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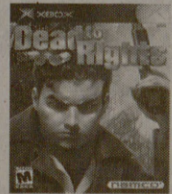
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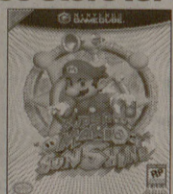
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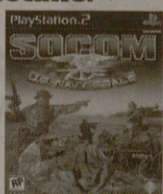
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REEL CRITIQUE

Abandon
Katie Holmes, Charlie Humman
Paramount

For those seeking a psychological thriller that will generate a few scares, heed the words inscribed above the gates of hell in Dante's Divine Comedy: "Abandon all hope, ye who enter here."

As the story of *Abandon* gradually unfolds, everyone in the audience will be ready to abandon the theater — either out of sheer boredom or the fact that the ending is so obvious there is no need to stay for it.

Katie Burke (Katie Holmes), a senior at a prestigious university, is so set on perfectionism that she becomes overwhelmed trying to balance upcoming exams, job interviews, a final thesis and relationships. Through a series of flashbacks which somewhat impede the forward movement of the story, the audience learns that part of Katie's cold persona stems from her father's abandoning her when she was a child. And, if that's not enough to deal with, Katie is still struggling to cope with the disappearance of the love of her life, Embry Larkin (Charlie Humman).

Typical of female leads in the horror genre, Katie seems like she has everything going for her, but is hiding much of her internal turmoil. The tip of the iceberg occurs when Embry reappears to haunt her two years after his disappearance.

In the meantime, Detective Wade Handler (Benjamin Bratt), a recovering alcoholic, is assigned to Embry's missing person case. As he digs deeper into the mystery, he becomes one of many men who fall for Katie; however, he is one of the few whom she allows to thaw the coldness of her heart.

Director and writer Stephen Gaghan, attempts to intertwine the romantic and psychological elements of the movie into a twist at the end, but by the time that finally arrives, one has long figured the secret he tries to hide. The story line lacks depth, causing the movie to drag, and the sequence of the scenes will confuse the audience as they cut from flashback to present.

In a season rich with horror films, neither the disappointing climax nor the mediocre acting is enough to place *Abandon* among the top of this year's Halloween films.



— Lyndsey Sage

Jackass: The Movie
Johnny Knoxville, Chris Pontius
Paramount

For viewers who enjoy movies that simultaneously cause their faces to hurt from laughing and their stomachs to hurt from the urge to vomit, *Jackass: The Movie* is a perfect fit.

Jackass: The Movie, an MTV and Dickhouse production, includes the same actors, stunts and idiots from the "Jackass" television series on MTV. The movie, which hit the box office on Oct. 25, is basically everything that MTV wouldn't air on regular programming.

Johnny Knoxville, Chris Pontius (aka Punk Boy), Bam Margera, Steve-O, Preston Lacy and the ever-loved Wee Man all star as guys who beat up themselves and each other. The movie includes props such as shopping carts, electric razors, roller skates, muscle stimulators, a 12-gauge shotgun and a toy car. One may wonder what anyone could possibly do with all these props in one movie, but just imagine the most disgustingly hilarious uses for each of them. The result is pretty close to scenes from *Jackass: The Movie*.

Without giving away the plot, which actually doesn't exist, it is hard to get into detail what happens within the 87 minutes of the movie. Between the first scene of Knoxville and company in a shopping cart and the last scene with a disappearing toy car, *Jackass: The Movie* contains dangerous and sometimes extremely crude stunts, language, nudity and hilarious stupidity.



— Brian Sizer

5	Even a hot date and James Mash can't
3.5	Wait to see it on video
3.5	Catch the madman
3.5	Buy tickets online
3.5	Fast out your tent and camp out the night in

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Jett files lawsuit against GMR Productions

NEW YORK (AP) — Rocker Joan Jett has filed a lawsuit against GMR Productions, claiming she didn't receive payment for her work on the movie *Prey for Rock & Roll*.

According to the lawsuit filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, Jett was to receive \$100,000 for a cameo appearance in the film as well as proceeds from the sale of

the soundtrack. She received \$20,000 in March, Jett said. The 42-year-old singer, whose hits include "I Love Rock 'n' Roll," said production was stopped in May.

Late Harris honored for contribution to film

LONDON (AP) — The late Richard Harris was honored for his outstanding contribution to film at the fifth annual British Independent Film Awards. The award was accepted

Wednesday by Harris' three sons: Damian, Jared and Jamie. Harris starred in *This Sporting Life*, *Man Called Horse* and the first two Harry Potter movies.

A posthumous tribute also was paid to former Beatle George Harrison, who died last year for his work as an independent movie producer.

The 72-year-old Harris died Friday at a London hospital where he had been receiving treatment for Hodgkin's disease after falling ill earlier this year.

December Graduates

The Official Texas A&M Graduation Announcements



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