

REEL CRITIQUE

MOVIE REVIEWS

Planet of the Apes
Directed by
Tim Burton
Starring Mark
**Wahlberg & Helena
Bonham Carter**

The movie of the summer has arrived, and it is *Planet of the Apes*. Burton's latest film revisits the concept of an upside-

down civilization where intelligent apes rule over submissive humans.

But do not let the science-fiction idea of a crash-landed space hero confuse the validity of the film's underlying anti-slavery and anti-racism message.

Both films — the original from 1968 and the latest from 2001 — use cinematic elements of plot, scenery, dialogue and action to portray a society

where one group of individuals claims superiority over another, while refusing to face the obvious truth of equality.

The means to that end is unique to each movie, however.

Burton, whose film credits include the visually extravagant *Batman* and *Beetlejuice*, spares no expense in making *Planet of the Apes 2001* a stunning film. Costars Mark Wahlberg's

(Fear, *The Perfect Storm*) and Helena Bonham Carter's (*Fight Club*) characters are developed by an outrageous, yet believable, ape world.

Wahlberg plays Capt. Leo Davidson, an Air Force astronaut that crashes his spaceship on the planet of the apes after traveling ahead through time. There he meets Ari (Bonham), a rebellious senator's daughter who strives to establish an ideal society where all primates — humans and apes — are created equal. Leo's struggle for escape moves on from there, taking the audience through torrid jungles and unforgiving wastelands.

Fans of the original easily will pick up on shared similarities and parallels between the two movies, but the latest does not borrow so heavily as to be predictable.

Highlights from the film include a memorable ape versus human battle scene with original uses of weaponry, a new-to-film ape style of martial arts and a dynamic performance by Tim Roth (Rob Roy) as the evil Gen. Thade.

Being an action film and not a snobbish historical epic, *Planet of the Apes* probably will not win the Oscar for Best Picture, but moviegoers are sure to enjoy their two hours spent and will definitely get their money's worth. (Grade: A)

—Thomas Phillips



PHOTO COURTESY OF TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

A = instant classic **B = a cut above** **C = average**
D = don't buy it **F = burn in effigy**

People in the News

Eriq LaSalle leaves 'ER,' filming movies

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Eriq La Salle is checking out of "ER." The actors plans to quit the NBC hospital drama after next season to pursue directing and producing opportunities, Variety and The Hollywood Reporter reported Monday.

La Salle has been with the show since its 1994 debut and earned three Emmy nominations for his role as brooding Dr. Peter Benton.

La Salle is finishing *Crazy as Hell*, his first feature film as a director. He also served as producer on the upcoming thriller *The Salton Sea*.

"ER" will enter its 2002-'03 season with only two original cast members remaining, Noah Wyle and Sherry Stringfield.

Anthony Edwards already announced he'll leave the show after the upcoming season.

Angelina Jolie visits Cambodia as guest

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — Angelina Jolie paid a discreet visit to remote areas of Cambodia as a guest of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, officials said Monday.



JOLIE

Jolie stars in the action film *Lara Croft: Tomb Raider*, which includes several scenes shot in Cambodia at Angkor Wat, the largest religious monument in the world and the best known of the scores of old Buddhist and Hindu temples around Cambodia.

The 26-year-old actress, who plays the adventure-seeking heroine in the film adapted from the "Tomb Raider" video game, was in

Cambodia for a short during filming late last week, she toured mer Khmer Rouge where the UNHCR worked with displaced people and returned to Civil war in Cambodia in 1998, but people in war-ravaged areas continue to live in extreme poverty on international aid.

Jolie's weeklong trip not made public until she left on Friday. No photographs were released.

Some Cambodian officials have criticized the film for showing the inhabitants of Angkor, including Vietnamese, and The Vietnamese, Cambodia's historical enemy, have occupied Angkor.

'Play' in court for no child support

NEW YORK (AP) — Christopher "Play" Martin, half of the old school group Kid 'N Play, is accused of failing to pay child support.

Martin, 38, was arraigned Friday in federal court in Central Islip, N.Y., on charges he failed to pay \$32,277 in child support to his former wife, actress Shari Headley. They were married for 10 years and have a 7-year-old son, Skyler.

