

## PULSE

Thursday, June 26, 2003



**Aaron Shakra**  
Art falls apart

## Promotion materials waste our desk space

Hello, Aaron here. I don't know if there will be a more opportune moment to say this, so I'm going to take advantage of it and talk behind-the-scenes a little in my first column ever. And before I lose you, dear reader, potentially on the verge of boredom with yet one more columnist talking about the Emerald (didn't we just do this in the year-end issue?), let me say this is still about entertainment. Indirectly, of course.

With the staff recycling here recently at the Emerald, the office has gotten significantly cleaner. Not that last year's staff — of which I was part of, carrying the title of "Pulse Reporter" — was particularly dirty, but over the course of one school year, much waste accumulates. Late last week, I spearheaded cleaning the Pulse desks, and let me say there was no greater culprit for the aforementioned waste. Pulse had become a veritable tour de force of über-clutter.

To give you a picture of what I'm talking about, imagine piles of expired press releases, movie promo kits and publicity photos, compact discs, videos and books spanning three desks. More material items probably run through this section of the paper than all others combined.

Unfortunately, the Pulse desk cannot possibly control the sea of information that comes our way. The fault is largely that companies think we want to write about every single thing they release, and proceed by shoving endless hordes of press releases, packets and other material items down our throats. I mention no organization in particular; however, I still feel it necessary to make an effort to stem the tide of waste and say the following:

Please, think about the press materials you create. Please, don't send us every little thing, using large envelopes and non-recyclable plastic with massive amounts of paper. How long do you think a press packet for the movie "Hollywood Homicide" will be useful around here? Do you think we're going to be impressed by the plastic couch you sent us containing information about "Anger Management"? Is that going to be the turning point that makes us write a positive review of the film? Do we really need one more piece of plastic — largely non-recyclable — with a glossy paper booklet of information that could be more easily found on the Internet? No!

There are hundreds of organizations and media outlets shoving information down our throats. Of course, how are these groups supposed to know what we care to write about? They send us everything so we're able to have a choice about such things.

My solution to this problem is not "don't send us stuff." Rather, it's to use e-mail and conduct business electronically whenever possible. The computer age is upon us, and right now there is no greater, practical tool for conserving the waste I'm talking about. Many

Turn to **Shakra**, page 6

## Summer at the silver screen

Summer movie season is here, and this year brings Hollywood fans a grab bag of horror, comedy, art films, and kitsch

By **Ryan Nyburg** and **Aaron Shakra**  
Freelance Reporters

The summer movie season has been underway since halfway through spring. Still, there's plenty of summer left. Here are, in our humble opinions, the interesting films in store for the remainder of the dog days.

Director Danny Boyle, of "Trainspotting" fame, takes the traditional zombie film and reworks the formula in "28 Days Later," opening on June 27. The result is one of the most anticipated horror films of the year. The story is about a virus that wipes out all of London, leaving only a few survivors. The infected population becomes flesh-eating zombies, and the survivors have to band together in order to fight them off. George Romero fans rejoice.

Since Pixar Animation Studios and Walt Disney have raked in the dough early with "Finding Nemo," the remaining highlight for summer animation comes from DreamWorks SKG, with "Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas," set for release July 2. Early word has it that the animation — a mix of traditional 2-D cell animation and 3-D computer-generated imagery — is stunning. Screenwriter John Logan, most recently of "Star Trek: Nemesis," provided the screenplay for the film. Voice roles for the characters include Catherine Zeta-Jones, Brad Pitt and Michelle Pfeiffer.

Opening the same day is

"Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines." With two of the original stars missing, as well as the original director, this highly anticipated film could be hit or miss. With a \$170 million budget, director Jonathan Mostow better hope it's a hit. If it's even nearly as good as either of the first two, it could make half its budget back in a single weekend. Apart from commercial consideration, the effects look superb, as does new villain Kristanna Loken.

