



🍿🍿 BROTHER BEAR

Disney's latest (and perhaps final) hand-animated feature isn't a bore, but it doesn't really growl into life either. When a young Native American kills a bear, he is transformed into a bear by the spirits. Now he must escape his hunter brother and help an orphaned cub find peace. Some fun humor but truly awful songs by Phil Collins and Tina Turner.

—Andy Mangels

🍿🍿🍿🍿 ELF

Few humans could pull off yellow tights and a childlike Christmas spirit as well as Will Ferrell, and he defies all expectations to deliver a truly magical performance. As a human who has grown up among the North Pole elves, the tall Buddy doesn't fit in, but once he journeys to New York, he's just as odd there. Sure, it gets a bit treacly at the end, but *Elf* is a holiday film the entire family can enjoy.

—AM

🍿🍿 THE EMBALMER

If you're the type of person who digs foreign films about a taxidermist dwarf (Ernesto Mahieux) with Mafia ties who hires an oblivious hunk (Valerio Foglia Manzillo) as his assistant and develops an unhealthy crush on the guy, then run—don't walk—to Hollywood Theatre, where this opens Nov. 21. If, like me, you tend to shun baffling tedium and morbidity, then just stay home.

—Jim Radosta

🍿🍿 GOTHIKA

Halle Berry plays a psychiatrist who ends up in her own insane asylum, accused of killing her husband and haunted by ghostly images. Working with Robert Downey Jr., she must free herself and find the truth. Though this film has a few good scares and mostly strong acting, several scenes have all the stinky cheese appeal of an old B movie.

—AM

🍿🍿🍿🍿 MASTER AND COMMANDER: THE FAR SIDE OF THE WORLD

Although its title sounds like a good porn movie, this bravura historical production is actually about a ship of all-male sailors in the Napoleonic era (which sounds like the plot of a good porn movie). Russell Crowe and Paul Bettany are excellent leads in this adventurous spectacle that mixes in personality, humor and a sense of discovery among ferocious sea battles.

—AM

🍿🍿 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

Watching a random episode of *Jerry Springer* offers more plot and story than does the third (and, please God, final) *Matrix* film. Keanu Reeves and friends continue to mope about in their vinyl and pleather and save the future of mankind from evil mechanical calamari (a future seemingly free from gay people). Save your money until the DVD release or see *Elf* instead. Everyone else is.

—AM

🍿🍿🍿 SCARY MOVIE 3

Director David Zucker (*Airplane!*) takes over for Keenen Ivory Wayans, who was at the helm of the first two installments of this consistently entertaining horror film spoof. Admittedly, this is the weakest of the three, lampooning unremarkable movies (*Signs*, *The Ring*, *8 Mile*) and concentrating on physical comedy instead of pushing the envelope of bad taste. But, hey, it made me laugh.

—JR

🍿🍿🍿 21 GRAMS

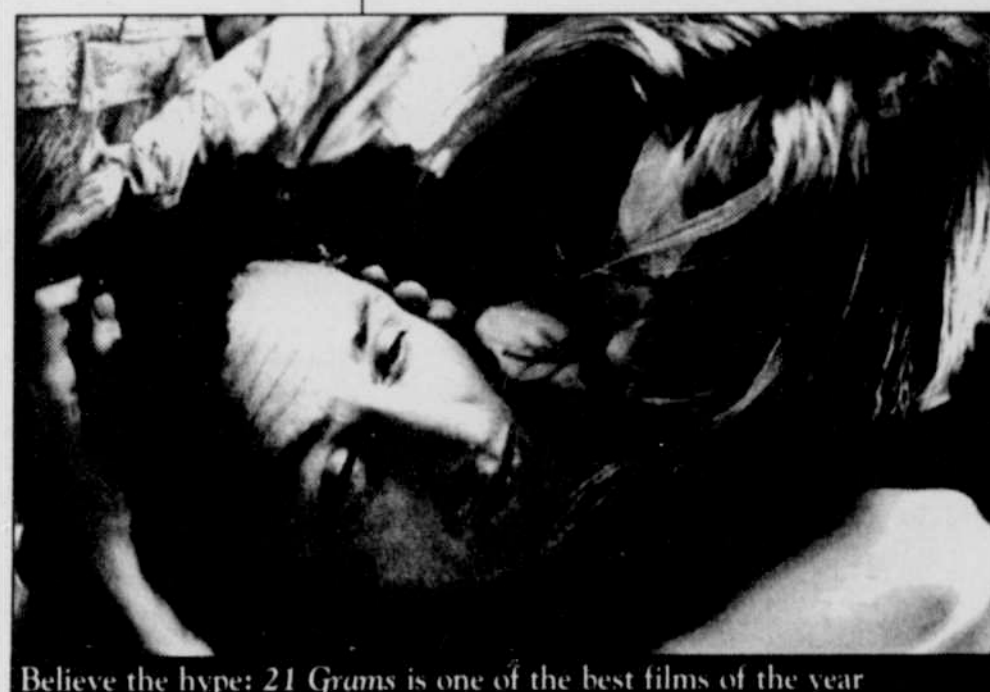
Director Alejandro González Iñárritu (*Amores Perros*) has set up this wrenching drama of loss, serendipity and cruel fate in a shaky, hand-held, grainy, hyper-realist style, so the whole thing hangs on the ragged emotion expressed in the actors' faces. Thankfully, those belong to Sean Penn, Benicio del Toro and Naomi Watts, and the result is one of the best movies of the year. Opens Nov. 26.

—Christopher McQuain

What's Poppin'?

What's popped and what's flopped, in a theater near you.

- 🍿 dud, bottom of the bag
- 🍿🍿 only if you're really hungry
- 🍿🍿🍿 good effort, pass the salt
- 🍿🍿🍿🍿 mmmm, tasty!
- 🍿🍿🍿🍿🍿 get the big tub o' corn



Believe the hype: *21 Grams* is one of the best films of the year



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Friendly Advice

There are different levels of friendship, different levels by which we know and are known by others. We all seek people whose company gladdens us and keeps us from loneliness, but the friend who knows us inside and out, the good and the ugly, is rare indeed. One Biblical Proverb reads:

*A man of many companions may come to ruin,
But there is a friend who stands closer than a brother.*

Not all of us are blessed to have such a friend for various reasons. We may not know how to be close to another if sexuality isn't part of the picture. For some, friendship is merely an amusement for avoiding boredom, while many find the risk of being known too intimately by another intolerably threatening. Yet, without genuine, deep friendship, with whom will we share our sorrows and joys, our hopes and our dreams?

It makes sense to devote at least as much time and care to seeking and maintaining good friends as we do to building careers and making money. Who we become as we grow older depends on, in good part, with whom we share our time. Good friends reinforce our deepest values and challenge us to lead lives of integrity. Each of us needs to take responsibility to be a good friend and to seek others worthy of our most authentic self.

A Message from the Anawim Community

A Community of Gay Men Seeking to Follow Jesus
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