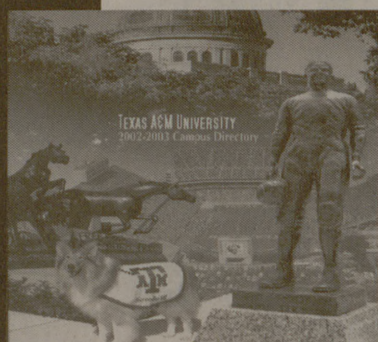


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WARNING
 The stunts in this movie were performed by professionals, so neither you nor your dumb buddies should attempt anything from this movie.


with stuff you'd never see on t.v.

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 the movie

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 producers sean cliver dimitry elyashkevich music supervisor michelle klepper jessica swirnoff
 executive producers trip taylor john miller david gale co-executive producers jeff tremaine spike jonze johnny knoxville
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REEL CRITIQUE

Bubba Ho-tek
 Directed by Don Coscarelli
 Starring Bruce Campbell and Ossie Davis

Don Coscarelli, of *Phantasm* fame, has teamed with Bruce Campbell (*Evil Dead* trilogy) to create the amazing indie film *Bubba Ho-tek*.

As typical of Campbell films, the plot is decidedly unique. Campbell stars as an elderly Elvis Presley who switches places with an Elvis impersonator during the declining years of Presley's popularity. The impersonator suffers the infamous bathroom demise, and the real Elvis ends up as a resident in the Muddy Creek Rest Home in scenic East Texas. Suffering from genital cancer, Elvis spends his days with the only man who believes the truth about his past, another elderly gent (Ossie Davis) who believes himself to be John F. Kennedy.

The respective lords of Graceland and Camelot spend their time sleeping and pondering the loss of their former glory until a couple of thieves accidentally free an Egyptian mummy from a museum tour. The mummy arrives at Muddy Creek and begins sucking the aged residents' souls through various orifices. Elvis and Jack must gird up their loins - and their wheelchairs - to protect their home.

The movie alternates between uproarious humor, chock full of infinitely quotable one-liners, and creepy plot twists. Filmed primarily inside an abandoned veterans' home, the setting is dark and ominous for all interior sequences. The cinematography and score are fantastic, and the movie looks as highly polished as anything produced by a major studio.

The former American legends battle against an ancient devourer of souls and place this movie among the ranks of such significantly literary sci-fi greats as *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*. Rather than depicting a nightmarish scenario of assimilation, *Bubba Ho-tek* deals with an even older fear, that of our own mortality. The residents of Muddy Creek Rest Home are no strangers to death. For them, and perhaps for us all, the greater fear is that of being forgotten and leaving no mark on the world.

Bubba Ho-tek has not found a distributor, but has been an official selection at several film festivals and is being screened as part of Bruce Campbell's book signing tour.

For more information about the movie, visit www.bubba-hotep.com.

- Michael Whitlow

The Ring
 Directed by Gore Verbinski
 Starring Naomi Watts and Martin Henderson

Television static and his phone rings will take on new meanings for those who see *The Ring*. The movie introduces a horrifying new technological dimension to the urban legend genre.

The Ring is based on a 1998 Japanese movie, *Ring*, which was widely successful in Japan.

The modern folklore likely have the same effect on those who enjoy scary stories, especially around Halloween. *The Ring* provides more than a very deceivingly elaborate haunted house.

The legend of *The Ring* states if you watch the home made video, you will die within seven days. Incidentally, four teenagers who had watched the video also said they would have killed a 'We can't do this' Rachel Keller (Naomi Watts) determined to uncover the story behind her niece's death. Keller hunts down the video and watches it herself. As the legend says, she receives a phone call guaranteeing death when the video ends.

The plot intensifies as Keller and her video-guy friend, Noah (Martin Henderson), attempt to unravel the mystery before their time runs out.

An eerie mood dominates the movie, making the suspense more chilling.

The acting is extremely convincing in most scenes, however, Keller and Noah seem unmoved by the thought that their deaths are approaching. In this instance, a more drama wouldn't hurt.

The movie's time elements are a little confusing. It is apparent whether the death video was taped during the early or middle part of the 20th century. However, the movie's overall creepiness compensates for the minor discrepancies in its acting and plot. The constantly twisting story line is guaranteed to captivate audiences until the very end.

The Ring will even make the urban legend skeptic think twice about popping a video into the VCR.

- Marianne Hudson

Class of 2003

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