Comic book adaptations are

all the rage these days. They don't all come from the staple cadre of super heroes, however. "The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen," based on Alan Moore's comic book, is a chimera of 19th century literature and the 20th century superhero. Characters from books of H.G. Wells, Bram Stoker and Mark Twain show up in "LXG" among others. Sean Connery headlines the cast as Allan Quartermain. This film marks the second adaptation of a Moore comic book — 2001's "From Hell" was the first — and arrives in theaters July 11.

"Pirates of the Caribbean" will be the major competition for "LXG." With a slew of direct-to-video sequels to their older classics, and now a film based on one of their amusement park rides, it looks like Disney has run completely out of original ideas. On the other hand, how can one resist Johnny Depp in a pirate outfit? As long as the filmmakers don't take things too seriously, this could be the camp classic of the summer.

The spy-spoof genre is alive and well in the form of "Johnny English," which stars Rowan Atkinson, best known as Mr. Bean, in the title role as an inept secret agent assigned to save Britain from the scourge of a jewel thief. Interestingly enough, the film's two writers are Neal Purvis and Robert Wade, who wrote the two most recent James Bond films. "Johnny English" opens July 18.

Also opening July 18 is "Garage Days." Director Alex Proyas, who brought us "The Crow" and "Dark City," surprised some people with his decision to direct a light comedy

Turn to **Movies**, page 6



Eric Layton Emerald

## Festival goes 'Bach' to baroque this year

The Oregon Bach Festival will star renowned conductor Helmuth Rilling and instead of debuting new musical faire will mostly feature pieces by classical composers

By **Ryan Nyburg**  
Freelance Reporter

The Oregon Bach Festival begins for the 34th time Friday, opening with the voices of Pacific International Children's Choir Festival at 6 p.m.

The festival is returning to more traditional, baroque pieces this year, with performances of the works of Handel, Beethoven, Brahms and Johann Sebastian Bach himself.

"This year is our off-year," said George Evano, the festival's director of communications. "Last year we debuted a major American work, next year we're debuting a new piece. This year we're concentrating on Bach's contemporaries."

The festival is guided by artistic director and internationally renowned conductor Helmuth Rilling. Rilling, whose honors include receiving the Theodor Heuss Prize, conducting the musical portion of the ceremonies for the reunification of East and West Germany and being the first German conductor to conduct the Israeli Philharmonic, turned 70 on May 29. In homage of his birthday, and also as a fundraiser, the festival has given him another honor: His image is commemorated in a bobblehead doll,

copies of which will be available at the festival's Web site.

"I got an e-mail from (choir director) Peter Hopkins saying, 'I think I have a way for the festival to make millions,'" Artistic Administrator Marla Lowen said.

Rilling's isn't the only birthday being celebrated this year, however.

The Hult Center for the Performing Arts, one of the festival's major venues, will be turning 20. A reprise of Brahms' "German Requiem," the first piece the festival ever performed in the Hult Center, will take place in the Silva Concert Hall on July 6.

Even though the festival is moving toward more traditional performances this year, it will still offer things for those seeking something new. One performance, "The Tao of the Well-Tempered Bach," promises to be a festival highlight. The performance combines the dancing of Tai Ji master Chungliang Al Huang with a piano performance of Bach's "The Well-Tempered Clavier" by pianist Robert Levin.

Another festival highlight is the performance of Handel's "Jephtha" on the opening day of the festival.

"That should be of interest, as it has never been performed at the festival before," Lowen said.

Combining two of the great classical composers in one performance, the July 13 performance of Bach's "Magnificat" and Mozart's

"Mass in C Minor" is looking to be one of the most popular concerts at this year's festival, Evano said.

Tickets are available through the Bach Festival office by phone at (541) 682-5000, or online at [www.oregonbachfestival.com](http://www.oregonbachfestival.com), or at concert ticket windows an hour before showtime. Tickets are also available through the University Ticket Office in the EMU. Ticket prices range from \$12 to \$49, depending on the event. For certain shows, college students are eligible for \$20 tickets.

Helmuth Rilling bobbleheads are available for \$25.

Ryan Nyburg is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

