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# REEL CRITIQUE OVIE REVIEWS

Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo Starring Rob Schneider and Eddie Griffin Directed by Mike Mitchell

Page 6 • Friday, December 10, 1999

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Deuce Bigalow could have been one of those movies in which all the funny moments are revealed in the trailers. It is not — the laughs are nonstop.

Deuce Bigalow (Schneider) is a fish-tank cleaner who lucks into housesitting for a gigolo who must go to Switzerland for three weeks. Charged with nursing a sick fish, Deuce sets out to enjoy his stay in the Casanova's love pad. But after just one day, he manages to break the gigolo's expensive handmade aquarium, soaking the floors and causing thousands of dollars damage. With only a few weeks to repair the aquarium, Deuce decides to hire himself out as a manwhore to raise the money he needs.

At this point, the film's story begins to grow. The film's message is surprisingly touching — everybody deserves to be happy and to have fun, no matter what their troubles might be. That is not to say Deuce Bigalow is one big, warm fuzzy. There are plenty of jokes about bodily functions and plenty of physical comedy (including a hilarious spoof of The Matrix) to satisfy those who thrive on juvenile humor, but it is impressive how these moments do not take away from the meat of the film. This movie would not be as effective without the crude humor scattered throughout

Director Mike Mitchell makes his feature film debut with Deuce. The project was pitched to him after the producers (yes, Adam Sandler is an executive producer) saw his award-winning short film, Herd. Mitchell immediately accepted, calling the script by Schneider and Harris Goldberg the funniest he had read. Using an unconventional visual style, he brings together a great movie which showcases Schneider's talents.

Schneider deserves a lot of credit, both for the wonderful writing and hilarious characters he created and his own performance in the film. One of the most underrated comedic actors of recent years, Schneider should receive some of the attention he sorely deserves with

Anyone who thinks Deuce Bigalow is just another bad "Saturday Night Live" skit is wrong. This movie is wonderfully funny and entertaining. The crude humor could be a turn-off for some, but the winning story alone makes this film worthwhile. Deuce Bigalow is one of the holiday season's most pleasant surprises. (Grade: B-)

— Matt McCormick

A = instant classic

D = don't buy it

Duece (Schneider) (right) meets pimp T.J. Hicks (Griffin) while taking care of a luxury apart

The Green Mile Starring Tom Hanks and Michael Clarke Duncan Directed by Frank Darabont

With a three-hour running time and Tom Hanks as the star, The Green Mile has attracted a lot of attention and Oscar talk. This talk is pure speculation, but much of it is right on the money. This film is great. Touching and tragic, it has the feel of a classic.

The Green Mile is a story of a prison guard working on death row and the lifechanging incidents which occur. Told from the perspective of the head guard, Paul Edgecomb (Hanks), the movie centers around the story of one very special inmate, John Coffey (Duncan).

He is a simple man sentenced to death for the murder of two young girls, which seems odd considering his childlike demeanor. During his time on the block, many inexplicable events occur which affect the guards, the in-

mates - everyone. The Green Mile is a richly textured, multilayered story, mixing magic with the grim realities of life. Darabont uses a couple of techniques to heighten the experience. With each execution of an inmate, the process is shown in more depth, giving each character

more development. The emotional impact is heightened, which serves as a useful tool to build up to the movie's final, gut-wrenching scene. With the exception of Coffey, the story does not develop the past of any of the characters, effectively focusing the audience's attention on the characters at that particular moment

B = a cut above

F = burn in effigy

The acting in this movie is excellent. ks is an actor's actor. It is hard to say hi performance is worthy of an Oscar beca of the many past successes Hanks has et joyed, but that probably is what this port However, Duncan deserves at least a

nomination for best supporting actor. Be knows as "Bear" from Armageddon, D delivers a heartfelt performance destine be one of cinema's most beloved character Director Darabont (The Shawshank R

demption) was not looking for another prison drama to direct, but he could not up the chance to bring another Stephen story to the big screen

It should be noted this is the most to adaption of King's work ever made, but would be a mistake to compare this film with his earlier work. The Shawshank Re demption and The Green Mile are like night

Anyone expecting a film in the same in of Shawshank probably will be disappoint with The Green Mile because it is a more subtle film — which is not to say it is not good as Shawshank.

In many ways, it has a better story. Ho ever, it is a story that does not tie everythe together in a nice, tidy package, which turn off viewers who prefer to have the movie give them all of the answers.

The Green Mile does what all great mo should — it inspires discussion. It is one those rare films that will stay with the vie ers long after the theater lights have come he audience has is the greatest compliment a movie cannot ceive. (Grade: A)

C = average

- Matt McCo

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### In Memory of Texas A&M University Students November 18, 1999



Words cannot adequately express the deep sorrow felt by all of us at Texas Tech University due to the loss of students at Texas A&M University.

One of Texas Tech's cherished traditions is to lower our flags at Memorial Circle to honor our departed students and symbolize our loss. On Thursday, November 18, 1999, Texas Tech lowered our flags to honor the departed students at Texas A&M University.

We hope that this picture will express, better than any words, our deepest sympathy. Perhaps the knowledge that many of us at Texas Tech share in your loss will be of some solace.

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