

REEL CRITIQUE

MOVIE REVIEWS

Urban Legends: Final Cut
Starring Jennifer Morrison,
Matt Davis
Directed by John Ottman

Urban Legends: Final Cut, the sequel to *Urban Legends*, is about a group of students at Alpine University Film School who keep turning up dead. Despite the fact that the movie is a horror film, the storyline becomes comedic due to a lack of decent material for the writers and actors to work with.

A film student, Amy Mayfield (Morrison), is determined to have her thesis film based on urban legends win the prestigious Hitchcock Award, which would guarantee her a shot as a Hollywood director.

As one may expect, many of Amy's friends begin dying in urban-legend fashion.

However, the lack of concern on

Amy's part takes away from the credibility of the plot. She barely questions the fact that she is running around with a complete stranger during the methodical murders of her classmates, while the dark and dreary setting of *Urban Legends 2*, a film school in mid-winter, reveals itself to be the only scary part of the movie.

Just in time for Halloween, the good people at Sony have come up with yet another mass-murder marketing device. Forget the *Scream* mask, or Jason's hockey mask — this year, the man in a fencing mask is doing the killings.

However, the fencing-masked murderer begins to turn the movie into a bad joke. The mask does not induce fear in the viewers. Instead, it is just a reminder that this movie is another teeny-bopper flick.

True to slasher movies, this

movie has typical ingredients. The blond heroine runs alone in the woods at night when she hears a scary noise, the killer walks and still manages to catch his victim, and no teen slasher flick would be complete without a naked rear end, a lesbian and an overweight funny guy.

Credit must be given to Ottman, in his directorial debut, for trying to breathe life into a subject that was exhausted in the first *Urban Legends*. The problem is that the writers were forced to turn to little-known legends to make a movie that lasted longer than 20 minutes.

Overall, the movie will probably leave its viewers hoping they can get their money back from the box office. (Grade D+)

— Racheal Landry

Remember the Titans
Starring Denzel Washington and Will Patton
Directed by Boaz Yakin

Jerry Bruckheimer, famed producer of such action extravaganzas as *Con Air* and *Armageddon*, is renowned for his talent to pack quality actors into what are essentially popcorn flicks.

So what is he doing producing a film about high school football during the '70s? There are no machine guns, no explosions and no scantily clad babes.

Remember the Titans is a movie based on actual events with plenty of story and heart to go around.

Titans is the tale of Coach Boone (Washington), the first African-American football coach at a previously all-white high school in Virginia. In an effort to integrate the school system, the school board decides to bus African-American students into the school and replace the current coach, Yoast (Patton), with Boone.

Of course, this leads to inevitable conflicts between students and coaches, black people and white people; however, **Titans** examines those turbulent and hateful times with a decent amount of objectivity.

The African-Americans are just as guilty of misconceptions as are the white majority. There are no one-sided bigots. There are only real people with real fear of the unknown and unfamiliar.

This makes for a more even tone in the movie, which allows the audience to think and feel as though it

is watching the actual events, not a film made nearly 30 years later.

This movie uses the backdrop of football to explore racial perceptions and inspire people to look past skin color. While there is plenty of bone-crushing football action, this movie really centers around relationships, and it is at the heart of these relationships that this film really hits its stride.

Director Boaz Yakin (Fresh) balances these relationships and themes with a wonderful touch. He manages to create a stand-up-and-cheer movie that does not overdo the sappiness factor.

Washington is superb as usual, giving his character a quiet dignity and fiery passion in every scene.

Patton has developed into one of the most solid and gifted supporting actors in the business. With eyes that can express more than 10 lines of dialogue can and a steady presence on screen, he is one of the few actors who is able to go head-to-head with Washington and not get lost on the screen.

Titans' greatest achievement is that it is an extremely entertaining movie with massive amounts of emotion. Sure, there are a few plot twists that are just a little too convenient to be true, but, in the end, who cares? This movie will make a person feel like going out and making a difference in the world — try finding that in an action film. (Grade: A-)

— Matt McCormick



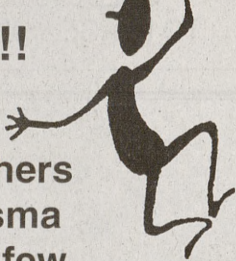
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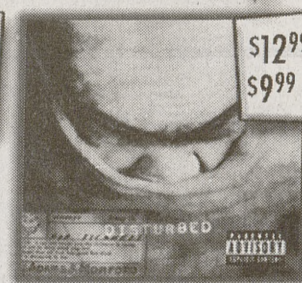
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