## AGGIElife

BY MATT MCCORMICK

The Battalion

These are the 10 most entertaining movies to come out of Hollywood in 2000. Not only were they all enjoyable and worth the price of the ticket, but they are also great examples of filmmaking.

Traffic - This movie is the most satisfying movie of the year. Intelligently written and passionately acted, it features director Steven Soder-bergh's (Erin Brockovich) striking visual style. Traffic brings to life a surprising view of the socalled "war on drugs." One of the most artistic of the movies listed, Traffic is not light-hearted entertainment, but it has a great message, and the de-

13 Days - Although recently, Kevin Costner has not been able to match his past box office success, that could all change with this riveting thriller. Detailing the 13 days of the Cuban Missile Crisis, this harrowing look at one of America's darkest hours reaffirms a moviegoer's faith in Hollywood. Even though the film is mainly a talking heads sort of picture, it has an energy that reaches out and grabs the audience members, refusing to let them go after the credits have rolled.

Wonder Boys - This is the best movie of the year that no one saw, a shame considering Michael Douglas' Oscar-worthy performance and the movie's wonderful story. In Wonder Boys, an aging college professor is brought to life by director Curtis Hanson (L.A. Confidential). This movie also features Tobey Maguire, Katie Holmes and Robert Downey Jr. Alternately cynical and sweet, Wonder Boys is sure to get a couple of Oscar nods.

Gladiator - This large-scale Roman epic features some of the most ferocious battle sequences on film and also manages to be one of the year's best dramas. A superb performance by Russell Crowe as Maximus proves that he is Hollywood's new leading man. The most successful venture by director Ridley Scott guarantees that his follow-up project, Hannibal, a sequel to Silence of the Lambs, will attract a lot of viewers

Frequency - This amazing sci-fi thriller built a novie around the idea of second chances. Beautifully directed, Frequency rises above mere thrillers and connects with people on a very personal level. Plus, it was nice to see Dennis Quaid with such a great starring role.

The Contender - A no-holds-barred look at potical life, this movie probably features some of he harshest language heard in theaters this year.

But Joan Allen's sassy Best Actress-worthy performance as a vice-presidential nominee facing scandal overshadows the expletives. To back Allen up, this movie puts together the most impressive cast of the year including Sam Elliott, Jeff Bridges, Gary Oldman and William Petersen.

*Unbreakable* - Following the huge success of The Sixth Sense, writer-director M. Night Shyasettling thriller. However, by moving out of the well-known framework of a ghost story and heading into uncharted territory, it seems he alienated the part of his audience that wanted to see an-

other Sense. X-Men – What could have very easily been just a special effects extravaganza was transformed into the coolest movie of the year un-der the superb direction of Bryan Singer (The Usual Suspects). Sleek, sexy and surprisingly engaging, this summer blockbuster payed the way for a new franchise.

It prompted studios to dust off dormant comic-book scripts for a possible shot at box-office success.

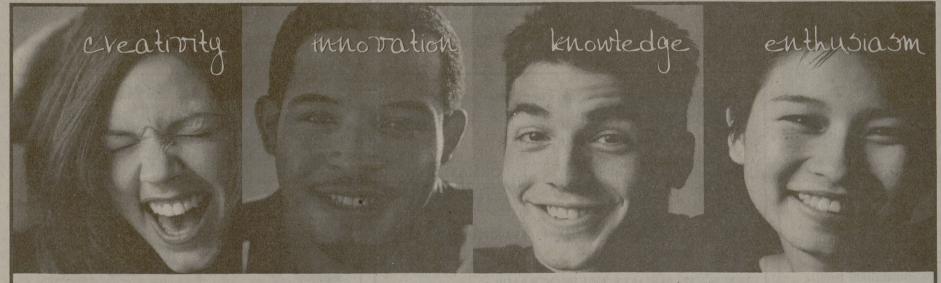
Bounce - Somewhat more serious and somber than the trailers led audiences to believe, this romantic drama put the star power and true-life chemistry of Gwyneth Paltrow and Ben Affleck to great use. Realistic and brutally honest, this movie proved to be this year's greatest love story

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon - This is not a mainstream major Hollywood production The two stars, Chow Yun-Fat and Michelle Yeoh (Tomorrow Never Dies) are better known in Asia than America, and the film has subtitles. Crouching is both a haunting love story and a kick-butt martial-arts period piece. And this movie will blow audiences away in wide release.

/ Most Entertainin

Films of 2000

RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION



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