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'Butterfly' effectively induces nausea

Disgusting images pervade a movie built on a strong, intriguing foundation

By **Natasha Chilingirian**
Pulse Reporter

Surely everyone has wished he or she could turn back time to erase stupid mistakes made in the past. But if you were in Evan Treborn's shoes, you'd probably go to the ends of the Earth to rewind the clock. Evan (as a young adult, played by Ashton Kutcher), who suffers from the effects of a childhood plagued by events like involvement with a pedophile and the live burning of his dog, devotes himself to changing his life.

MOVIE REVIEW

"The Butterfly Effect" begins with a quote stating that the simple flapping of a butterfly's wings can cause a typhoon halfway across the world. In this case, the catapulting events are a little more sickening than wing-flapping. First, 7-year-old Evan, along with his friend (and later, love interest) Kayleigh (Amy Smart) and her brother Tommy (William Lee Scott), are coerced into kiddie pornography films by Kayleigh and Tommy's father.

The three mind-warped children, along with their chubby pal Lenny (Elden Henson), end up killing a few neighbors with a mailbox bomb. Tommy resorts to engaging in violent fights and murdering Evan's pet. Evan, who suffers from blackouts after each traumatic event (and after these occurrences, who wouldn't?) is encouraged to keep a daily journal, which eventually becomes his time-travel machine.

Following the butterfly metaphor, the resulting typhoon in this story is the eventual suicide of Kayleigh, whose disturbing memories drove her to take her life. Evan, who drops a note into her grave reading, "I will come back for you," discovers that by reading his old journal entries on the days that he had blackouts, he can return to the days and change what happened.

After going back and preventing Kayleigh's father from abusing her, his entire present is transformed into a dreamy, colorful college fantasy, where he and Kayleigh are madly in love and popular members of a university Greek system. Life seems to have changed into perfection, but a new tragedy occurs, which causes Evan to turn to his journals and change his childhood again, and again, and again, until he has lived six versions of his life, most of them dark and twisted.

Numerous films have been made about time travel, and it's important to refrain from analyzing the concept too thoroughly to keep your head from



Kayleigh (Amy Smart) and Evan (Ashton Kutcher) live out alternate versions of Evan's life in "The Butterfly Effect."

spinning. Since the idea is utterly impossible, nothing — not even films — can really explain how different today would be had something not occurred. Films that attempt to spell out this idea should be visually and emotionally pleasing in order to compensate for the bothersome confusion.

Unfortunately, most images in "The Butterfly Effect" are so sick that the film not only makes your head spin, it makes your stomach turn. Irksome scenes include Kayleigh as a drugged-up prostitute in the third version of Evan's life, a handicapped Evan trying to drown himself and Lenny stabbing Tommy in a childhood flashback.

Although the story line is unpleasant, "The Butterfly Effect" results in an interesting moral: Even if you could make one skeleton in your closet vanish, an even bigger one might appear. Correcting one mistake doesn't guarantee that you won't make another. Although unrealistic, the idea of changing the past is intriguing. You'll leave the theater thinking of the small choices that led you to where you are today, with the mysterious notion of "What if?"

"The Butterfly Effect" is currently playing at Cinemark 17 theaters, located at 2900 Gateway St. in Springfield.

Contact the Pulse reporter at natashachilingirian@dailymerald.com.



Evan is able to erase tragic events from his childhood and re-create the future simply by reading his old journals.

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'Pizza girl' gives student artistic outlet

Brian Murphy, a University student, aims to produce his own independent film

By **Ryan Nyburg**
Senior Pulse Reporter

While it is true that Eugene will never be mistaken for Hollywood, there have been numerous efforts to make worthwhile cinema in the Emerald Valley. But "Animal House" nostalgia aside, a new filmmaker is attempting to bring his vision of the city and its denizens to the big screen.

"Pizza Girl" is the planned title for a new feature-length film from fifth-year student Brian Murphy. Set in local pizza shops and other suburban hang-outs, the film will deal with a group of young people going through a transitional period in their lives.

"I've always wanted to make films," he said. "With this project, I wanted to tackle something big."

"Big" is a relative term, as Murphy is trying to put the production together while making due with scant resources. The film will be shot using inexpensive digital recording equipment and a volunteer cast and crew.

"I've saved up about \$7,000 over the past few years from paychecks," he said. "I also got some cash from friends and family. By the end of this I'm aiming for about a \$10,000 budget."

That amount doesn't go a long way toward working out some of Murphy's



Danielle Hickey Photo Editor

Brian Murphy is preparing to start production on his film in the coming weeks.

bigger ideas for the film.

"There is a car that is pivotal to the plot that we need to wreck at the end," Murphy said. "We've been on the lookout for a cheap car that runs."

Despite monetary troubles, Murphy and his collaborators have had good luck finding people to work on the film. After placing an advertisement in The Register-Guard, the film-

makers were flooded with responses, according to Murphy and his casting agent, sophomore Robb Norton.

"I was surprised by the initial response," Norton said. "Since then, we've narrowed it down to 40 people."

Acting hopefuls are not the only people looking to work with Murphy and company.

"We get people calling up and saying

"Hey, I can do makeup?" Murphy said. "It's been a really surprising outpouring of interest."

Even with so much support for "Pizza Girl," the filmmakers still have to find ways to cut corners. To that end, Murphy has enlisted the help of his roommate, fifth-year student Frank Pokorny, to make the props and various tools necessary for shooting the film.

"The key is doing it yourself rather than buying ready-made parts," Pokorny said. "It's a real two-by-four, nuts-and-bolts approach. I recently put together a dolly out of skateboard wheels, using PVC pipe as track."

With rehearsals set to begin next week and filming planned for mid-March, Murphy said he is looking ahead to what will happen once the film is finished.

"I'm hoping for a premier at the Bijou Art Cinemas," he said. "After that, I'm going to be sending it out to film festivals. Most of them have a \$25-\$30 entrance fee, so I'm going to have to save up another stack of money."

Until then, Murphy and his collaborators are concentrating on getting the film made and are looking forward to the work ahead.

"It's exciting to be involved in a project where everyone is working for the same goal, but at the same time doing their own thing," Pokorny said.

Contact the senior Pulse reporter at ryannyburg@dailymerald.com.

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