

MOVIE REVIEWS

Meet Joe Black
Starring Brad Pitt and Claire Forlani
Directed by Martin Brest
Rated R

The time has come for Bill Parrish to leave life behind, but Death, played by Pitt, decides to give him a few days longer. In exchange, Death, also known as Joe Black, requests to involve himself in Parrish's life to explore, to feel, to love.

Death finds love with Parrish's daughter, Susan, played by Forlani. Pitt and Forlani stir up every emotion with intense and passionate encounters that will keep everyone captivated with their love scenes.

Hopkins gives another outstanding performance making the audience feel his pain, his triumph and his understanding that he will soon die.

Pitt as Death gives intriguing advice and teaches lessons that he uses to his advantage, but in the process starts to feel emotion as if he is coming alive himself.

Martin Brest directs a motion picture with every element of emotion including humor, romance, curiosity, sadness and, above all, appreciation for life and people. With a combination of an outstanding cast and a great story, this film portrays Death in a creative and entertaining manner that makes this a definite must-see movie.

Be prepared for the long haul since the film is nearly three hours long. The audience should not let themselves miss much, so



James Woods stars as a vampire hunter in John Carpenter's *Vampires*.

bathroom breaks before the movie starts are advised. (A-)

-Monica E. Flores

Apt Pupil
Starring Ian McKellen and Brad Renfro
Directed by Bryan Singer
Rated R
Showing at Hollywood 16

Bryan Singer knows evil. *The Usual Suspects* suggested that idea, and *Apt Pupil* proves it. This movie, based on a Stephen King novella, is every bit as bleak as its promotional posters with very few light moments.

Apt Pupil is a story of a high-school boy who is fascinated with Nazi Germany and forms a relationship with a former German

army officer [McKellen]. The movie should not be seen by kids, but adults might think twice before going as well.

McKellen leaps from helpless to menacing as the remnant of an army that nearly conquered the world. Renfro (*The Client*, *Sleepers*) wears the exact same facial expression throughout the movie but does a decent job of showing his character's growing willpower.

Apt Pupil was not made to be fun, but it does inspire the audience to think. (Grade: C)

- Gray Whitten

John Carpenter's Vampires
Starring James Woods and Sheryl Lee
Directed by John Carpenter
Rated R
Showing at Hollywood 16

Gore, profanity and vices aplenty are the trademarks of Woods' vampire-slaying team in Carpenter's latest horror effort, and the movie should find its fans in those who thought *Bram Stoker's Dracula* was too serious or artsy. Never aspiring to be high-brow, *Vampires* is a spectacular, fun ride with the meanest crew of Vatican-sponsored vampire killers this side of Buffy and her posse.

An all-powerful "master" vampire appears early in the film, and for some reason, he knows the name of Jack Crow (Woods) and poses a threat like no other vampire has before. The mythology that is revealed is creative and dark humor is given equal time with fiery vamp killing. *Vampires* is bloody, irreverent fun for those who dare. (B+)

- Gray Whitten

Benz Gallery exhibit shows global gifts collection from the L. T. Jordan Institute

BY TRAVIS IRBY
The Battalion

The Benz Gallery of Floral Art is hosting an exhibit of a different nature. The gallery located in the horticulture building is home to the "Gifts from around the World."

The gifts are property of the L.T. Jordan Institute for International Awareness in the Memorial Student Center.

The institute was founded after Jordan's wife, Jessie, gave the MSC a million dollar endowment. The Jordan Institute helps students develop leadership skills and pursue international internships.

It also houses a collection of gifts and art obtained while the Jordans were overseas. This collection is the focus of the Benz Gallery exhibit. The pieces chronicle the Jordans' 30 years in various foreign countries such as Venezuela and Kuwait.

Luke Altendorf, director of the Jordan Institute, said the collection offers history and culture.

"It is like a small museum," he said. Some of the more unique pieces include a silver tea set with gold roses and a coffin-shaped humidifier with a silver boat. Both pieces were collected during the Jordans' time in Kuwait.

Vicki Cloyd, an administrative secretary and tour guide at the institute, said the gifts offer viewers a chance to see something different.

"Viewing the collection is a broadening experience," she said. "One can experience the culture of

other countries."

While most of the gifts are from around the world, some are from right here in Aggieland.

There are three old Texas A&M yearbooks of the 1920s.

Cloyd said these are not like the Aggie yearbooks, which students are used to seeing. "Back in the '20s the yearbook was called *Longhorn*, which is real surprising to a lot of people," Cloyd said.

