

Entertainment

Entertain Yourself

Spidey swings into view, welcomed or not

JOSEPH MILLER

Staff Reporter

With a \$250 million budget, over a thousand workers, and 8,000 hours to make 40 different Spidey spandex suits (according to CNN), Hollywood sure stepped up to the plate with "Spider-Man 3." So did Spider-Man, the hero, who had to face and resolve conflicts with four different enemies (Sandman, the New Goblin, Venom, and Spidey his evil self) all while dealing with his girlfriend who seems to be a failure at everything she tries to do.

From beginning to end, "Spider-Man 3" was action-packed and nothing short of electric with energy. But was there too much on the plate for our friendly neighborhood spider and the audience to handle? Even the bad guys in the movie were overwhelmed with emotion, each having their own cry scene. And then there was Mary Jane Watson who had her dream of Broadway backfiring on her, telling her straight to her face that she just wasn't good enough. Many big-time critics couldn't keep up with

the fast-paced motion picture (which had scenes swinging from one clip to another with the agility of a spider—full pun intended).

However, for those who go to the movies with the expectation of being amused, this movie fulfills that expectation. The acting was in the same class as the first two films, and the special effects were a perfect blend of computerized visual effects as well as real images, which made the graphics believable. The film did a solid job with the many characters in the film. The various villains were credible; they each had their own specific motives for doing what they were doing and had a purpose in the movie. Sandman (Thomas Haden Church) needed money for his disabled little girl, the New Goblin (James Franco) wanted revenge for his father's death, and Venom (Topher Grace) wanted Revenge for the pain and humiliation Peter Parker/Spider-Man (Tobey Maguire) caused him.

The storyline was also interesting in that the villains began to seem not so

villainous, and Spider-Man began to become more and more selfish and evil. There were many great laughs between evil, black-suited Spidey's hip-pumping movements and the over-the-top character of J. Jonah Jameson (J.K. Simmons), the boss of the *Daily Bugle*. The underlying theme of the corruption of temptation and revenge came along with a lot of tear-jerking humor that dropped some of the clichés that were created by the earlier films.

There were, however, some noticeable flaws to the movie. An example is how everything is conveniently set into place. A meteorite from another planet filled with black, evil goo just happened to fall 30 feet from Peter Parker to infect him to make black Spidey. Another is how Flint Marko (Sandman) happened to stumble into a scientific testing ground where he acquired his superpowers.

There were also some pacing issues—one of which was that Venom came into the movie with only 30 minutes left. But in spite of the few problems, the

movie was fun, and when it comes down to the bottom-line purpose of movies, this movie did a perfect job of entertaining: dazzling the audience with its fantastic action scenes, killing the

audience with laughter, or embarrassing the audience with Peter Parker's dance-moves in the street. This movie is a must-see for anyone who wishes to have excitement in their life.



Hospitality Under the Influence seems to be the best way to go

MARGARET ADAMS

Staff Reporter

I can't remember the last time I was invited to a dinner party. Sure, maybe it's just not the type of things my friends are into, but I'm seriously considering bringing it back.

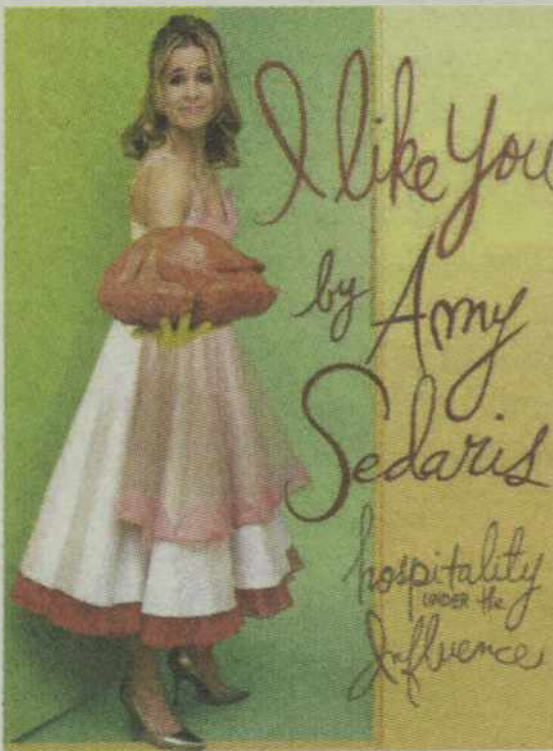
Amy Sedaris ("Strangers With Candy") recently published a book covering every aspect of hospitality; how to be a great guest and how to help make any get together you happen to be hosting a raging success as well as offering manageable recipes.

"Most of the food in my book is really easy to make—they are all starter recipes, believe me," Sedaris said.

As a high schooler, she served as class president and was involved in Girl Scouts, drama, Spanish and track. She also found time to host a few gatherings in between.

"I made a huge cornish hen dinner for all my friends, I made brown rice and green beans and lemon tarts to go along with the hens," she said. Sedaris even helped out at her prom.

"I worked my prom, I served punch, I wore a long blue floral dress. I was home in bed before 12-LOSER," she said.



"I Like You: Hospitality Under the Influence" was created and designed to help anybody interested in hosting a successful party or being a popular guest.

"I wanted to make it very visual so that I didn't leave out the people who can't read or don't enjoy reading," Sedaris said of the eye-popping book. The book is chalk full of useful ideas for gatherings. For example, the book flap reads:

"Try filling your medicine cabinet with marbles. Nothing announces a nosy partygoer more successfully than an avalanche of marbles striking a porcelain sink."

Sedaris has got a few words of wisdom in categories other than hospitality for us as well. "Read. Move at some point—it's always good to move. Make sure whatever you end up doing in life—you really love it. And remember drinking kills feelings."

The book is available at any major bookstore for \$28. I recommend looking into it, because even if you already consider yourself the hostess with the mostest, you could still benefit from a little help in the hosting courtesies and party etiquette realm. Besides, it's a really funny read.



Crew of Shorts VIII worked hard for great show

JESSICA SHUHOLM

Staff Reporter

After a year of planning, and months of work, Shorts VIII kicked off on May 17. On stage, the actors performed the four, one act plays. Behind the scenes, a crew of students worked to make sure that the show went off without a hitch.

"Most of my work gets done at rehearsal or at work parties on Saturday. That's when all the tech stuff is done and ready to go," Jessica Smith, sophomore and Assistant Stage Manager for "Hello Out There," said. "Rehearsals are almost every day. It's kind of good and bad because I have to get my homework done faster and more efficiently, but I don't get to see my family as much."

Sets for the production are built on Saturday, and the lighting work is done after rehearsals are over in the evening.

There is also a running crew of 15 students that help with sets, costumes, quick fixes, and making sure that

everything is ready. The crew is selected according to their willingness to help at work parties on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and their interest in being on crew.

"The only way you get on Running Crew is by participating in work parties. We cannot take 'unknowns'—they need to show us their interest and skills, and it's really important that they get to know how the set pieces or costume pieces are built, how they are to operate, or be worn, and understand as much as possible about how things are supposed to look," Jon Ares, Technical Director and adviser, said.

Being part of the crew does take a toll on some of the members. According to Smith, production week is very stressful, but it's worth it.

"Tech is really fun. You are involved without performing. To me, acting is a vulnerable state, tech isn't like that," Smith said.

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