

THE BATTALION

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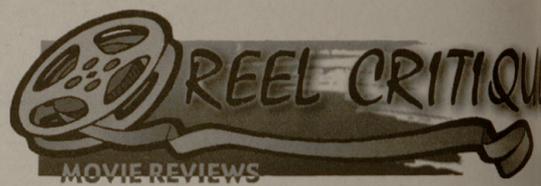
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Big Daddy

Starring Adam Sandler and Cole and Dylan Sproule
Playing at Hollywood 16

What happens when parenthood meets Adam Sandler? The answer is *Big Daddy*, one of the most promising films of this summer.

Sonny Koufax (Sandler) is a law school graduate with a rather undecided future. In fact, he almost prides himself (as Sandler's characters often do) in being a loser. This is despite his family and friends, who have all since found success.

Things begin to change when Julian (Sproule), the orphaned child of Koufax's then traveling roommate, accidentally falls under his care. In fact, things change drastically as he finds that a child can do a lot for his reputation — or at least what others think of it.

Overall, this film is typical. Its plot is not too much different

from other films such as *Boys n the Hood* or *Three Men and a Cradle*. However, *Big Daddy* tries to elaborate on the orphaned child/new parent theme by adding the humor of Adam Sandler. The result is a grating, diminishing performance by ex-Saturday Night Live co-

Sandler, who has bestowed Hollywood with a rather unorthodox form of acting, is still obviously funny (at times) but when called upon to be serious fails miserably.

What comes close to making up for Sandler's flawed performance, though, are the Sproule twins, who are fabulous.

Overall, this film has a quick and enlightening humor. It's fun and entertaining, but not enough though, it generally lacks much of the typical Sandler fans often enjoy. For those who enjoyed such films as *Billy Madison* and *Happy Gilmore*, *Big Daddy* might just be a disappointment. (Grade: B-)

—Brian



Plowright and Smith play two English ex-patriots living in Florence, Italy, in G2 Films' *Tea With Mussolini*.

Tea with Mussolini

Starring Cher and Judi Dench
Playing at Hollywood 16

After the success of last year's Holocaust drama *Life is Beautiful*, it was inevitable that some imitators would come out of the woodwork. When the name of legendary director Franco Zeffirelli is attached to a film, however, the idea of originality is thrown out the door.

Tea with Mussolini is a film based on the autobiography of Zeffirelli, and tells of his upbringing by a colony of British women in the hills of Tuscany in the years preceding World War II.

Zeffirelli deftly juggles the ensemble cast of remarkable women who take in the young Zeffirelli character named Luca. Joan Plowright, Maggie Smith and Judi Dench play aging British dames who, for various reasons, have decided to spend their lives in the picturesque city of Florence under the shadow of fascist dictator Benito Mussolini. The three veteran actresses

deliver touching and genuine funny performances from Smith's constant Yank-hating epithets to Dench's obsession over art and dogs.

Cher plays Luca's American benefactor with a brassiness that is all her own. While her performance is more Cher playing a character, her screen presence blends in perfectly with the other actors.

Zeffirelli adds personal touch to the film, from his love of the Italian countryside to his introduction to Shakespeare and the play that would earn him an Oscar — "Romeo and Juliet."

However, the actor who plays Luca as a young man delivers a queasily uneven performance. While cinema purists are sure to turn their noses to *Tea with Mussolini* because of the debt owed to *Life is Beautiful*, American audiences who avoided the brain-bending task of reading *Life's* subtitles might find *Mussolini* more inviting. (Grade: C+)

—Aaron

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Vince Neil's lawsuit dropped

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Motley Crue singer Vince Neil lost his bid to reinstate a lawsuit against a lawyer for allegedly botching his bankruptcy case.

"This motion is utterly without merit," Superior Court Judge Alan Buckner told the rocker's current attorney, David Cordrey, yesterday.

Neil claimed attorney Joseph Eisenberg failed to advise him "honestly and appropriately" during his personal bankruptcy case and it cost him "a large amount of money in settlement."

In May, Buckner dismissed Neil's lawsuit, which sought unspecified damages for professional negligence.

Cordrey had asked the judge to reconsider.

Crime writer helps fund lab

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Crime writer Patricia Cornwell has donated \$1.5 million to help the state create an institute to train forensic scientists and pathologists.

The state forensic lab built in Richmond will be the home of the new Virginia Institute of Forensic Science and Medicine. The first class of 10 students will begin studies next week.

"This is a direct way to go against the very thing I hate most — violence against people," Cornwell said Tuesday.

"I envision this as becoming the Johns Hopkins of forensic science and medical training. I want to be an international learning center."

The state forensic lab is where Cornwell picked up many of the details for her novels.

HELP WANTED

Cashiers, kitchen help needed, immediate hiring. 311-Church Street, Burger Boy, Northgate. 846-2146.

Child care person needed to care for energetic 7-month old. \$5.15/hr. M-F, 8a.m.-5p.m. until September 2000. (409)776-6884, fax resume to (409)774-3008.

Earn extra income by cleaning office M-F, after 5p.m. Full or part-time in cabinet shop. Keystone Millwork, 704-West Carson, 823-4846.

Gold's Gym is now hiring for qualified kickboxers. Training available. Martial arts or boxing background preferred. Please inquire at the College Station location.

Local businessman seeks aggressive, positive, self-starting male students for part-time sales. Flexible hours, top pay. Call 698-0832, 8a.m.-10a.m. only.

Need driver to Houston w/truck to move bed & desk. 690-9825.

Part-time Office Clerk. 20-25hrs/wk. Filing, computer work, & sorting mail. Need excellent computer skills & insurance exp. would be a plus. Fax 774-6207 or call 774-6227.

Permanent full-time position for surgical assistant in oral surgeon's office. Please call 764-7101 for information.

POSTAL JOBS to \$18.35/HR. Inc. benefits, no experience. For app. and exam info. call 1-800-813-3585, Ext. 7682, 8a.m.-9p.m., 7-days, fds, inc.

Summer Work part-time work - full-time pay! \$10 per hour appointment. Scholarships available, flexible PT/FT positions. Will train customer sales/service conditions apply. Call 6967734.

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Veterinary Assistant. Part-time. Hours change each semester. Bring resume to 2710-Maloney.

Vineyard Court Hotel now hiring part-time front desk clerks. Apply at 1,500-George Bush Drive East.

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3bdm/2bath huge house, 3904-Oaklawn (near Northgate). Available 8/15/99. \$1,200/mo. 693-5885.

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Please submit or bring completed State of Texas Application before 5:00p.m. on or before the closing date. Resumes will not be accepted in lieu of applications. Mail or drop off Applications at:

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