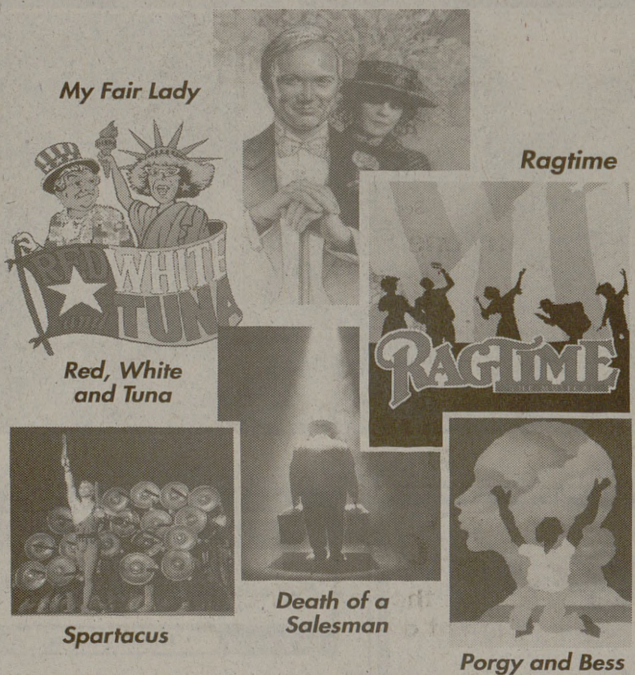
Headley, 37, is best known for her role as Eddie Murphy's love interest in the 1988 film *Coming to America*. After Monday's hearing, she said she never thought she would be in federal court.

Headley said Martin had no contact with her since the couple divorced in 1995. She told Newsday that Martin, who now lives in Birmingham, Ala., failed to pay most of the child support that a Nassau County court ordered her to pay.

Martin's attorney declined to comment.

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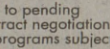
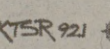
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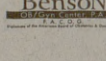
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- Games

Foxworthy/Engvall

Performance

8:00 - 11:00 p.m.

Reed Arena

Midnight Yell Practice

12:00 a.m.

Kyle Field

Saturday, September 1

Cook-off Classic

1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Law/Puryear Field

- Live Music
- Aggie BBQ
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- Games

Football Game

6:00 p.m.

Kyle Field

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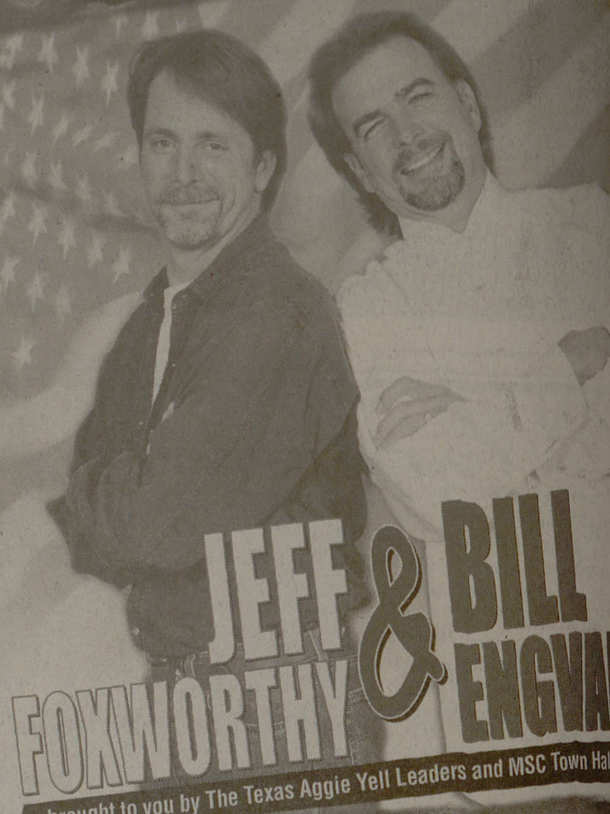


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