

# Love, Brak Style

THE SPACE GHOST SIDEKICK'S FAVORITE DATE FLICKS

In my opinion, a date movie should be a movie that you can go to with a date. And hopefully afterward, there's food involved. Did you know you can get fried cheese at the movies now? Once I had a date and ordered five plates of fried cheese and ate them all by myself, because I figured, "She paid for 'em, I might as well eat 'em." But where was I? Oh, yeah, date movies. Here are my top five. —Brak, as relayed through really painful mind control to Scott Brown

**1 The Delicate Delinquent** [1956, Paramount, unrated] For such a jerk, Jerry Lewis sure can make a funny movie. And speaking of jerks...

**2 The Jerk** [1979, Universal, R] The scene where Steve Martin has his pants pulled down is one of the best pants-pulled-down scenes in movie history.

**3 Plan 9 From Outer Space** [1958, Rhino, unrated] This is the most realistic portrayal of alien zombie invasion I've seen—and I've seen 'em all. And incidentally, you people of Earth are idiots.

**4 KISS Meets the Phantom of the Park** [1978, GoodTimes, unrated] I tip my hat to Hanna-Barbera

for the use of the band Kiss in such an original fashion. Where were the Golden Globes that year. I ask you?

**5 Rainbow Brite and the Star Stealer** [1985, Warner, G] I thought it would be a harmless animated feature, but this whole planet gets stolen and, well, I just couldn't watch

any more. My date, Marla Hibbs, said that Rainbow Brite eventually comes in and saves the day, but once I got scared by the big, bad, evil Princess, I ran as far from that theater as I could. Marla also said she had to hitchhike home. Soon after, she stopped returning my calls. I still ride my bike past her house, though.



Space Ghost dreams the impossible dream

Thus, the *Powerpuff* jet streaking across America's skies (the girls appear on the rear end of a kid-friendly Delta Express 737), the *Powerpuff* album, featuring Devo and Frank

Black, and the *Powerpuff* theatrical movie, slated for release in 2002. A pretty impressive yield from McCracken, an animator who envisioned an audience of "stoned college kids." Which, come to think of it, gives a whole new meaning to that mysterious Chemical X.

IF THE REACTION TO *THE Powerpuff Girls* has been chemical, the success of Cartoon Network's other pint-size-protagonist hit, *Dexter's Laboratory*, has been explosive. Dexter was born of a California Institute of the Arts student film by Genndy Tartakovsky—a classmate of McCracken's—called *Changes*, about a carefree, per-

petually pirouetting young girl: the proto-Dee Dee. Tartakovsky realized she needed a foil, so he gave her a brother, "a grumpy little boy scientist. And I thought he should have a big lab in his room." He also decided Dexter should have an untraceable Eastern European accent. Later, while working on *2 Stupid Dogs* at Hanna-Barbera in the early '90s, Tartakovsky's film made its way to the nascent Cartoon Network's brain trust, and *Dexter's Laboratory* became the channel's first original series to bring in more than a million viewers.

Tartakovsky, 30, attributes this success to a deep and abiding desire to please not network executives, but himself: "Otherwise, I have to think, well, what will a 6-year-old find funny? Well, throwing up and farting is funny