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CINEMA

Kevin's Smith's 'Mallrats' and 'Clerks' full of coarse humor

By Jesse Bohrer-Clancy
Freelance Reporter

Sometime last year a no-budget, no-name, black and white film from New Jersey about the day in the life of a convenience store clerk showed up in a few art houses around the country.

The only thing remarkable about it was that it almost got an NC-17 rating, for language no less. No sex, no nudity, no violence, just talk. And talk is exactly what made the film so damn funny.

Word of mouth spread, and *Clerks* ended up making enough cash to get its writer/director Kevin Smith, 24, a chance to make a film with an actual budget. His sophomore effort *Mallrats*, while not quite as raw and, uh, colorful, is just as funny as *Clerks*.

Mallrats, like *Clerks*, has no major plot. The two main characters T.S. (Jeremy London, Pink in *Dazed and Confused*) and Brodie (Jason Lee) are each dumped by their respective girlfriends Brandi (Claire Forlani) and Rene (Shannen Doherty) and go to the mall to ponder why and attempt to win them back.

Lee is a riot as Brodie, a self-centered comic book fiend, whose every line is either a tirade on the idiocy of his fellow man or a loud (and extremely honest) statement of his personal beliefs on certain matters.

CINEMA REVIEW

Mallrats

Playing at Cinema World.

★★★

Clerks

Available on video

Lee plays Brodie's role as an opinionated bastard to the hilt, but never makes the mistake of over hamming the part. He delivers the lines with an assurance that only someone like Quentin Tarantino could achieve.

London is the same as he usually is, a fine actor playing the part of your average high school/college student, but he doesn't get any of the chance that Lee does for some truly great dialogue.

Doherty is also not that bad. She no longer seems like the whiny prima donna she was back in the days of 90210. But then again, I've been wrong before.

While *Clerks*' humor was all dialogue, Smith shows quite a flair for slapstick in *Mallrats*.

This is a good sign, showing that Smith won't allow himself to be pigeon-holed into only one paradigm of humor. He is experimenting and so far has done a fabulous job.

His direction has also improved drastically. Where

Clerks pondered along at a steady pace, *Mallrats* comes and goes in bursts of energy, but without the lulls between becoming too boring.

Smith still has things to work on, but he shows that he still has a lot left in him.

What makes this film truly hilarious however, are the exploits of Silent Bob (Smith) and the drug-dealing fruitcake Jay (Jason Mewes).

These two continue their roles from *Clerks* as merry pranksters/anarchists bent on bringing down a stage for a dating game being shot in the mall, levitating cigarettes through the Force (remember Star Wars, kids?), running from the mall rent-a-cops at every turn, and beating the crap out of the Easter Bunny.

And yes, mauling (no pun intended) the Easter Bunny is pretty funny, just don't take the kids.

While we're on the subject of easily impressionable minds, *Mallrats* (or *Clerks* for that matter) is definitely not a film for the easily offended weenie.

So, if you are offended by naughty words and a little risqué language, stay in your safe little house and watch reruns of *Green Acres*.

However, if you enjoy damn funny, abet coarse humor, go check both these films out.

MUSIC

First U.S. tour of 'Musicians' hits the Hult

By Anne Moser-Kornfeld
Entertainment Editor

Mick Jagger describes the Master Musicians of Jajouka as, "One of the most musically inspiring groups still left on the planet."

On Nov. 1 at 8 p.m., in the Silva Concert Hall of the Hult Center, Eugene audiences are lucky enough to get a sampling of the Master Musicians of Jajouka entrancing music as part of their first U.S. tour.

The Master Musicians of Jajouka are descendants of a 4,000-year-old tribe of royal pipers from the Rif mountains of northern Morocco. Their musical sound is created by using a double reed pipe called a ghaita and is blended with a dense drum pattern.

Since the 1950s, the intriguing mix has long fascinated artists when post war expatriates, such as William Burroughs and Brian Gysin, made them accessible to Western audiences.

A newly released compact disc, titled *The Pipes of Pan at Jajouka*, has been distributed through



COURTESY PHOTO
The Master Musicians of Jajouka play on Wednesday.

composer Philip Glass' record label. The Musicians music has been defined as both hypnotic and unsettling.

For those fortunate to see the group live, tickets are \$18 and \$15 through the Hult Center Box Office at 687-5000.

Ball: A costume contest will be held

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Man, a genius of rhythm and a good show, will provide us with some entertainment. Yes, this is the man who appeared in the Soundgarden song, *Spoonman*.

He is a sidewalk artist who has taken his act to new dimensions, traveling and playing in 25 different countries as well as jamming with various musicians from the Seattle Philharmonic Orchestra to Frank Zappa. Beside spoons, Artis also plays forks, knives and even pie servers.

To create a special ambience and atmosphere that will be highlighted by the music, a Seattle company, HPX, will create a multimedia show, which will include special lighting and animation.

This will be the icing on the cake in providing the ultimate psychedelic Halloween party.

There will also be a costume contest at the Ball, and \$300 will be awarded to the best costume. Outside in the lobby, local arts and crafts will be displayed at a vendor's fair.

Of course, the essential ingredient that is still missing is you.

When you get a chance, cruise down to one of the local locations like Oregon Ticketmaster, EMU Main Desk, House of Records, CD World or Backstage Dancewear, and get a ticket to the party. It's \$12.50 in advance or \$14.50 at the door; the show is for people 21 and over. And now you've heard it all, so have a great time!