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winter
wonders*Cleverly titled films such as
'Ocean's 12' aim to delight
an unsuspecting public*BY RYAN NYBURG
PULSE EDITOR

Winter is almost upon us, and it's time for Hollywood to unleash another load of holiday cheer on to an unsuspecting public. Here are a few delightful bits of cinema verite, among other things, that we have to look forward to.

On Nov. 26 we have "Alexander," starring Oliver Stone's ego and a cast of thousands in a historical biopic about the Macedonian conqueror best known today for his steamy affair with co-star Angelina Jolie. Also opening that day is "Christmas with the Kranks," which is based on a novel by John Grisham — always a mark of high cinematic quality. In a casting move that defies all cynicism, it stars Tim Allen.

Opening up December in fine fashion is "I Am David" on Dec. 3. The film stars James Caviezel in a non-messiah role, as well as a cast of unknowns that no one really cares about. Dec. 10 is dominated by a pair of potential blockbusters. The first is the brilliantly titled sequel "Ocean's 12," which stars George Clooney and 11 other people. The second is the also brilliantly titled sequel "Blade: Trinity," which stars Wesley Snipes and a professional wrestler.

Opening Dec. 17 is "Lemony

Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events," starring Jim Carrey as an insufferable bastard who makes life hell for a group of children. Wasn't this already made as "Mommie Dearest"? Also opening is "The Aviator," starring a cast of Aryan youths in the story of the dead eccentric rich person, Howard Hughes.

Dec. 22 brings the "Meet the Parents" sequel, "Meet the Fockers." It stars Barbra Streisand as a woman with an annoying, high-pitched voice. Also opening is "Phantom of the Opera," a film that will bring all fear and horror of an Andrew Lloyd Webber musical to the big screen. Opening a few days later is some depressing art film or other and "Fat Albert," a movie for all those

children suffering from nostalgia for the animated television shows of the 1960s and 70s.

Coming Dec. 29 is "Beyond the Sea," final proof that Kevin Spacey has no career left as he stars and directs the biopic about the life of Bob-Darin. Maybe Mack could take his knife and put an end to this tragedy, har har (please kill me).

January starts off right with "White Noise" on the seventh, a film in which Michael Keaton is haunted by the ghosts of all the crappy movies he's starred in. The pain parade continues on Jan. 14 with "Elektra," a spin-off of "Daredevil." If the theory of

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Gerard Butler and Emmy Rossum star in the musical drama "Andrew Lloyd Webber's The Phantom of the Opera," which is due for release this December.

COURTESY

Murphey: Political dangers shake up artists

Continued from page 5

piss too many people off, which may be the reason that ska made a comeback. In the past few years, Bush-mania has forced angry musicians out of their shells and into the fray. Fat Mike of NOFX led the charge for punks to revisit their roots and get active. The steady lull in songwriting that followed Green Day's album "Dookie" was broken when

the childish pop-punksters grew up and released their latest album, "American Idiot." Even electronic bands such as The Faint are weaving Bush jabs into its butt-shaking beats, and record labels such as Hopeless and Fat Wreck Chords are dedicating entire compilations to lambasting G-dub.

The dangers that the past four years have presented to democracy

and civil rights have shaken up a lot of musical artists, and as a result, music has become a little more relevant. Our political climate might be in the toilet, but now that bands have another four years of frustration to inspire them, we'll at least have something to listen to on the way down.

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