There are also some items that were used in the American Revolution.

Altendorf said the decision to show the collection was a joint one between the Jordan Institute and Benz Gallery.

"They (The Benz Gallery) approached me because they had some space open," Altendorf said. "Because of our location, many people don't get to see the collection. We hope the exposure will attract more people to visit here."

He said this exhibit is a unique experience for the institute.

"It's the first time we have taken items from our collection and lent them out," Altendorf said.

Altendorf said the collection helps promote the institute's goal of international awareness.

"There are things you wouldn't see in the U.S. here," he said.

Cloyd said the viewers of the worldly gifts leave fulfilled and are glad they came.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Woods says he did not use connections

NEW YORK (AP) — James Woods made it in Hollywood — without connections.

"I don't think I know a single person working in the business who isn't related to somebody — except me!" Woods says in Sunday's *Daily News*.

"I hate to say that, but name an actor, and I'll tell you who they're related to. It's unbelievable! So I came out here, this sort of skinny geeky kid, and it just took forever.

"I didn't get my first sort of break until I was 30, which was *Holocaust* in '78."

Woods is currently starring in John Carpenter's *Vampires* as a cranky Nosferatu slayer who ad-libbed a whole slew of diatribes against religion, women, homosexuals and other targets just to amuse the director, and was shocked when they wound up in the film.

"One day I saw him choking from

laughter on the camera deck," Woods said of Carpenter. "I said, 'Do not use this scene in the movie. My movie career will be over! But John had the courage to go for it.'"

The 51-year-old actor received a best supporting actor Academy Award nomination for the 1996 film *Ghosts of Mississippi*. His many other credits include *The Onion Field*, *Salvador*, *Casino*, *Nixon* and *The Way We Were*.

Smith credits his success to tenacity

NEW YORK (AP) — Will Smith will not be deterred.

"I see people all the time who are better rappers than me, better actors than me, better-looking and stronger than me," Smith says in the November issue of *Premiere* magazine. "But my ace in the hole is my dangerously obsessive drive, you know?"

"I'm a terminator. I absolutely, positively will not stop until I win."

Smith stars in the upcoming espionage thriller *Enemy of the State*, working with Jon Voight and Gene Hackman.

The former Fresh Prince has other credits including *Independence Day*, *Men in Black* and *Six Degrees of Separation*.

Despite his success, Smith thinks he needs to establish himself as an actor, hoping that work with Hackman and Voight will build credibility.

"I think, in a lot of ways, I've earned respect for being able to do a sort of by default," Smith says. "There were flashes of (his ability) in *Six Degrees of Separation*. I'm still kind of living off that."

"But I haven't really proved myself as an actor yet. That was a big reason to do this movie."



Smith



Ian McKellen and Brad Renfro star in the psychological thriller *Apt Pupil*.

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Acct 229	Part I Mon Nov 2 7pm-9pm	Part II Tue Nov 3 7pm-9pm	Part III Wed Nov 4 7pm-9pm	Part IV Thu Nov 5 7pm-9pm
Acct 316	Part I Mon Nov 2 5pm-7pm	Part II Tue Nov 3 5pm-7pm	Part III Wed Nov 4 5pm-7pm	Part IV Thu Nov 5 5pm-7pm
Bana 303 Anthony	Part I Sun Nov 1 9pm-11pm	Part II Mon Nov 2 9pm-12am	Part III Tue Nov 3 9pm-12am	Next Wk Econ 202 Ullmer Finc 341
Bana 303 Stein Haylett	Part I Mon Nov 2 7pm-9pm	Part II Tue Nov 3 7pm-9pm	Part III Wed Nov 4 7pm-9pm	Part IV Thu Nov 5 7pm-9pm
Gene 301 Johnston	Part I Sun Nov 1 8pm-10pm	Part II Mon Nov 2 8pm-10pm	Part III Tue Nov 3 8pm-10pm	Next Wk Bana 303 Brethauer Haylett Bana 305
Mktg 321 Dewald	Test Review Mon Nov 2 9pm-12am	Check out our web page at www.4.0andGo.com		
Mgmt 211	Part I Wed Nov 4 6pm-8pm 8pm-10pm 10pm-12am or Sun Nov 8 4pm-6pm	Part II Sun Nov 8 6pm-8pm 8pm-10pm 10pm-12am	Part III Mon Nov 9 6pm-8pm 8pm-10pm 10pm-12am	Mgmt 211 tickets go on sale Sun Nov 1 at 3pm

Tickets go on sale Sunday at 3:00 p.m.
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