

Hollywood goes to prom: Teen movies chronicle high school landmark



Internet graphic

In the teen movie "She's All That," prom opens with students dancing choreographed steps in time to the scratchy beat of a DJ. The film revolves around the popular event.

Prom, a pivotal event in the lives of many teens, provides Hollywood directors with a popular and relevant theme to attract a teenage audience.

By Emma Williams
Staff Writer

On this night, a young lady or gentleman receives a corsage or boutonniere, dines at a classy restaurant, and dances in a setting fit for royalty. Prom night, however, is not only reserved for ordinary teenagers, but also for Hollywood producers, directors, and actors.

Studios release a teenage flick nearly every year with prom as its central event. As the culmination of many teens' high school experience, prom provides a subject directors and producers can develop into a relevant theme for young audiences.

"Prom is the highlight of your high school career. It is a climax, and directors need a

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-Andy Rodenbough,
junior

climax," said student art teacher Ms. Gavitt.

However, the depiction of prom in many teenage films is often inaccurate. To incorporate prom into films creatively, directors often make unorthodox modifications to certain prom traditions.

In the release of the teen flick "Whatever It Takes," the prom scene opens with characters dancing in synchronized motion to pre-choreographed steps.

One other uncommon aspect to some prom films is that of prom attire. While most proms tend to involve long, silky gowns

and tuxedos, in the film "Never Been Kissed," the characters went as Barbie Dolls and baby dolls.

Also widely acknowledged and added to many teen movies is the aspect of prom king and queen. In "Never Been Kissed," Drew Barrymore receives the coveted title of prom queen, helping her character to gain popularity among some and tension among others. In many movies, earning the title of prom king or queen is crucial to the characters. Willing teens will go to any length to attain the crown or tiara.

"The question [in movies] is always 'Who is going to be prom queen?' It is a cut throat race," said junior Samantha Stiles.

Though prom king and queen exist in many adolescent films, many high schools lack this seemingly popular aspect.

"We don't even have a prom king or queen," junior Andy Rodenbough said.

Often in movies, the emphasis on prom may seem overrated. The popularity and significance of prom are augmented in such flicks as "Never Been Kissed," "She's All That," and "Ten Things I Hate About You." Prom is the central concern for the characters.

Some juniors and seniors do not consider the festivity to be of paramount importance. Teens would rather avoid expending the time and energy primping and coiffing themselves for the event.

"It is perceived [by Hollywood] as the pinnacle of your high school career," said sophomore Andy Keimig.

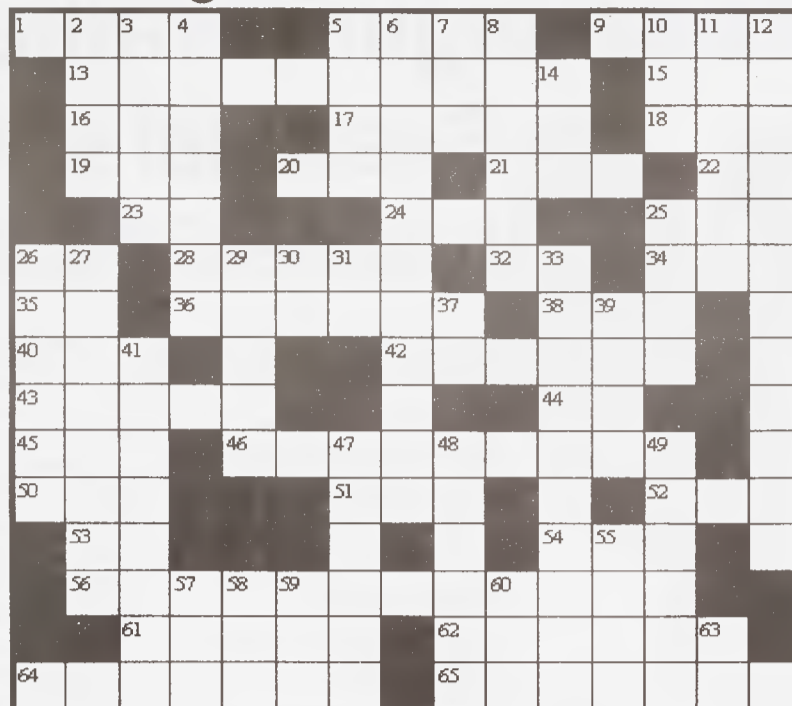
While in film this opinion may seem true, in the lives of many teenagers, it is quite the contrary.

"It is weird that they make prom to be the focal point of a high school. In the movies prom is always this extravagant event," said Rodenbough.

Even though many movies tend to stress the importance of prom, some students feel the prom night is not always so momentous. The plethora of prom films attracts many but still some are weary of the hackneyed theme. The theme will not always receive the approbation of the students.

"There are other things in high school besides prom," said sophomore Sophie Kranz.

High Life Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 A Canal
5 Border
9 Soft moist matter
13 Preview screenings
15 Visually apprehend
16 The other sense
17 Aquatically isolated landmass
18 Internet Service Provider
19 Disdain for inanity (interj.)
20 Angel dust
21 Lyric poem
22 Internet identity
23 Canadian salutation
24 Flightless bird
25 Must agree to this before installing
26 Prefix
28 More uncommon
32 ___ skin test
34 Without specification
35 Famous movie star
36 Singular footwear
38 Nocturnal avian
40 ___-friendly
42 Breath freshener
43 It's alive.
44 Scoring in football
45 Money machine
46 Gentlemen (2 wo.)
50 Affirmation
51 Expression of agreement
52 A prophet
53 90 degrees
54 Mariner's compass direction
56 Moralistic Greek stories (2 wo.)
61 Large artery
62 Rung a large bell
64 A songbird with a colored appendage
65 Version

DOWN

- 2 Not new
3 Follow
4 Gentle breezes
5 Heroic tale
6 With great urgency (adverb)
7 A colloid
8 ___ a living
10 National postal services
11 Period of instruction
12 William's woods
14 Unpleasant consequence of coitus
25 A mineral
26 Musically inclined professional
27 When the list goes on...
29 Moses's brother
30 Health official
31 Talking horse
33 Italian painter of Florentine school
37 Chinese distance
39 Roe v. ___
41 Designer of Central Park
47 Foot bone
48 Let air in
49 A mentor
55 Waistband
57 A drunk
58 Openings
59 Telecommunications company
60 Brand of fragrance spray
63 Actively participate; carry out

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