

## McCharlie's Angels

McG, director of Charlie's Angels, tells what it takes to make a movie out of an old TV show

By HILLARY GANT  
The Battalion

McG has joined the recent wave of music-video directors turned movie-makers with his first feature film, Charlie's Angels. McG is attempting to follow music-video directors like Academy Award nominee Spike Jonze (*Being John Malkovich*) and Tarsem (*The Cell*), who have successfully switched from the television to the silver screen. McG hopes his big-screen adaptation of the beloved pop culture favorite will be a hit.

McG spoke via satellite to students at college campuses across the country after a special *Charlie's Angels* premiere sponsored by the MSC Film Society. The director answered questions via satellite about the film, the stars and his life.

McG said his musical background helped bring the sexy '70s show a new, updated look and sound. McG cut his teeth on creating music videos for artists like Barenaked Ladies, Everclear and the Offspring before winning awards for Smashmouth's "Walking on the Sun" music video and Sugar Ray's "Fly," which he also co-wrote.

"I wanted the musical score to feel like your favorite mix tape," McG said. "I'm not a really secular music fan and I don't think very many people are, so we tried to get a lot of different styles in there."

McG said that he did not want to make just a remake of the television show "Charlie's Angels." He said that the film should be more like a James Bond movie for women.

"A lot of movies that come from old TV shows are a let-down," McG said. "We tried to take everything and amplify it—bring it to a heightened place of reality. I wanted a 90-minute ride of stimulus on every level conceivable."

One of the ways McG tried to appeal to a new audience was by bringing in martial arts master Cheung-Yan Yuen, whose brother was the action choreographer for *The Matrix*.

"We all saw the great fight scenes in that movie," said McG. "We wanted to utilize everything that's out there, and the stars really trained hard for all the kung fu stuff."

McG said that, for the most part, the actresses trained so well for their martial-arts scenes that by the time shooting began, the director had a hard time telling them they could not do their all their own stunts.

"I think it's lame in movies when there's Cameron Diaz and then there's this guy with a mustache with a blonde wig on doing the stunt," McG said. "So we were all prepared with doubles, but they ended up doing almost all their own stunts—like the alley scene."

McG said that he needed a cutting-edge cinematographer to create the movie that he envisioned. He praised cinematographer Russell Carpenter (Academy Award winner for *Titanic*) for giving the film a distinctive look.

"The frames are sped up to like 150 frames per second, then slow motion for the kicks, then back to real time," McG said. "It's simple manipulation."

McG said that at first, he was disappointed when the original *Charlie's Angels* chose not to be in the new film. He said that Jacqueline Smith did come to the premiere, and she previously had some ideas of how to play on the old characters and new characters.

"I thought it would be so cool to have a six shot with all of them walking on the beach or maybe riding up in an elevator together," McG said. "But in the end, they made the decision to let a good thing lie, and in retrospect, that was an elegant decision to let the Angels fly."

### Charlie's Angels

Starring Drew Barrymore and Cameron Diaz  
Directed by McG

How does one remake a cheesy '70s television show about three gorgeous women who kick a lot of butt into a movie for the new millennium? Well, if that person is music-video director McG and the film is *Charlie's Angels*, then everything that was cheesy or unbelievable in the television show is made even more so for the movie. Exaggerated sexiness and over-the-top action fuel this exhilarating tongue-in-cheek action-comedy.

The plot is basic and anyone remotely familiar with the television show should be able to

figure it out—the Angels have to save the day from a maniacal madman and his kung-fu-fighting henchmen. But the plot is a minor part of the film. Fun and furiously paced, this movie succeeds because of its eye-popping visuals and its not-so-subtle comedy.

Director McG delivers the goods, utilizing a variety of slow motion and Matrix-like technology to take the action to the next level. However, there are times that the action is deliberately so unbelievable that one can only laugh.

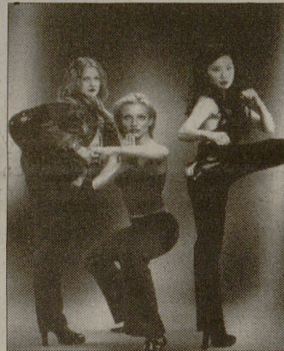
As if the sex jokes were not funny enough, McG takes every chance to poke fun at the situations presented in the film, and this is the true ge-

nius of this movie.

