

## BEST OF '98 *movies*

### Shakespeare, Ryan win acclaim from audiences, film critics

BY JEFF KEMPF  
The Battalion

From the drama of Shakespeare to the antics of life in the '80s, the film industry had a great year. The following list shines light on an eclectic mix of great entertainment found in 1998.

Some of the decisions were based on technical merit but all decisions were based on the ability to please. People typically want to travel to their megaplexes, watch a great film and walk out feeling that their time and money were well spent.

So hurry and catch these movies if they are still playing, if not, renting movies is always a great pastime.

#### SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE

William Shakespeare's work has been duplicated over and over in film, television and theater, but not often has a story been told about the great playwright himself.

*Shakespeare in Love* begins with William Shakespeare (Joseph Fiennes) trying to write the play of the century.

While writing the play, Will falls in love with a rebellious lady (Gwyneth Paltrow) who is breaking all the rules by rehearsing in Will's new play (titled *Romeo*) as a man.



PALTROW

ROBERT HYNECEK/THE BATTALION

The newborn love between these two begins to parallel the writing of the play, and Will eventually becomes successful when his tragedy is a hit. This movie contains great costumes, great sets and great performances.

Supporting roles by Judi Dench (Queen Elizabeth) and Geoffrey Rush (theater owner) add perfect comedy. If movie watching is supposed to be fun, then *Shakespeare in Love* is the most brilliant movie of the year.

#### SAVING PRIVATE RYAN

The teaming of Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks in a film was destined to go down in history.

Many times people fail to acknowledge the director of a film. However, this is not the case for the true-to-life World War II drama brought to the big screen by directing-god Steven Spielberg.

The essence and horror of modern warfare was vividly illustrated throughout *Ryan*. The much-talked-about first 30 minutes of film places every viewer on Omaha Beach during D-Day.

Tom Hanks always does his job of great acting, but the most complex role is that of Jeremy Davies. Davies plays the frightened young soldier who has to come to terms with the reality of war and inevitably has to fight.

*Saving Private Ryan* shows the loss of one man's life in battle is equivalent to losing one's own. Everyone has to work together to help fight for the good of the country.

#### THE TRUMAN SHOW

*The Truman Show* one of the most talked about movies of the year depicts the life and times of Truman Burbank from his birth to his grand exit.

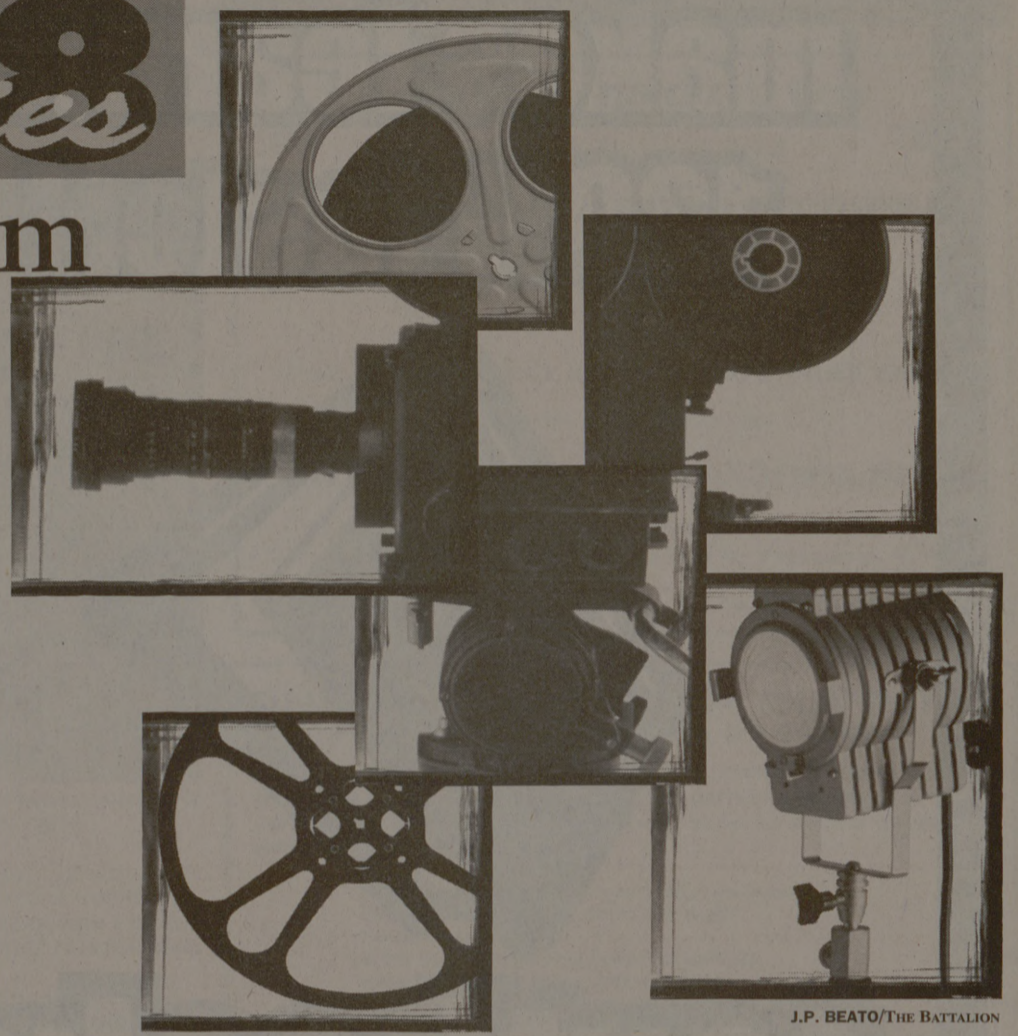
Jim Carrey plays Truman in this funny, sophisticated and thought-provoking drama.

