

troops, and a stunning escape on the rooftops of Brazil ensues. It's the first chase of many, leading to the first "Hulk-out," giving a chance to showcase how far CGI effects have come since the last time the growly green giant was onscreen.

Norton is sharp in the title role, as is William Hurt as the mustachioed daddy-type General Ross. Liv Tyler looks appropriately doe-eyed, and Tim Roth is an excellent villain, although he's continually shot in a way that emphasizes how short he is. Director Louis Leterrier knows action from his time on the *Transporter* films, and here he brings on apocalyptic rampaging action with gusto. While *The Incredible Hulk* isn't nearly as good as *Iron Man* (but watch for an end scene and an important cameo), it's a crowd-pleasing action film that pays frequent homage to the beloved 1970s TV series, as well as its comic book origins. **B+**

—Andy Mangels

Kung Fu Panda

This DreamWorks CGI-animated movie is more for adults and kung fu lovers than for children, even though it touches on all the life lessons we try to teach kids. The movie tells the entertaining tale of a clumsy, fat panda who becomes a true kung fu master by learning that if he believes in himself, he can do anything. The slapstick is effective and the action choreography is stunning, but there are not as many jokes as the trailer would lead you to believe. The stellar voice-over cast includes Angelina Jolie, Dustin Hoffman, Lucy Liu and Jack Black. **C+**

—YPB

Lord, Save Us from Your Followers

Like a faith-based Michael Moore, Lake Oswego filmmaker Dan Merchant tackles a divisive topic with an irreverent approach in this documentary about the collision of faith and culture in the United States. In one scene he sets up a "confessional booth" at a Gay Pride festival to interview visitors about how religion has affected their lives, to apologize for the many atrocities committed against queers by so-called "loving Christians" and to demonstrate a unique approach of love and



Lake Oswego filmmaker Dan Merchant explores the collision of faith and culture in the United States in *Lord, Save Us from Your Followers*. **B**

understanding to show that religion does not have to divide but can instead bring people together, regardless of sexual orientation. Opens June 13 at Hollywood Theatre. **B**

—JR

Sex and the City

In case you've been living in an ex-gay ministry for the past 10 years, here's the scoop on this big-screen adaptation of the beloved HBO television series that wrapped in 2004: Romance columnist Carrie (Sarah Jessica Parker) and her three best friends—jaded Miranda (queer actress Cynthia Nixon), romantic Charlotte (Kristin Davis) and horny Samantha (Kim Cattrall)—go shopping for men and shoes with equal gusto in the Big Apple. As Carrie observes from the outset, she used to write about the search for love, but now she wants to figure out what to do once you've found it. Like last year's successful *Simpsons Movie*, if you love the show, you'll love the film. **A-**

—JR

Speed Racer

Much more big-screen video game than movie, *Speed Racer* is the ultimate triumph of style over substance. Computer graphics rule supreme, and it would have been better had they just stopped there. The dialogue is excruciatingly terrible, and the scenes of human interaction seem interminable. Fortunately, most of the running time consists of whiz-bang, nitro-propelled, candy-colored action sequences that obey no known laws of physics. For sheer technological visual innovation, *Speed Racer* knows no equal, but the human beings are not just superfluous, they're irritating, despite being portrayed by a highly talented cast. A gorgeous, overblown, brainless, 21st century *Tron*. **B-**

—Jemiah Jefferson



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