

Entertainment

Persepolis brings identity crisis to life in graphic novel

KELSEY SCHRADER

Staff Reporter

"Persepolis" is Marjane (pronounced Mar-JOHN) Satrapi's charming, yet tormented, search for self identity and sense of a home during Iran's troubled political and social past, illustrated and narrated by Satrapi herself. "Persepolis" is a touching autobiography of Iranian and Western identity.

The graphic novel is Satrapi's memoir of growing up as a young girl in Tehran, Iran during the 70's and 80's, depicted through simple black-and-white cartoon pictures. Her story begins at age six, in 1979, when the Islamic Revolution and the fall of the Shah took place. Before the revolution, Irani girls like Satrapi didn't have to wear scarves over their hair and faces, and although the country wasn't perfect, the citizens had many freedoms they no longer have. Due to the revolution, however, many things in Satrapi's life change; her bilingual school is closed

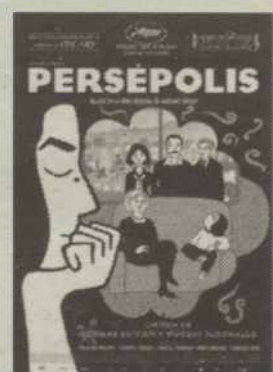
down, schools are separated by gender, and she is forced to wear a veil at all times. Satrapi's story depicts her own struggle with political conflict, revolutionary parents, and her identity crisis in an oppressive society during the Iran/Iraq war.

Satrapi decided to write the novel due to her extraordinary story and her desire to share with the world the problem of the international stereotype of Iranian women. Her decision to use a graphic novel to portray the story wasn't symbolic in any way, but was probably the best way to convey her memoir without losing the audience's interest.

"Image is an international language... it is more accessible," Satrapi said. "People don't take it so seriously. And when you want to use a little bit of humor, it's much easier to use pictures."

"Persepolis," the film, was directed by Satrapi as well as Vincent Paronnaud, and was released in France last June. The movie follows the book

and its sequel in the same animation style the novel



portrayed, and won the Jury Prize at the 2007 Cannes film festival. Recently, "Persepolis" arrived in

American theaters and has raked in positive reviews from critics and abstract-movie-lovers alike.

Although the movie didn't follow the novel frame-by-frame, it bridged the gap between the first book, and its sequel, "Persepolis 2," without confusion. It was very artistic, and

the animation made the movie interesting to watch. However, it was sometimes hard to follow due to the French dialogue with English subtitles, and unless you read the book previously, the movie didn't do a great job at explaining her situation. "Persepolis" is currently playing at select theaters.

New theater provides cheaper alternative

MAX HAYES

Staff Reporter

Sick of spending a small fortune every time you go to the movies at Bridgeport? If so, the new Century movie theater, located in the Food Court at Clackamas Town Center Mall, on SE 82nd Avenue in Portland, is a closer, cheaper alternative.

The theater is equipped with 20 fully digital screens, 3-D capabilities and very comfortable stadium seating. With so many screens, the theater can have many movies playing at different times of the day, so there is always something to watch

after a long day of shopping at the mall.

Tickets for movies at the new theater are available for \$7 for a matinee, compared to \$8.50 at Bridgeport, and can be purchased online or at a machine outside the theater. Simply select a movie and swipe your credit or debit card to buy your ticket.

Once inside the movie theater, after a slightly inconvenient walk through the food court where the only entrance is appropriately placed, the feeling is warm and inviting with paintings on the walls and an openly spaced room.

A wide variety of food and drink is offered including coffee, ice cream and a large selection of candy, along with popcorn and soda. Food and drink is slightly on the expensive side:

a large popcorn is \$5.75, a large drink is \$4.25 and candy is sold in bulk, so the prices vary. Despite high prices that often come with a high quality movie theater, the food and service was excellent and well worth the cost.

After watching "Vantage Point," I left satisfied with the sound quality, picture

quality, and comfortable seating, to go along with the great movie and food. Overall, I was very happy with the movie experience, and I didn't have to spend a ton of money. So next time you want to go to see a movie and want to save a little money, check out the new Century theater at Clackamas Town Center.

Trashy TV shows need to clean up

MTV sets bad example

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Every year herds of college students migrate to a tourist beach for a week of drinking, dancing, wearing next to nothing and probably regretting it all the next morning. I understand it's what some people do on Spring Break, but should it really consume an entire

channel for a whole week? We all know MTV is mainly for teenagers, a population which already faces pressures each day to make

wrong decisions. So why is the channel that claims to be about the music, such a bad influence on today's youth? Well the money of course! But the head honchos at MTV should know that watching other people party isn't the only thing that entertains us.

Trashy shows such as "Date My Mom" and "Pimp My Ride" are cheap entertainment, but probably have more influence on us than we think. According to the Parents Television Council, "MTV is watched by 73% of boys and 78% of girls ages 12 to 19, and it is profoundly influential in the lives of its young fans by glamorizing drug and alcohol use, sexual promiscuity and violent behavior. MTV airs (on average) nine sexual scenes per hour and more than eight un-bleeped profanities per hour."

I will admit MTV is starting to air shows that actually matter such as "Choose or Loose," a show to inform and encourage young voters, or "True Life," a series of documentaries that inform viewers of different people and circumstances such as obsessive-compulsive disorder, immigration, eating disorders and poverty. But

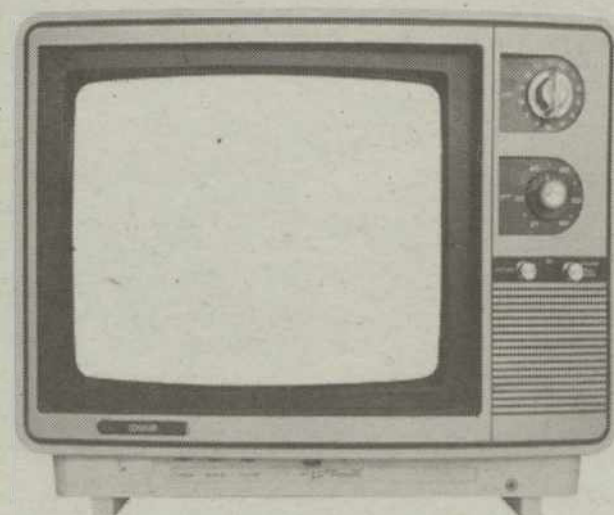
even so, MTV's Spring Break Special continues to disgust me year after year. Not only that, but it's boring.

Why would I

want to watch people party for a week? I'm actually worried for someone who enjoys sitting on a couch watching people drink. What happened to the days when we went out and rode our bikes during Spring Break? MTV viewers are our future and I just think the station officials should take this into consideration instead of attempting to turn our brains to mush.

I know I don't have to watch MTV if I don't like it, but it astonishes me how low the standards are—all in order to make money. Shows directed towards teens should be helpful and entertaining, not boring and harmful.

This Spring Break, go out and participate in something fun instead of sitting back and viewing the ridiculous trash MTV chooses to show.



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