"The Truman Show" is the actual name of the television program that is the center of the film. The show is designed to exploit the life of an honest, wholesome individual.

Hidden cameras and tiny microphones analyze and televise every aspect of Truman's life.

The movie becomes even more interesting when Truman discovers his "fake world" and sets out to be free. This movie is a bit of a change for Carrey, but his comic genius is still evident.

*The Truman Show* can be best described as "The Real World" meets "The Twilight Zone."



J.P. BEATO/THE BATTALION

#### THE PRINCE OF EGYPT

Too often, audiences and critics overlook animated films when creating a top-ten list. Surprisingly, *The Prince of Egypt* is so fabulous it deserves to be recognized.

DreamWorks animation studios took much time and effort to bring *Egypt* to the big screen.

*The Prince of Egypt* tells the story of Moses, drawn primarily from the book of Exodus. Audiences haven't been exposed to this great story on film since Cecil B. DeMille made *The Ten Commandments*.

Awe and amazement are two words to describe the animation in this film.

The angel of death and the parting of the Red Sea are so beautifully crafted, the viewer may sometimes

think they are not watching animation. This film teaches, inspires and, most of all, entertains.

#### THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY

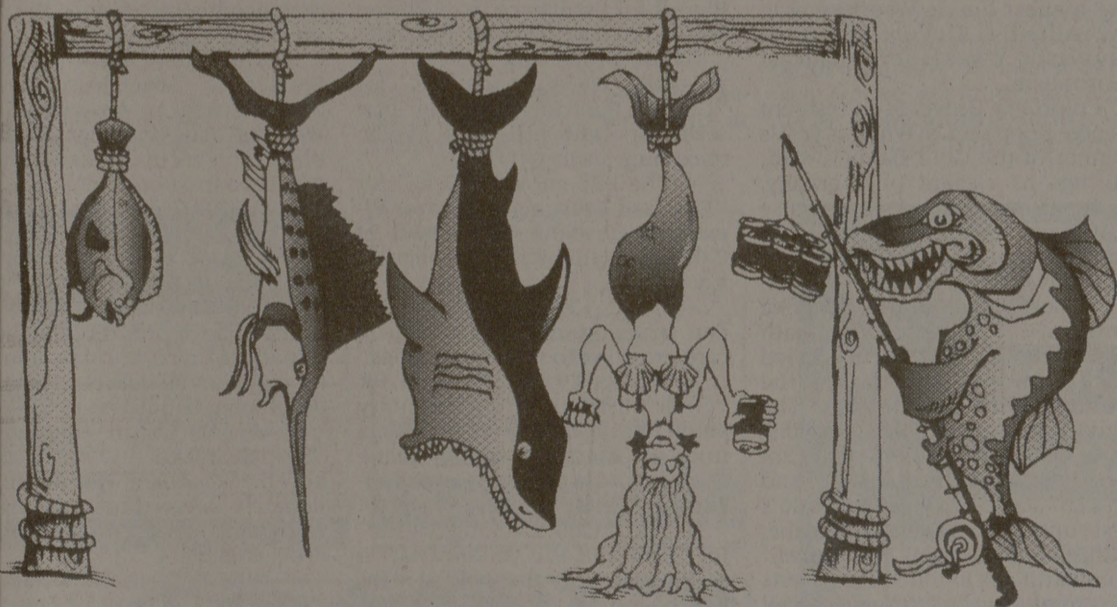
Gross-out comedies seemed to be a trend in 1998. Many movies tried to compete with *There's Something About Mary*, but somehow couldn't

