

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



In another testament to how brilliantly world cinema outside the United States handles stories centered around children, this new movie from celebrated Italian director Gabriele Salvatores about a 10-year-old boy (Giuseppe Crustuabi) who discovers a child being held captive in a large hole in the ground presents a simple story mired in layers of complexity and ambiguous emotions. Don't miss what is surely this year's best cinematography, and possibly best film, on the big screen. —Lisa Bradshaw

(MEAN GIRLS

This throwback to '80s films of yore where teen-age outcasts are pit against the beautiful people (in this case an unforgettable trio of snobbalicious girls known as "The Plastics") is mostly deftly handled by writer Tina Fey, who riddles the film with her past and present Saturday Night Live co-workers (most notably the hilarious Tim Meadows as a daffy high school principal). But, like many an SNL skit, the darkly comic fish-out-ofwater plot, about a home-schooled girl (Lindsay Lohan) falling prey to public school society, falters and whines before petering out.

RAISING HELEN

Successful career woman (Kate Hudson) inherits dead relative's children, heartwarming scenarios ensue. You've seen this movie twice already: The first time it was called Baby Boom, and the second time it was called Mostly Martha. If you want to see it a third time, rent one of those two on video. Trust me.

—J.B. Rabin



More information about fast food than you're comfortable with in Super Size Me

COCO COCO SHREK 2

Traveling to the land of Far, Far Away (aka Hollywood), ogre couple Shrek (Mike Myers) and Princess Fiona (Cameron Diaz) visit the new bride's parents, again accompanied by the ass-inine Donkey (Eddie Murphy). Fiona's parents aren't wild about

dud, bottom of the bag

O O only if you're really hungry

good effort, pass the salt

○ ○ ○ ○ ○ mmmm, tasty!

(S) (S) (S) get the big tub o' com

Shrek, and a meddling fairy godmother and Prince Charming complicate matters. The addition of Latino kitty Puss in Boots (Antonio Banderas) is brilliant, and the film soon outruns its predecessor for laughs. There is even some gender-bending fun, and you'll want to stay through the credits.

—Andy Mangels

SUPER SIZE ME

When filmmaker Morgan Spurlock heard about lawsuits blaming McDonald's for obesity, he decided to put the fast food chain to the test by eating every meal at the Golden Arches for 30 days in a row. The resulting documentary is hilarious, horrifying and enlightening, making a strong case that Ronald McDonald is nothing more than a drug pusher who hooks innocent schoolchildren on toxic grub.

—Jim Radosta

CO TROY

German director Wolfgang Petersen (Das Boot) succumbs to star-mania in this watchable but superficial version of Homer's The Iliad. Brad Pitt as Achilles, looking like he just escaped from the tanning booth, primps, prances and pouts his way through soap opera dialogue, brooding (and boring) scenes of self-doubt and endless fight sequences. Not even the cast's heavier hitters—Brian Cox, Eric Bana, Julie

> Christie and, best of all, Peter O'Toole-nor Pitt's legendary butt can save this one. Oh, and don't look for any reference to the morethan-close relationship Homer intended for Achilles and Patroclus. It's not there. -Gary Morris

ADAM YOUNG

British writer/director David Mackenzie has found a perfectly skilled cast to breathe color into the sub-

tleties of his vision of a morally gray landscape. Ewan McGregor, who just keeps getting better, is a drifter who knows more about a body found floating in a canal than he cares to admit and can't keep in check his passion for his boss's wife, played by Tilda Swinton, who leavens the brew with her sweaty, Jarmanesque queer enlightenment.

CONFLUENCE

Willamette Valley Mixed GALA Chorus

Artistic Director, Ray Elliott • Accompanist, Alma Marianos



SALEM

JUNE 5 • 8:00 PM

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem 5090 Center St. NE

PORTLAND

JUNE 6 • 4:00 PM

Unity of Portland 4525 SE Stark

\$10 - no one turned away for lack of funds

Tickets at In Other Words (Portland), Jackson's Books (Salem), from Chorus members, and at the door

