The Mummy

Starring Brendan Fraser Directed by Stephen Sommers Playing at Hollywood 16

(AP) A lot of people exclaim "Oh, my God" uring the latest remake of The Mummy, as ne cast battles a resurrected mummy, as well various plagues and bugs.

The on-screen exclamations, however, are othing compared to what some moviegoers nay mutter under their breath as they ponder derivative and tepid Indiana Jones wannabe nat conspicuously wastes its likable leading an, Brendan Fraser.

Recently seen emerging from 35 years un-lerground in *Blast From the Past*, or mowing lawn — his muscles rippling — in Gods nd Monsters, Fraser here makes a bid to be a arrison Ford for the millennium.

That would be fine if *The Mummy* delivered n its promised derring-do with any wit and anache. Instead, it is a formulaic retread of an ften-told tale. And if you have fond memories the 1932 Boris Karloff original, forget it.

This new film boasts all too little relation to ne classic horror and stylish art direction of ne original.

The plot remains deliciously silly and comicated. It is the telling of it that disappoints writer-director Stephen Sommers' saga of easure-seekers terrorized by the newly reived and murderous Imhotep, the priesturned-mummy of the title.

In the prehistoric Theban fortification of lamunaptra, the City of the Dead, Imhotep ad an illicit liaison with Anck-Su-Namun, the istress of the pharaoh, who was subsequent-

For his misdeeds, Imhotep was buried alive jacent to some regal treasures and has spent ,000 years nursing a vengeful desire to rise p and wreak havoc by unleashing the 10 agues of Egypt.

Enter Fraser's treasure-seeking Rick O'Conell. Every action hero needs a sidekick, and ick finds one in Evelyn (Rachel Weisz), a vide-eyed English Egyptologist who gets to lay prim to Rick's sometimes improper

Her brother Jonathan (John Hannah) proides ever-so-English comic relief as an effete umbler whose feyness does not exempt him om the gunplay that arrives right on cue. Before long, a cabal of pretty disgusting eatures are stalking our heroes — in some ruly Byzantine treasure chambers — while

ever quite shaking Rick's sang-froid. Genre pictures are not expected to be rich in



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 ac-

complish 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 Impossi-

ble-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



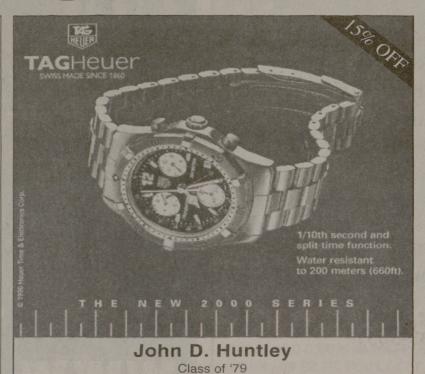


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