come close. The Farrelly brothers, who brought us *Kingpin*, formulated a perfect comedy starring Ben Stiller, Cameron Diaz and Matt Dillon.

Stiller plays a thirty-year-old man who cannot find true love because he is still obsessed with his high-school prom date Mary (Diaz).

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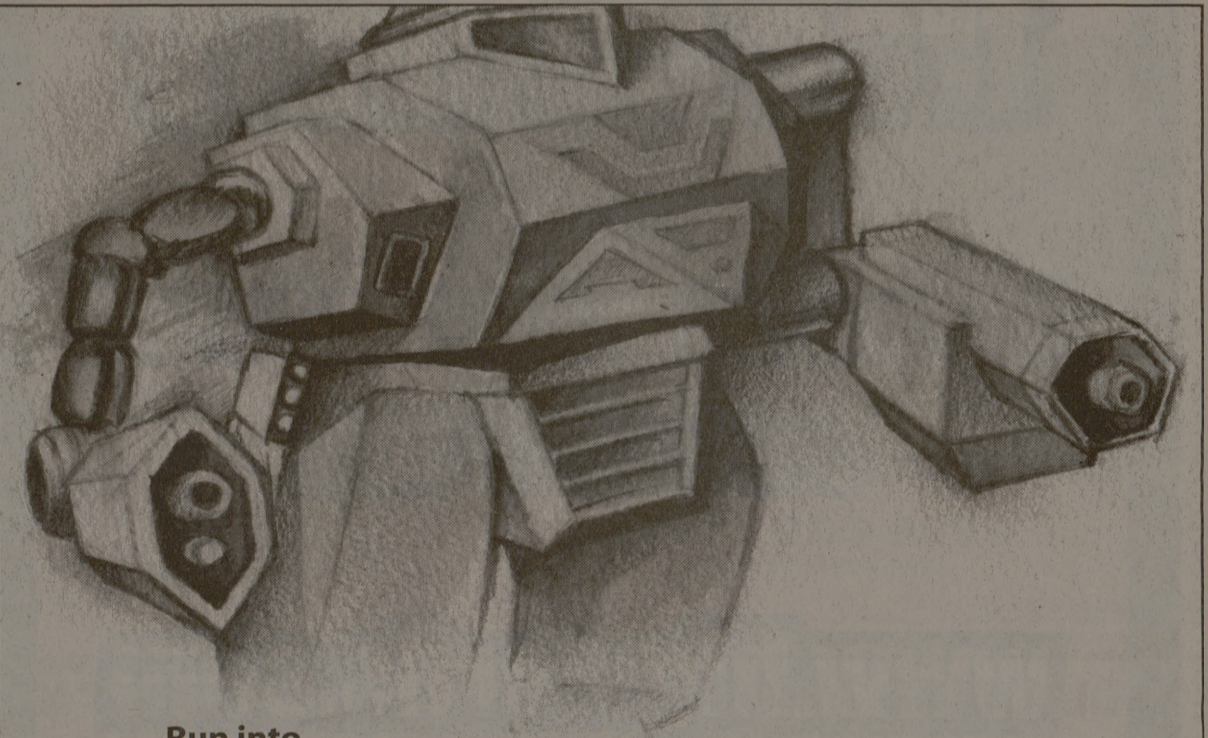
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