

Reel CRITIQUE



TRAVIS IRBY
staff writer

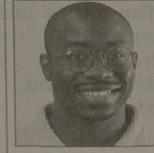
Audiences with the patience of Job will be able to enjoy the virtues of *The Apostle*. The almost two-and-a-half-hour film was written, directed and produced by its star, Robert Duvall. Duvall plays Euliss "Sonny" Dewey, a wandering Pentecostal minister who gets around Texas in more ways than one. The merry minister has a bad case of Clinton-itis when it comes to the ladies. This doesn't sit well with his wife, Jessie (Farrah Fawcett), who decides to take a lover of her own. In a prime example of what is good for the goose, isn't necessarily good for the gander, Duvall does a instrumental version of "Take Me Out To The Ball Game" with a bat on his romantic rival's head. Fearing that he might have taken his work of getting souls to heaven a little too seriously, the scared Sonny takes off. He sets up shop in a backwoods Louisiana burg, where he takes the name "Apostle" to spread the word of God. Apostle takes the reigns of a mostly African-

American congregation and the brunt of the lord's work. The philandering preacher has to avoid the law and the destruction of his new church by a troublesome racist (Billy Bob Thornton). Apostle strikes up a genuine romance with a secretary named Toosie (Miranda Richardson), brings souls to the flock and tries to redeem himself from past sins. *The Apostle* takes its time to reach its reward, but it is worth it. When thespians make this type of vanity project the results can be quite varied. *The Apostle* can be called a success. Duvall directs the film in a plain, unexaggerated style. It is a look at faith and religion without glowing light or guardian angels. Supporting roles are deftly handled by Fawcett, Thornton and Richardson, but this sermon belongs to Duvall. His character is a man with many demons and few angels. He knows he is a sinner, but his faith keeps him seeking redemption in a way that moves even the most ardent of atheists. There is a gospel-heavy soundtrack to get the audience's feet thumping, along with their bibles. *The Apostle* is quite a film in both length and content, but for moviegoers willing to invest the time, it offers some heavenly rewards.

The Apostle

Starring Robert Duvall and Farrah Fawcett
Directed By Robert Duvall
Rated PG-13
Playing at Hollywood 16
Critique: A

Reel CRITIQUE



JAMES FRANCIS
aggielife editor

Every now and then, a film comes along with an interesting plot, solid acting and an ending that all audiences can go crazy over. In the case of *Dark City*, however, two out of three is not that bad. The film stars Rufus Sewell (the guy from all those period-piece films, such as *Cold Comfort Farm* and *Carrington* with Emma Thompson) as John Murdoch, a man whose identity has been taken away from him by a strange collective of beings known as "The Strangers." What Murdoch finds out is that he is not the only one who has literally lost his mind. In fact, it is the entire population of what Earth used to be that has had repeated run-ins with The Strangers (who, by the way, resemble Pinhead and friends from the *Hellraiser* films). Murdoch's destiny, as he later learns, is to reclaim his memories and help reconstruct the world as it once was known. Also making appearances in the film are Kiefer Sutherland as the wacky Dr. Schreiber who

Dark City

Starring Rufus Sewell, Kiefer Sutherland and William Hurt
Directed By Alex Proyas
Rated R
Playing at Hollywood 16
Critique: B

helps Murdoch reclaim his life, William Hurt as Detective Bumstead who wants to get to the bottom of what is going on in Murdoch's life and Jennifer Connelly (*Inventing the Abbotts*) as Murdoch's wife in one of his formulated memories. Director Alex Proyas has given audiences a film that pulls viewers in from the very beginning and actors who control the screen in suspenseful moments of a world reversed. But in the end, the film slows to a pace that does not fit into the overall scheme of what a good semi-sci-fi thriller should entail.



Kiefer Sutherland (Dr. Schreiber) stands surrounded by "The Strangers" in the new film *Dark City*.

Flashback

The Karate Kid

The Karate Kid is an uplifting tale of how a skinny underdog (Ralph Macchio) wins a karate championship, thanks to a little help from his old pal Mr. Miyagi. Although his opponents are twice his size, Daniel, or Daniel-

son, is able to apply the nifty tips Mr. Miyagi has taught him and overtake his competition. *The Karate Kid* may be a little on the unbelievable side, but you still find yourself rooting for Daniel until the very end. With such moves as wax-on,

wax-off and that awesome crane kick that you used to practice in front of the mirror, Mr. Miyagi teaches Daniel that there is more to karate than just fighting. The two develop a special friendship, and although Mr. Miyagi says very little, you know that he could not be any more proud of his student. Who doesn't still get chills when you see Mr. Miyagi do the hand rubbing trick to help correct Daniel's injured leg? *The Karate Kid* is a timeless story of the friendship between a student and his teacher. Well, at the very least, it is probably

the reason that you took those karate lessons when you were 10 years old.

The movie that launched a thousand suburban dojos. Way back in the day, before the kids on the playground were kicking each other in the crotch, Power Ranger-style, there was the almighty crane kick. It was invincible, we thought, until *Karate Kid II* came out. After this movie, no neighborhood was complete without one kid who ran around in his pajamas throwing ninja stars at you. A lot of good, the movie's

message, "karate is only a last defense," did.

Daniel-son was a lot cuter when the movie was released. But watching *The Karate Kid* is enjoyable even now. The cheesy boy-meets-girl-becomes-hero-and-wins-her-over storyline is predictable, but isn't that what '80s movies are all about? The acting is decent and includes a surprisingly refreshing deliverance from Elisabeth Shue. Ralph Macchio wins viewers over in the role that made him famous. Speaking of his fame, whatever

happened to him? Although *Karate Kid II* was the film with the good music (remember the cheesy Peter Cetera song that all the girls fell in love with?), the first movie is definitely the only one in the series worth renting. Watching Daniel-son go from kicking in doors to winning the tournament is actually a little inspiring. The movie is uplifting and entertaining, even if it is one of those poorly-directed '80s films. Even years later, it makes an audience feel good to see the good guy triumph over evil and kick the mean guy in the face.

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Options for Fall 1998-Spring 1999 academic year:
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• Request room change
• Transfer to Corps, Cain, or Residence Life
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Cult Awareness Educator and Consultant
Director of Education, American Family Foundation
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Ronald N. Loomis is an internationally recognized expert on cults and mind control who has been educating others on the phenomenon for over 20 years. He is a Past President of the American Colleges Unions International, and has over 35 years experience with student activities administration, as well as being recently named the Director of Education of the American Family Foundation. Mr. Loomis has been cited in the New York Times, The Chronicle of Higher Education, and The Congressional Quarterly. He has appeared on the Canadian Broadcasting Company, as well as the Today Show. His expertise was sought out during both the Waco standoff with the Branch Davidians as well as in the aftermath of the Heaven's Gate suicides.
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