

## Need a Tutor?

**Aggietutor.com**  
has good, helpful  
tutors for all courses.  
One-on-one,  
personal tutoring  
at reasonable prices.  
[www.aggietutor.com](http://www.aggietutor.com)

If You Have Something To Sell,  
Remember:  
Classifieds Can Do It  
Call 845-0569  
**THE BATTALION**

## LEARN WHAT TO DO BEFORE YOU GET A JOB AND WHAT TO DO AFTER YOU ARRIVE...

Listen to communications professionals  
speak on career-related topics  
**April 2, 2004**  
**12-6pm Rudder**

Register at tables:  
Wehner, Rudder Fountain,  
Academic Plaza 3/29 - 4/1  
**More Info?**  
[iabc\\_ags@yahoo.com](mailto:iabc_ags@yahoo.com)  
[dsa-stuorg.tamu.edu/iabc](http://dsa-stuorg.tamu.edu/iabc)  
**International Association  
of Business Communicators  
Texas A&M**

## WHERE THERE'S HURT THERE'S HOPE

### POST ABORTION PEER COUNSELING

- Peer Grief Counseling
- Help for Symptoms of Abortion Trauma
- 10-week Recovery Program
- Emotional & Spiritual Support
- Free & Confidential

*Hope Pregnancy Centers*

Call and ask for the PACE (Post Abortion  
Counseling & Education) Director.

**695-9193** 205 Brentwood • College Station  
[www.hopepregnancy.org](http://www.hopepregnancy.org)

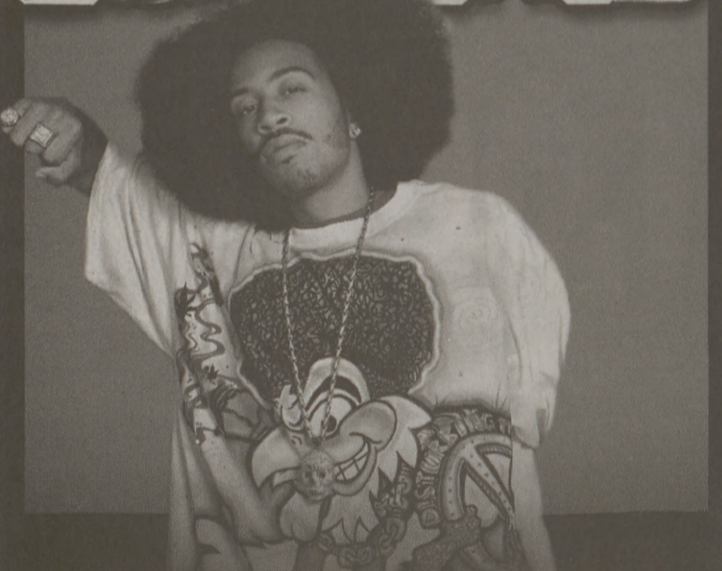
## WE MAKE TRADITIONS HAPPEN

- Maroon Out
- Junior E-Walk
- Elephant Walk
- Ring Dance
- Boot Dance
- Real World Conference
- Conversations
- Fish Council
- Silver Taps Remembrance
- Class Gift



Applications and information now available  
[classcouncils.tamu.edu](http://classcouncils.tamu.edu)

## LUIGI PERIS



live at  
Reed Arena

7 pm  
Thursday, April 1

ON SALE NOW!

Tickets available at  
Reed Arena Box Office,  
MSC Box Office,  
all Ticketmaster locations,  
including Foleys, 979.268.0414,  
or [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com)  
Show contains adult language.

presented by



assisted by



## ON THE BIG SCREEN



COURTESY OF • UNIVERSAL PICTURES

### "Dawn of the Dead" Universal Pictures

Does the recent remake of "Dawn of the Dead" live up to George A. Romero's original 1978 zombie opus? Nope. Is there any reason one should bother paying today's outrageous ticket prices to watch the sleeker, sexier version in theaters? Yes.

The opening credit scene for "Dawn of the Dead" is quite possibly one of the most entertaining and watchable five minutes of film released this year. Gritty documentary-style renderings of mass zombie attacks and government and society's reactions are interlaid with the Johnny Cash song "The Man Comes Around." As the credits roll and moviegoers settle into their seats, they may say to themselves, "This would make a great music video." Of course, the same could be said about the rest of the movie as well. Director Zach Snyder must have attended the MTV School of Filmmaking, as he loves the quick cuts and moody lighting that have become a staple for music videos. Snyder's big budget rendition of the Romero classic is interesting to watch and, surprisingly, isn't too bad of a film.

As with most zombie movies, the plot of "Dawn of the Dead" has no purpose. The vast majority of audiences don't come to this particular flavor of film to see an hour or more of exposition — they want to see brain-eating, limb-missing zombies and the people they love to eat. Screenwriter James Gunn realizes this and wisely skips the exposition, and within the first five minutes unleashes the swarm of dead. The film makes no fuss about explaining the zombies' presence and instead chooses to celebrate it with enough fake gore and extras to fill a football stadium. Taking a cue from last summer's "28 Days Later," these zombies are fast, furious and foaming at the mouth with blood; they also entertain by growling all manner of unearthly noises while attempting to separate their former neighbors and loved ones from their flesh.

No zombie movie can be successful without an unlucky brigade of survivors lined up and ready to be picked off one by one. "Dawn of the Dead" features a collection of talented character actors including Sarah Polley, Ving Rhames, Mekhi Phifer, and Matt Frewer. The humans have come together at a state-of-the-art shopping mall and, together, they hope to survive against the legion of the damned that shuffles around outside.

