

REEL CRITIQUE

MOVIE REVIEWS

The Mummy

Starring **Brendan Fraser**
Directed by **Stephen Sommers**
Playing at Hollywood 16



Cathrine Zeta-Jones, plays Gin, an insurance investigator who is chasing **Sean Connery**, an art thief, after a client's Rembrandt is stolen in *Entrapment*.

characterization but, even by those standards, *The Mummy* is surprisingly crudely written. Even the most chilling Hollywood executive would pale, however, next to the mummy and his legions, a savage-eyed bunch who are not cowed by much beyond the Star of David and, yes, cats.

As for the flesh-eating bugs, they may be the biggest gross-out, judging by the numbers of audience members burying their faces in their hands (and not because of the dialogue). Fraser, in turn, is so naturally ingratiating that he wins over the audience to his side, without once letting slip the odd wince.

— Matt Wolf

Entrapment

Starring **Sean Connery**
and **Cathrine Zeta-Jones**
Directed by **Jon Amiel**
Playing at Hollywood 16

Thieves, spies, gadgets and girl. Yes, Zeta-Jones (Gin) busts onto the screen in her first role since *The Mask of Zorro* and destroys the stereotype that only men can accomplish 007-like tasks.

Ironically, she accomplishes this feat opposite the original James Bond, Connery (Mac). Connery does not deviate too much from his usual in-control, debonair style. And for some

reason, ladies still find him attractive. Set days before the millennium, Gin, an insurance investigator, convinces her boss to go after the ultimate art thief, Mac, when a client's Rembrandt is stolen.

The entire Y2K frenzy may seem tired, but the use of the "big event" theme is slipped into the story rather well.

After Gin is granted permission to track down the thief, the audience is taken around the world and through some *Mission Impossible*-like plot moves.

Zeta-Jones may have gotten into the acting business because of her looks, but if she is trying to prove her acting ability, a good chunk of this film had her crying for an acting coach.

Fortunately, her skills did progress with the movie, and some strong emotional scenes were actually done well.

Aside from Zeta-Jones' striking beauty, the movie provides much more to enjoy.

Shot on location in Malaysia, the action sequences atop the tallest buildings in the world were both action-packed and suspenseful.

Shocking twists in the story are key factors in the overall liking of the film. When the audience is dealt something unexpected, it usually pays off.

Unfortunately, major plotlines can't be revealed here, so see this movie to find out. (Grade: B-)

— Jeff Kempf

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