

REVIEWS

PULSE EDITOR: MONICA HANDE

Forgotten Film

TWO REPORTERS BANTER ABOUT THE FILMS YOU MAY NOT REMEMBER OR ARE TRYING TO FORGET



VIDEO REVIEW

'Cloak and Dagger'

Starring: Henry Thomas, Dabney Coleman, Michael Murphy, Christina Nigra, John McIntire and Jeanette Nolan

★☆☆☆

COMMENTARY

Josh Ryneal & Mason West

Memory is a tricky thing. "Cloak and Dagger" was one of those movies that seemed really cool when relying on childhood memories. What kid doesn't like spy movies that include explosions, video games, gunplay and elderly terrorists? The problem with this movie is that it completely fails to live up to the expectations that a misty memory sets up.

This column has been pretty lucky so far. "The Adventures of Baron Munchausen?": As good as we expected. "Transformers: The Movie": Even better. OK, "The Ice Pirates" was a bit of a stumble, but it was light-years better than this movie.

In a nutshell, the plot revolves around young David Osbourne (Henry Thomas), son of an Air Force sergeant (Dabney Coleman), an avid war-themed role-playing-game enthusiast who becomes mixed up in a plot to sell top-secret bomber plans to terrorists. But

in one of the earliest examples of cross-promotional tie-ins, the plans are hidden inside of a "Cloak and Dagger" Atari cartridge, which David must rescue after witnessing the violent death of an FBI agent.

Speaking of violence, this movie is awfully dark and violent for a supposed kid's movie. "Cloak and Dagger" is stuck in limbo: Too disturbing for small children but too implausible and stupid for older viewers. Over the course of the film, David sees five people meet bloody deaths, and it doesn't seem to affect him.

Where the movie hooks you or loses you is with Coleman's dual role as both David's father and his imaginary friend, super spy Jack Flack. The dichotomy is interesting — as Dad, Coleman is concerned and conservative, and as Flack, Coleman tells David to constantly shoot bad guys, shoplift and disregard authority.

The Jack Flack

character seems a little like Drop Dead Fred, from the movie of the same title. He is an imaginary friend, but he seems to have some control over reality. This becomes apparent at the climax of the film's moral conflict when Flack seemingly diverts the bad guys' fire while David shoots him.

Mason: So is he really there, or just imaginary?

Josh: Well, you see David walking down the street talking to Flack, and then in the next shot he's talking to nobody. So, I think he's imaginary, but that's where the filmmakers screwed up.

The way that the director has Flack come in and out of reality with camera cuts and pans is a good cinematic device, but generally confusing. Flack admits that he isn't real, but he opens doors and sees things that David can't see. These are very real. I guess we'll just have to rope off this plot hole and direct traffic around it.

The thing that is appealing about the film is that the villains get their just desserts. No hokey ending where the bad guys are carted off to jail; in this movie they all meet timely ends. Whether it's through a windshield, on the receiving end of a bullet (or several) or in the fiery inferno of an exploding plane, kids will get a certain visceral satisfaction from seeing the people they hate getting what they deserve: bloody death.

It is funny that

Bryan Dixon Emerald



Get down and dirty on the Web

amihotornot.com

★☆☆☆☆

PROS: Easy to use, addictive and gives you a certain guilty pleasure. This site shows you how your vote compares to the average and how many have voted on each picture. Guaranteed for hours of fun.

CONS: Judging people strictly on their physical attractiveness? What are you, some kind of jerk?

www.theonion.com

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PROS: Some of the funniest free entertainment you'll find on the Web all year. Great writing, fake photos and a wonderful arts and entertainment guide that highlights both mainstream and alternative music, movies and books. Also boasts some great merchandise, a rarity on the Internet.

CONS: It's, well, fake. And it only comes out once a week. But don't let that stop you from checking it out.

www.totalsports.com

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PROS: Chock-full of statistics, stories and great photos. Sports fiends and trivia masters looking to expand their knowledge will find a new home here.

CONS: Is it all that different from the other online sports sites out there? Use it as an addition to the sites you already use.

www.gamesages.com

★☆☆☆☆

PROS: Massive amounts of game information and a searchable database. Game players will find everything they need, including codes, maps, walkthroughs and cheats.

CONS: Massive amounts of game information that the search engine doesn't always filter through effectively, requiring users to click through a series of tedious links.

■ With these four Internet sites, students looking to waste time won't have trouble getting nothing done

By Josh Ryneal
Oregon Daily Emerald

Ah, the Internet. A mind-bendingly powerful tool that has been both praised and demonized for its ability to allow people to find pretty much anything they want. Although most use the Internet for research or entertainment, what about when you just want to waste time?

Whether stuck in the library, goofing off at work or lazing about at home, the Internet has a lot of possibilities for passing the time, waiting for something better to do. Here are some Web sites that will help you become less productive than you already are.

www.amihotornot.com

Remember in high school, when you used to give people ratings on how physically attractive they were? And that little twinge of guilt you felt when you did it? Well, the Internet thinks of everything. Now, you can revisit that old pastime without having to feel any remorse about being a superficial jerk.

Amihotornot.com operates on a

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