Although a lot of the movie is brainless popcorn fun, a large part of it deals with human choices that must be made in a time where the dead walk the earth. The human survivors must decide who to let into their sanctuary and how to police themselves. Phifer's character must decide what to do when his pregnant wife is bitten. Does he kill her before she becomes a zombie or does he try his best to hide her affliction from the others in hope that the baby is born before she unleashes into a zombie? In a movie about the dead, humanity — both the good and the bad — has rarely been so present in a film.

From the initial revelation of infestation to the survivor's last-ditch attempt to escape, the film contains a fair share of "grade A" zombie fun. Humor is also present as the humans make due with the excess of time on their hands. During a montage of interactions in the mall, a Richard Cheese lounge cover of Disturbed's "Down With the Sickness" plays. The humans kill time by killing zombies who look like celebrities while lounging about on the mall roof.

"Dawn of the Dead" contains few — if any — original ideas. It is a fun re-tooling of ideas in a package custom-made for today's generation. While the craftman-like touch of Romero's original may be missing, in its place is enough mindless carnage to make Mel Gibson's "The Passion of The Christ" look like a children's Christmas posada. It may not be known if the new "Dawn of the Dead" movie will be remembered as fondly in the future, but it will offer plenty of mindless distraction while you wait.



— Robert Saucedo



COURTESY OF • SONY PICTURES

### "Secret Window" Sony Pictures

"The only thing that matters is the ending. It's the most important part of the story. And this one is very good. This one is perfect." For audiences who have been witness to any of the trailers for "Secret Window," the previously stated quote may sound familiar. Used in almost every commercial, the quote, spoken by Johnny Depp's character, Mort Rainy, beckons viewers to an original movie with a little ending. Audiences who decide to take the commercials up on their offer will instead find their promise only half-delivered.

In "Secret Window," Depp plays a crime novelist who is going through a rough patch in his life. In a beautifully shot opening scene, nature's fury beats down upon a car parked in a hotel lot. Depp sits in the car, contemplating his options. He exits the car, breaks his way into a hotel room and discovers his wife has been cheating on him. Impressive editing and a strong performance by Depp perfectly convey the mixture of frustration, shock and anger. From such an excellent opening scene, greatness can't be far behind, right? Wrong.

From there, audiences are taken into the future, where they are re-introduced to a broken Rainy (Depp) who is living alone in a cabin in the woods battling with a bout of writer's block. Depp's performance as an eccentric writer is both familiar and encouraging. From his mop of hair to his proclivity for naps and self-conversations, Depp fills his role with nuance and history.

Even though the audience is introduced to Rainy well into his life, there is a human connection and weight that Depp carries into the role that most actors would have been unable to exploit to their full advantage.

As Rainy continues his lethargic descent into self-pity, a mysterious man, John Shooter (John Turturro), steps into his life with a foreboding message. Shooter accuses Rainy of stealing a story he wrote. Dismissing his claim off-hand, Rainy later discovers there is an uncanny resemblance between the two writers' stories.

However, Rainy wrote his version in 1994, while Shooter's version was written in 1997. Shooter demands Rainy prove his claim or bad things will happen. Demonstrating his threat's validity, Shooter shows Rainy just what a screwdriver can do when driven into a house pet's head. From there, the movie turns into a cat-and-mouse chase on Prozac, moving slowly from one encounter to another as Rainy's deadline for proof draws near.

Director David Koepp's screenplay of the Stephen King novel "Secret Window, Secret Garden" often delves into the insipid, missing a deathly dull pace with several entirely unoriginal ideas. Subplots (Rainy's previous encounter with a psycho fan) are skipped around and unresolved, while others (Rainy's ongoing divorce trial, his interaction with the local townspeople) take center stage at inappropriate times, distracting from the main story and slowing the movie's pace even more. For a man who has been threatened and had pets killed, Rainy saunters lazily around taking plenty of naps without a care in the world.

All in all, "Secret Window" is not a bad movie. If it had come out when King's original story was published, it may have been considered a great movie. However, in today's Hollywood where the independent film market has perfected slow-paced movies with surprise endings that are far more original than "Secret Window's" lazy closing, the movie suffers from comparison. Overly slow and unoriginal, "Secret Window" is saved from mediocrity by Depp's great performance. This is not a testament to the film however. Depp could star in "Watching A Laundry Spin Cycle: The Movie" and still manage to entertain audiences. For Depp's performance alone audiences should watch "Secret Window" on video when it makes its way into the favorites section.



— Robert Saucedo

## Animal Planet

A camel with no hump? A leopard with no spots? An elephant with no trunk?

This is definitely not an everyday trip to the zoo! It's a fun-filled new musical starring six of your favorite animals. Filled with vivid costumes and plenty of sing along tunes, JUST SO STORIES, based on Rudyard Kipling's masterpiece, will have you laughing, singing and dancing in the aisles!

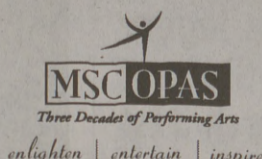
**JUST SO STORIES**  
**TheatreWorks USA**  
Saturday, April 3  
2 PM & 4 PM  
Rudder Theatre

**TICKETS**  
845-1234  
[www.MSCOPAS.org](http://www.MSCOPAS.org)



Bring a book  
or two! OPAS JR  
is sponsoring a  
book-drive during  
the performances of  
JUST SO STORIES!

OPAS Jr Generously Supported by:  
**The OPAS Guild**  
Supporting the arts since 1973.



Fantastic Family Fun! All tickets only \$7.50!