

Confidential makes list of great movies

Movie Review

Given this wide spectrum of flicks, the new film *L.A. Confidential*, would be lucky to clean up leftover egg rolls after *Chinatown*, much less compete on an artistic level with it. *L.A. Confidential* not only cleans up, it offers a new dish to the tale of '50s crime and corruption.

The story of the film is complicated and intricate, not to mention difficult to explain. Without revealing too much about the film, the plot centers around two young police officers, Bud White, played by the brooding Russell Crowe, and Ed Exley, played by Guy Pearce. The two idealistic officers eventually uncover a conspiracy of proportions even Johnnie Cochran would not believe.

L.A. Confidential is a rare find among movies these days. It is a smart, complex, intriguing film of raw power. Is that something you would hear in a commercial or what?

The strength of this movie is the writing. Rarely has a film given such depth to an ensemble cast. Where a typical movie would present a flat character of little interest, *L.A. Confidential* offers characters who have moral flaws. The characters of the film are addictive, always leaving the viewer wanting more, hoping to get another insight to the complex psyches that

pepper the film.

Pearce delivers a subtly powerful performance as Exley. Pearce embraces the dark side of Exley as wholeheartedly as he embraces the good things about him. Where most portrayals of such a morally ambiguous character would try to minimize such shortcomings, Pearce delivers them with relish.

While the over two hour running time of the film can be a drawback, the plot twists are enough to keep even a Fun Dip-crazed 12-year-old glued to his seat.



Cromwell, Pearce, Crowe and Spacey star in the new movie *L.A. Confidential*

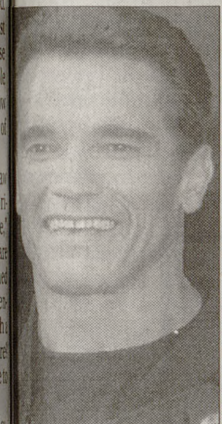
L.A. Confidential
Starring: Kevin Spacey, Russell Crowe and Guy Pearce
Directed by: Curtis Hanson
Rated R
Playing at Hollywood 16
★★★★ (out of five)

BY AARON MEIER
Features editor

A movie about Los Angeles in the 1950s isn't really ground breaking. From the classic *Chinatown* to the dud also known as *Mulholland Falls*, tales of the Hat Squad and keeping the City of Angels clean abound.

Arnold fathers fourth child

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Arnold Schwarzenegger and Maria Shriver have a new addition to the family, another son.



Schwarzenegger

The 9 1/2-pound baby boy was delivered 5:45 p.m. Saturday at a Los Angeles area hospital, publicist Catherine Olim said Sunday. No name was disclosed.

"Mother and baby are in great shape and resting well. Everyone is ecstatic," Olim said, adding that the action film star was with his wife during delivery.

The couple now has two boys and two girls.

Jewell to act out revenge on SNL

NEW YORK (AP) — Wrongly accused Olympic bombing suspect Richard Jewell got sweet revenge on the feds as a guest on the season premiere of "Saturday Night Live."

The security guard hailed in the media as a hero then vilified as the possible Atlanta bomber before the FBI finally dropped him as a suspect belted a Janet Reno impersonator in a comedy skit.

He even had a laugh at the expense of NBC, the show's home network.

Jewell was all smiles when comedy news anchorman Norm MacDonald mentioned that NBC had to pay him an "undisclosed sum of money" after he was cleared.

"That's true," Jewell said, grinning. In the Janet Reno sketch, Jewell walked into an office set without a word and punched the actor impersonating Reno in the stomach.

"Same time next week?" the actor asked.

"Sure," Jewell said.

Jewell first spotted the suspicious bag that blew up during the

1996 Olympics, killing one person and injuring dozens. Soon, he was named as a suspect and endured months of intense scrutiny by authorities and reporters.

After he was cleared, he sued several news organizations, including NBC, over their coverage. Reno publicly apologized to Jewell for news leaks that named him as a suspect.

Burns to tackle the works of Twain

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Documentary filmmaker Ken Burns' next project is to decode the mysteries of the legendary American writer with one of the most famous pen names in history: Mark Twain.

"It seems to me that Twain hits the light and the dark of us, all at the same time," Burns said. "He hits the myth and the reality, all at the same time. He's a kind of Rosetta stone to the American experience."

Best known for his documentaries on the Civil War and the history of baseball, Burns has done shorter biographical films on Thomas Jefferson

and Lewis and Clark. The two-to-four hour Twain film will be the third in that series, and is expected to be shown on PBS in 2001.

Shields has fond memories of Dodi

NEW YORK (AP) — The tragedy of Dodi Fayed's untimely death has been unfairly overlooked by the media, according to former girlfriend Brooke Shields.



Shields

"Everybody has been focused on Diana, and that's understandable, but not much has been said about Dodi, and for those of us who knew him there should be some recognition,"

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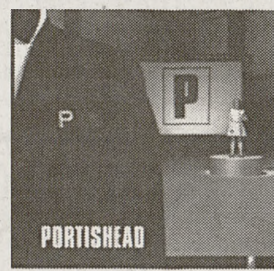
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