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## THE BATTALION GGIELIFE





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cessful ID, which grossed 695 million, to the obscure medical drama Extreme Measures, this has been a year of eclectic feature films.

From the highly suc-

Deciding whether a new year comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb is one thing. Pondering the year's best and worst feature films is no different.

1996 has seen comedy, drama, thriller, cartoon and combinations of more genres of film.



What sets one film apart from another, on the year's top-10 best and worst lists is a critics definition of quality, content, refreshing cinematography and, of course, dazzling acting tal-

Although some of this year's big box-office winners do not have all of these qualities, they were strong forces to reckon with.

The movie stars came out in droves this year to give viewers unforgettable films; ones that made us laugh, cry and think. There were also films that made us feel these emotions because they were so bad.

So, to clear up some of the great and not-sogreat releases this year, I present "James' Top-Ten Best and Worst Films of 1996"

Top 10 Best (so good, they don't need to be numbered):

- *Independence Day* we kill the meanest ET's from outer-space
- Bound two women fall in love and kill others for money

Star Trek: First Contact - mankind overcomes assimilation yet again

The Long Kiss Goodnight - quote before an explosion: "Shouldn't we get a dog?

Ransom - tears, sobs, screams (and that's just the audience)

James and the Giant Peach - more than a toon for kids



William Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet -'twas a most fair and noble accomplishment

- The Nutty Professor a step up from the Jerry Lewis original The Truth About Cats and Dogs - first film to
- show safe-sex in the nineties (on the phone)

The Ghost and The Darkness - lions and lions and lions, oh my ... no, I'm really afraid Top 10 Worst (so bad, numbers are irrele-

- vant): Four Rooms - four hotel rooms too many, try the Hilton
- The Mighty Ducks 3 hockey season never ends, right?
- *Bulletproof* too bad the film's title didn't protect the actors
- Thinner how long does it take to get to the center of a bad movie?
- Last Man Standing actually, there were two at the end
- Multiplicity there's a plot here somewhere nope, just enjoy the credits
- Mary Reilly is that an Irish accent I hear or are you just scared to act?
- Before and After came in and left with the same thought ... really bad movie
- Kazaam watch the acting disappear right before your very own eyes • The Rich Man's Wife - couldn't afford a real
- script could ya?
  - So what can audiences expect in the up-



Clockwise from top: Geena Davis and Samuel Jackson star in The Long Kiss Goodnight, Uma Thurman and Janine Garafalo in The Truth about Cats & Dogs, Claire Danes and Leonar-do DiCaprio as young lovers in Romeo & Juliet and Glenn Close as Cruella De Vil in Walt Disney's 101 Dalmations.

coming year? Early in the year, mass productionss Madonna's Evita and William Shakespe Hamlet will be out nationwide, after their ited release for Oscar consideration.

Science fiction will spurn the fourthi ment of Alien, this time with Sigourney Weaver as a clone of her character Ripley Winona Ryder as her android co-star.

There will also be more children's films, the Brazos Disney is currently awaiting its Summer's es will be th release of Hercules You can expect more historical features liday gift giv

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next year, one being The Titanic starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet of Sere and Sensibility fame.

But most of all, dinosaur-lovers bewar on Tuesday in That's right, Jurassic Park: The Lost We will open next summer, and I'm sure theb office charts are eagerly awaiting its relea but it's too bad Jeff Goldblum will be the returning character.

Furthermore, just keep an eye open for what appeals to you in 1997.

And as 1996 closes out with Christma lease films that will carry us into the newy always remember the magic of film, thees citement it brings, the new worlds it create and the overwhelming sensations of tears, laughter and thought in the spectrum of e tions. See you at the movies.





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