

# Sensational sequels spice up summer

■ Here's some help in separating the good summer sequel releases from the bad

By Bevin Caffery  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The concept of a "sequel" tends to bring about skeptical looks and rolling eyes. Every now and then, a good continuation of a hit movie can actually compare to the original, but these are rare occurrences. "Indiana Jones," "Star Wars," "Lethal Weapon" and "The Godfather" are arguably some of the few movies to produce good sequels. Their reputations, however, are darkened by countless others, such as "Grease," "Jaws," "Rocky" and "Scream." Well, we have a whole new batch out of the oven for you, and the rating scale shows how excited you should get. Try 'em out:

## 'Dr. Dolittle 2'

Release date June 22

★★★★☆

Eddie Murphy has made it as the liaison between the animal kingdom and the human world.

But he faces a new conflict: The animals are on strike. (Hmm. Did this happen in Eugene?) Murphy has to struggle through a showdown between the animals and the people, and keep them from shooting — or eating — each other.

## 'Scary Movie II'

Release date July 4

★★★★☆

Rumors surrounding this kooky sequel are that it will be different from the original. Well, different in that it mocks different movies, but the same in its ridiculously exaggerated parodies of horror films. Including many of the original cast members (a few of whom were killed in the first film), "Scary Movie" is looking to ex-or-CISE the demons. Various "satanic horror movies" will make appearances this time, such as "The Exorcist," "Bless the Child" and "Stigmata." After demeaning harmless serial killers in the first movie, the Wayans brothers are now aiming their laughter at supernatural evil forces. It should prove to be a nice, mindless comedy.

## 'Jurassic Park III'

Release date July 18

★★★★☆

Yet another way to film dinosaurs running amok and eating people. But this one will have a completely new and interesting plot: This time a greedy corporation brings a Tyrannosaurus Rex to California to open a theme park. (The private island just didn't have enough people to eat.) It doesn't take too much imagination to figure out what might happen, but who knows? Maybe the dinosaur will turn out to be a gentle-hearted creature that saves a baby from a burning building or something.

## 'Rush Hour 2'

Release date August 3

★★★★★

It looks like the corny action of Jackie Chan and the hilarious comedy of Chris Tucker will team up again to give us some expert martial arts moves and more of Tucker's high-pitched squeals.

## 'American Pie 2'

Release date August 10

★★★★★

The original cast of the old gang is back, and the scene is the summer after their first year of college. They're back to share stories of crazy sexual endeavors and to start some new ones, no doubt. If this summer was anything like their senior year, there will be quite a few new experiences in the never-ending quest for sex. But since they all lost their virginity in the first movie, what will their next quest be? More sex? Bisexual experiences? Banana cream pie? (Yikes.)

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## Animation

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for their efforts. Falbo aims to please with his piece, "Firewood," where a computer-animated figure moves over a filmed set. For those who can't visualize it, he explains, "It's like the Disney movie 'Dinosaur.'"

Shelly Macdonald also produced a piece in the Motion Graphics class called "Adelaide." The animation shows a girl in a snowy city who imagines a jazz poster coming to life and playing for her. Macdonald says the idea is like a memory of her childhood in Chicago where her father played jazz trumpet. Her father played the score for her piece, adding to its autobiographical feel. The short was made by filming painted, cut-out pieces of canvas, giving it a classic, foreign feel.

In addition to the animated student works, two student-made documentaries will be shown. Professor Ken O'Connell joked that the title may be outdated. "Maybe next year we'll call it the 'Motion Media Meltdown,'" he said.

### Memory in motion

This joke points out a deception caused by titles. Though Animation Explosion is in its fourth year, the University has held showings of student work since 1957. The tradition of motion media was started at the University by retired professor David Foster, one of O'Connell's former teachers. To remember the legacy behind the art department's achievements, the Animation Explosion features one historical work each year. This year, O'Connell takes the stage with his 1984 computer animation "Chips in Space."

This is in homage to O'Connell's legacy. He is retiring this year after 23 years at the University. During his time as a student, he learned from Foster and was shaped by that man's artistic vision and dedication.

When first trying to incorporate film and photography into the art department in 1951, the conflicting sentiment of the faculty was that they were commercial media.

"I spent a lot of time convincing the faculty that this is not commercial," Foster said. "Communication is not commercial."

Because of the reluctance to change, Foster built up the program largely by himself. O'Connell remembers a time in the '70s when Foster took a second mortgage on his house



Adam Amato Emerald

Senior Desi Ramsey builds a family of worms for her film, which is not yet titled, about the life of a worm. It can be viewed at the Animation Explosion on June 7 and 8.

to buy equipment for the students.

This dedication comes from Foster's fundamental love of learning and communication. Foster graduated from a Bauhaus art school in Chicago, where he was taught that form follows function. In teaching University students new technologies and processes, the focus was always on using media as tools to express a message.

« The art of organizing the material and conveying the thought is more important than the physical presentation.

David Foster  
retired professor »

"The art of organizing the material and conveying the thought is more important than the physical presentation," Foster said.

But Foster knows that it is easy to shift the focus away from communication when the goal becomes to create a product. This is why he comes back to see the Animation Explosion. "I want to see what they're doing," he said. "But I look at it not to be entertained — I look at it to see how my friend Ken is doing."

### Maintaining the message

As a returning student, Terry provides perspective on the two professors, having received instruction from both of them. He studied under Foster in 1978 for a year and re-

turned last fall under O'Connell. But despite the gap in time, he feels that the vision is intact.

"There is no question that communication is what it is all about," he said. "At the U of O, the emphasis will always be on the message and the theory."

But though students may think they are communicating effectively, unbiased outsiders may disagree. O'Connell said that learning how audiences respond to the work is another primary function of the Animation Explosion.

Falbo remembers the response to last year's event. "We had more people than we should have," he said. "It was standing room only. I couldn't get back in after the intermission."

Learning from the experience, Falbo spread the event over two nights. Each two-hour program will begin at 7 p.m. and feature different works. This not only allows more student work to be shown, but also allows more people to see it.

And the more people who see the work, the more the students' art will be appreciated.

"Art is not a gift," Falbo said. "You make it a gift by the energy and effort you put into it."

Judging by Terry's example, the students learned this fact from the time they labored over their projects. And while the impressive pieces represent the best work from what O'Connell claims is the best animation program in the Northwest, the goal is still the communication of ideas.

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