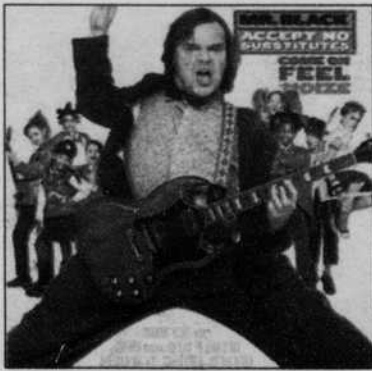


MOVIES

continued from page 7D

Oct. 31

No it's not a sequel, it's Sigourney Weaver in the original "Alien" (special edition) looking all remastered, shiny and new. Look for a hot, new audio track in surround sound and spanking new scenes you can't even get on the mega-ultra-platinum-special-edition-limited DVD.



Nov. 1

"Brother Bear," the Disney animated feature, has been suffering from a bad case of the blahs recently, or more specifically a total lack of all originality. Early buzz on "Brother Bear" is good, probably because the film's genesis goes back to pre-"Lion King" days. Breaking with Disney's typically white-bread tradition, the movie centers on a young Native American named Kenai (Joaquin Phoenix) who ignores his village's wish and sets out on a quest to take his revenge on the grizzly bear who killed his father, the village chief. Instead, he is transformed by the spirits of the forest into a bear.



Nov. 7

"Matrix Revolutions," 'nuff said.

Will Ferrell stars in "Elf" as Buddy, a man who is adopted by elves and raised at the North Pole. Problems arise when Buddy grows to adult size and unintentionally does some major damage to his native elf community due to his regular proportions. This sets off Buddy's quest to find his biological father in New York. A good family film with a hilarious star can't be all bad.

Nov. 14

"Honey" is the tragic tale of Honey (Jessica Alba), an urban, sexy, no-nonsense music video choreographer who reaches a turning point when her long-time mentor threatens to blacklist her unless she sleeps with him. Honey decides to change her life and opens a dancing school in an inner city, teaching thugs (like the one played by Lil' Romeo) to dance with passion.

"Master and Commander: The Far Side of the Earth" follows Ship Surgeon Stephen Maturin (Paul Bettany) and Navy Capt. Jack Aubrey (Russell Crowe) as they set sail in the 19th century to catch the French ship "Acheron" in exotic locations, during the Napoleonic Wars. It has potential, and seeing as how Crowe has resurrected just about every "dead" genre of epic film, the sea tale just might be next.

Nov. 21

"Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat," starring Mike Myers in the lead role. Myers is sure to include plenty of his classic shtick, and this film looks like a sure bet for the 12-and-younger crowd, but it's unlikely it will find much of an audience outside of the family setting. Like its Geiselian predecessor, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," the film employs a big-

name comedian, but Jim Carrey was barely worth a chuckle in his big green suit. Sean Hayes (Will & Grace) stars as the voice of the reason, the family's conscientious pet fish.

"Radio," starring Ed Harris and Cuba Gooding Jr., looks pretty much like your run-of-the-mill football movie cocktail: Mix one part "Rudy" with one part "Remember the Titans" and you have yet another "based on a true story" sports tearjerker. The saving grace of this film may be the acting skills of Gooding, who plays a developmentally challenged student, and Harris who plays his compassionate yet tough coach who fights for integration. Could be good, could be terrible — much of this movie's potential lies in keeping it sentimental without resorting to syrupy clichés, as "Titans" deftly did.

Steven Neuman is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

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