

Reel CRITIQUE



AARON MEIER
staff writer

The trailers make it look like a sensual love affair between two sexy stars.

The reputation of the classic Dickens' novel, on which the movie is based, is a tale of class struggle and acceptance into high society.

In the end, however, *Great Expectations* does a lukewarm job of trying to achieve both.

Following in the footsteps of *William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet*, *Great Expectations* tries to put an MTV-generation twist on a classic love story. The problem with this update is the twists also occur with some occasionally nauseating camera movements that invoke unfriendly reminders of lunch.

On paper the update sounds interesting. Ethan Hawke plays Finn Bell, a child of the poor fishing towns along the Gulf Coast and an aspiring artist. He is employed by the town's resident nut case — excuse me, eccentric socialite — Ms. Dinsmoor, played with unabandoned relish by Anne Bancroft.

Young Finn's job is to be a dancing partner for Dinsmoor's niece, Estella

(Gwyneth Paltrow). Even at age 11, Estella is an ice queen who would make Nancy Kerrigan proud. Over their years of dancing, Finn falls in love with Estella, even though their social worlds are millions of dollars apart.

Some years after Estella has moved from the sultry society of Florida to the suave jet setters of New York, Finn receives a chance from a mysterious benefactor to display his artwork. This opportunity offers him a chance to escape the marshes of the Gulf Coast and possibly reunite with Estella.

For those people lucky enough to have avoided the book in high school, the fun of the movie comes in Dickens' plot coupled with the beauty of Paltrow and Hawke trying to be at their sensual best.

For those of us who were not smart enough to dodge Dickens, the plot's surprises are ruined and the modern update does not do much for the original, other than making its warbling prose bearable.

The acting in the film is best served in the silent moments of *Great Expectations*. Watching the two lovers dance or observing Hawke's passionate drawings in silence show the sensual charisma of the stars. It is disturbing when the words of a movie get in the way of making it good.

Bancroft's portrayal of Dinsmoor is the film's only improvement on the novel. Al-

Great Expectations

Starring Ethan Hawke and Gwyneth Paltrow

Directed by Alfonso Cuarón

Playing at Hollywood 16

Rated R

Critique: C-

though the book has the character constantly dressed in a tattered wedding dress, director Alfonso Cuarón's has Dinsmoor in heavy makeup accenting every wrinkle of Bancroft's face. The dormant insanity of Dinsmoor still shines through, making her the memorable character of *Great Expectations*.

While the movie is relatively Paltrow-light, she illuminates the screen as well as brings a chill into the theater whenever Estella lets a pointed barb fly at Hawke's Finn. Paltrow has definitely come out of her post-Brad Pitt era as a star in her own right and her prominence in the movie's trailers proves this fact. Now, if Paltrow can stop sporting the "anorexic waif" look, maybe her nude scenes would not be so disturbing.

Cuarón's direction is both innovative and childish. He clearly is fond of an active camera, but sometimes the camera work distracts from the actors' performances. He does deserve praise for trying to make the camera work in the film. Perhaps in future projects, Cuarón will learn to temper energy with the serenity of a quiet moment.

The whole product of *Great Expectations* does not equal the sum of its parts. It just goes to prove that sexy stars, a classic script and a young innovative director does not a good movie make.

SLEEP

Continued from Page 3

"Many subjects describe a sensation of weight over the chest, terror and anxiety and are compelled to try to move, get up or shout," they write. "Sleep paralysis is generally treated with explanation and reassurance that it is not a dangerous phenomenon."

"If you look at the statistics, sleep disorders are one of the leading causes of institutionalization in the United States."

Dr. David Earnest
associate professor,
College of Medicine

Isolated episodes of sleep paralysis appear to be triggered by tiredness, stress or sleep deprivation and may often occur during naps. Sleep paralysis also is a possible side effect of antidepressant medication.

Sleep disorders associated with medical and/or psychi-

atric conditions tend along with the illness sleep disorder continue the medical or psychiatric condition is cured, other may have become im-

The fourth category disorders, proposed orders, includes pre-associated sleep dis-

hypnagogic hallucinations. Women with sleep bances during pregnancy complain of leg cramps, ening dreams, excessive ners or difficulty fallin-

Reite, Ruddy and Nause that up to two-thirds of nant women consist sleep to be abnormal.

Another proposed order is the occurrence nagogic hallucinations disorder includes viny or visual dream-like nations that usually the onset of sleep.

Hypnagogic hallucinations can occur in patients fer from sleep para narcolepsy (a condition terized by sudden and trollable attacks of d-

Although sleep is to be a time for rest ation, victims of sleep may find this time hours of agony, miser ferer. The tossing, n-

other symptoms ma sleep disorder pati seemingly endless hallir fortunately, treatm st sleep disturbances be there is hope for relief

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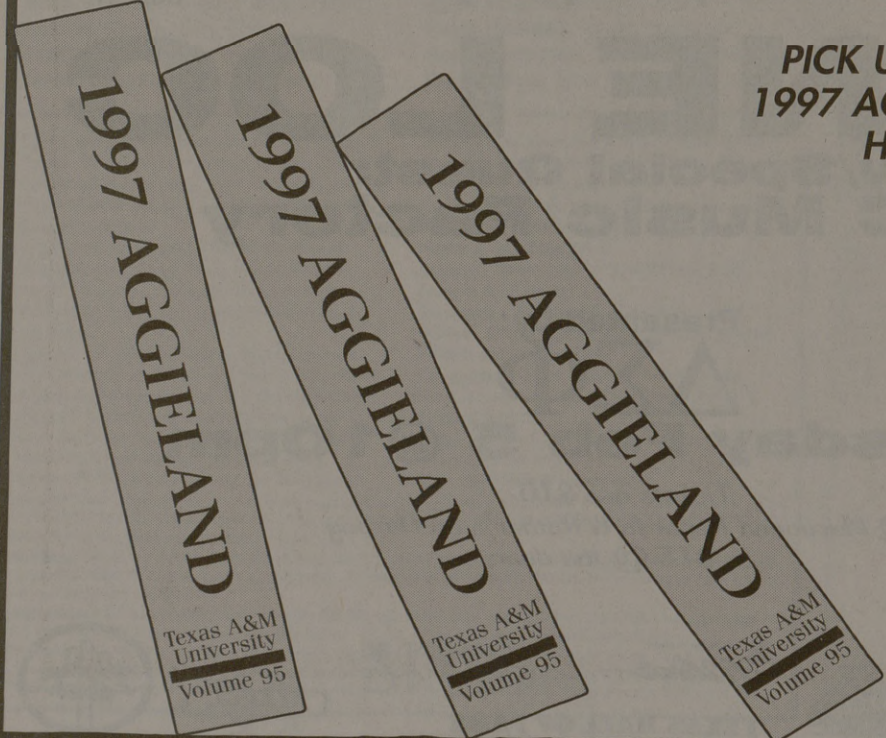
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