What would a *Charlie's Angels* movie be without three beautiful women? Who better than Diaz, Barrymore and Lucy Liu to pour on the sexiness mixed with the ditziness expected from Angels? Their looks are stellar, but what makes this three-some work is their talent for delivering the most obvious sexual innuendos with deadpan flair.

*Angels* is a rare oddity in the movie business because it actually stays faithful to the original show, while being an extremely entertaining movie. If a person is not willing to join this film in laughing at itself, then chances are this is not the movie to see. If audiences can join in the joke, though, this is a wild ride of a movie. In fact, it may be one of the most satisfying guilty pleasures to be released in a long time. (Grade: B)

—Matt McCormick



## Loose Diamonds

### Round Cut

Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
2.07	K	S12	\$9450*
2.01	J	VSI	\$11000*
1.80	D	S12	\$12,600*EGL Cert.
1.32	F	SOLD VSI	\$7950*EGL Cert.
1.16	E	S12	\$6100*EGL Cert.
1.04	H	VSI	\$5600*EGL Cert.
1.01	H	VSI	\$5500*
.92	G	S12	\$4327*EGL Cert.
.81	I	S12	\$2375*
.80	J	SOLD S12	\$2175*
.70	E	S13	\$1650*
.72	I	SOLD S13	\$1500*
.71	J	S11	\$1990*
.71	I	S11	\$2190*
.68	G	SOLD S12	\$1350*
.48	G	S12	\$750*

### Princess Cut

Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
1.27	J	VSI	\$4150*
1.10	I	VSI	\$3961*GIA Cert.
1.09	H	VSI	\$4621*GIA Cert.
1.06	H	VVS2	\$4748*GIA Cert.
1.06	I	SOLD VSI	\$3950*GIA Cert.
1.05	F	VSI	\$4961*GIA Cert.
1.04	F	VSI	\$4750*GIA Cert.
1.02	I	VVS2	\$3825*GIA Cert.
1.02	H	VSI	\$4324*GIA Cert.
1.00	F	VVS2	\$4900*GIA Cert.
.86	F	VVS2	\$3400*
.72	E	VSI	\$3700*EGL Cert.
.70	J	VSI	\$1850*
.49	J	S11	\$875*
.27	G	S12	\$275*

### Marquise Cut

Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
2.01	E	SOLD S12	\$13,500*EGL Cert.
1.39	F	S12	\$4500*
1.21	J	S12	\$4200*
1.00	F	S12	\$4130*EGL Cert.
.94	K	S12	\$3400*
.82	E	S11	\$3950*EGL Cert.
.49	F	S11	\$1736*
.41	H	S12	\$595*

### Oval Cut

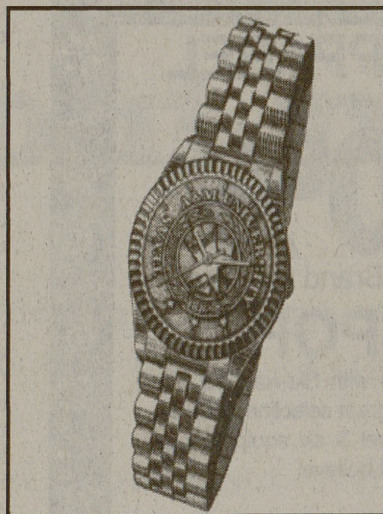
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2.74	H	S11	\$16,750*EGL Cert.
1.36	F	S12	\$6624*EGL Cert.
.90	D	VSI	\$4970*EGL Cert.
.66	K	VVS2	\$1439*
.54	H	S12	\$1050*

### Pear Shape

Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
1.00	G	VSI	\$5880*GIA Cert.

### Emerald Cut

Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
2.12	J	VSI	\$9500*
1.53	J	S11	\$6500*
1.02	K	VSI	\$3500*EGL Cert.



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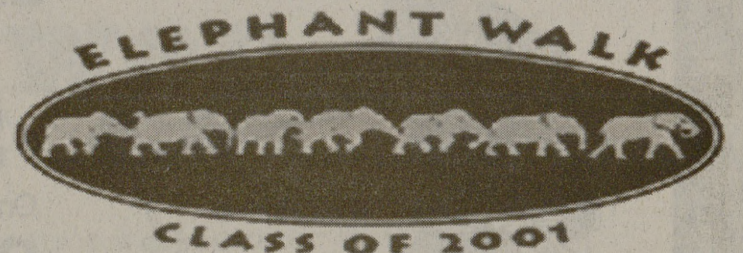
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