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### Saving Silverman

Starring Jason Biggs and Amanda Peet  
Directed by Dennis Dugan

*Saving Silverman* is a lighthearted farce that fails to demonstrate why any of its characters are worth an audience's time. However, it fills that time with a steady bombardment of gags and jokes, a la *Dumb and Dumber*. Loud and never subtle, this film manages to contain several side-splitting comedic scenes, but because the film lacks depth, the laughs wear thin by the movie's end.

Wayne (Steve Zahn), J.D. (Jack Black) and Darren Silverman (Biggs) have been best friends all their lives. That is, until Judith (Peet) comes along. Once she begins dating Silverman, it is not long before she forbids him to see his old friends or even be his old self. Wayne and J.D. are determined not to lose their friend, so they devise a scheme to kidnap Judith and set Silverman up with his high school love Sandy (Amanda Detmer). Their conflict is the basis of the film's humor.

Sounds kind of complicated, right? Don't worry, one thing this film never is — deep. This film mainly consists of Black acting stupid, Zahn acting marginally less stupid and Biggs acting like the dorky guy he has played in every movie he has ever been in. The only really nice job acting job is done by Peet, who makes acting like a world class b—ch seem easy.

The pace is fast, and the jokes are plentiful. This movie gives the audience plenty of opportunity to laugh by being heavy on the slapstick physical comedy that has been selling recently. Neil Diamond's



PHOTO COURTESY COLUMBIA PICTURES  
cameo in this movie as himself is one of the film's funniest moments.

*Saving Silverman* is not rocket science, but for a midnight showing when most of the audience is already intoxicated, it has just the right intelligence level. (Grade: C-)

—Matt McCormick

### Hannibal

Starring Anthony Hopkins and Julianne Moore  
Directed by Ridley Scott

It is extremely difficult to make a sequel to a movie like *Silence of the Lambs* which is acknowledged as one of the best American films produced in the last 20 years. It is especially difficult when the novel upon which the sequel is based should have never been written in the first place, and half the star power from *Lambs* (Jodie Foster) chose to pass on the project. It should have been obvious to everyone involved that this project would turn out exactly the way it has — flashy, commercially viable and completely lacking in quality entertainment.

That description is *Hannibal* in a nutshell, a film whose sole purpose seems to be great cinematography and a story built around blood. Blood is not a bad thing, especially when it furthers the story. But no one expects a film from legendary director Scott (*Gladiator*, *Alien*) and star Hopkins to be entirely focused on blood and gore.

Taken from a nearly cartoonish novel, this film centers around the only of *Hannibal's* survivors and

*Hannibal's* fascination with revenge. This fascination leads to a chain of events that bring "Hannibal the Cannibal" and FBI agent Clarice Starling, (Moore) together again.

The story is just plain silly. It more closely resembles something found in a comic book than an intense psychological journey into the heart of evil. The focus seems to be off, as much of the movie lacks an underlying meaning. In this film, what you see is what you get.

Stylishly shot and edited, this film seems to have quality. Unfortunately, there is no substance. The whole movie crumbles under its own flashiness.

Looking at a sequel based solely on its own merits as a film is difficult. It is even more difficult when its predecessor, *Silence of the Lambs*, was so magnificent. To speak plainly, *Hannibal* would be a disappointing movie in any respect. When will directors learn that all the incredible visuals in the world without something to engage the audience are just patterns of light displayed on a wall? This film never becomes a real world for the audience to enter, and thus the film is all bark and no bite. (Grade: C-)

—Matt McCormick



PHOTOS COURTESY MPT

## 2001-2002 UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWS PROGRAM

### CALL FOR STUDENT RESEARCH PROPOSALS

Outstanding juniors who will have completed nine hours of honors coursework before the fall semester and who have at least a cumulative grade point average of 3.4 are invited to apply for participation in the University Undergraduate Research Fellows Program during their senior year. The Fellows Program offers a two-semester independent research experience that culminates in a senior honors thesis. It is the most prestigious research opportunity available to undergraduates at Texas A&M and provides participants with opportunities usually extended only to students pursuing graduate degrees. Over the last several years, 40 to 70 students have been selected annually as Fellows based upon faculty review of research proposals submitted to the University Honors Program. The Fellows Program features a close, master-apprentice relationship between student researcher and faculty advisor and involves both students and advisors in periodic interdisciplinary group meetings to encourage the development of a scholarly community.

Faculty acquainted with capable juniors who meet the criteria for participation in the Undergraduate Fellows Program may wish to encourage them to consider preparing a proposal. An informational meeting concerning the 2001-2002 Fellows Program, open to faculty as well as students, has been scheduled for 4:00 PM on Thursday, 15 February, in 292B MSC. Research proposals will be due on Thursday, 22 March. Students will know whether they have been admitted to the program in early April. For additional information, contact Dr. Donald R. Dickson, Fellows Coordinator, d-dickson@tamu.edu or visit the Honors website at <http://honors.tamu.edu>.

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