Badgley) returns home from military

school, he discovers his mom has a new man in her life, one whom Michael doesn't trust. As he learns more about his new stepfather, the more the son fears for his and his families' lives. Can this stepfather have a sinister, hidden secret? Find out when *The Stepfather* arrives at theaters on October 16.

New Moon: The most anticipated movie

of the fall is the second installment of the *Twilight Saga: New Moon*. *New Moon* will show the relationship of Bella Swan and her werewolf friend, Jacob Black, when Bella's true love, vampire Edward Cullen, leaves her. Tickets will be on sale in advance for screenings of *New Moon*. *New Moon* appears theaters on November 20.

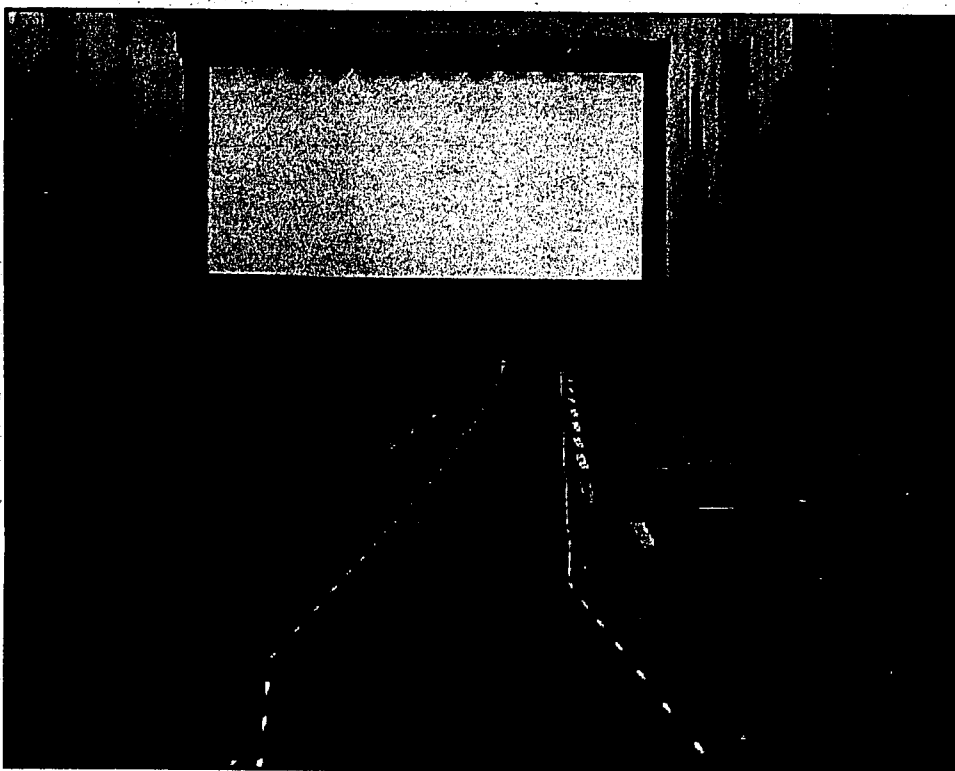


Photo Courtesy <http://bluemovieviews.files.wordpress.com/2008/12/movie-theatre.jpg>

THE GRINNING MAN: A PRODUCTION WORTH SEEING!

Mayah Collins
Staff Writer

Thrilling, shocking, intriguing and amusing are adjectives that represent the essence of "The Grinning Man," a new work by Alex Smith. Stillwater Theatre, a local professional theatre company in residence at Meredith College, presented "The Grinning Man" in the Studio Theatre of Jones Hall this past weekend. The cast included Abbey Collins (Gale), a senior Theatre major at Meredith, Sheryl Scott (Theresa), also a senior Theater major, Jeff Stanley (Eliot), Brian Mullins (The Grinning Man) and Samantha Rahn (Cynthia). The play was full of suspense and suspicion from beginning to end. In the play, Eliot and Gale (husband and wife) are owners of The Phoenician, a flourishing exotic flower shop. As the opening scene progresses, they are visited by a strange man (the Grinning Man) who is peculiar and inquisitive as they begin to close up their shop for the day. The Grinning man is merely the haunting of Gale's past and a menace to her future.

I had the opportunity to see the play Saturday, September 19. Excitement induced me due to the fact that the production was said to be very scary. I did not know what to expect be-

cause of the warnings of strong language, violence, and adult themes. My imagination toppled once I saw the first 10 minutes of the play. It was the type of play that I could not grasp nor predict its outcome. I was impressed and amused to say the least.

Jennifer L. Prince, a Meredith College sophomore, also saw "The Grinning Man" on Saturday, September 19. When asked about her opinion on the play, she replied that, "The Grinning Man was an amazing play, and was filled with many elements that made it so easy to be involved in. Very dark and sinister, it is so intense that I could not help but identify and sympathize and feel sorry for the characters. As the plot unfolded, I could not help but wonder who this mysterious "grinning man" is. It definitely kept me on the edge of my seat and trying to figure out what would come next. It also gave me new grave fear of staple guns. I highly recommend it!" Plays that tolerate our curiosity and tease our emotions are highly admired and adored according to

Jennifer.

The production may have been wonderful, but the chemistry of the cast was just incredible. The actors fed off of each other's energy throughout the play. This added to the suspense and suspicion that the audience endured; the cast did a superb job with captivating the audience. The visual effects were amazing as well. I would highly recommend this play to any and everyone. If you like drama, confusion and hysteria, "The Grinning Man" is the perfect play for you.

If you have not seen "The Grinning Man" yet, it's not too late. Showings are scheduled to take place on September 25 and 26 at 8 p.m. and September 27 at 3 p.m. in the Studio Theatre of Jones Hall at Meredith College. All Meredith students, faculty, and staff are admitted free of charge with valid ID. For more information about ticket sales call 919-760-2854 or email boxoffice@meredith.edu.

September 25
Carolina Hurricanes v Atlanta Thrashers
7pm RBC Center

September 25
Australia in the Museum Park
8pm NC Art Museum

September 26
16th Annual Women's Distance Festival
5k
to benefit Interact
8:30am Halifax Community Center

September 26
NC State v Pittsburgh
3:30pm Carter Finley Stadium

September 26
5th Annual Raleigh Jaycee Bowl-a-Thon
to benefit the Jaycee Burn Center, 7pm,
AMF Capital Lanes

September 27
appearance by Steve Madden, Belk,
Crabtree Valley Mall, 1-3pm

September 28
Rob Thomas with One Republic & Carolina Liar, 6pm, Koka Booth Amphitheater

