

# Rick Piller returns with rave reviews

The summer has come to an end once again and so has the summer movie season, the biggest in movieland history. Hollywood raked in record amounts at well over a billion dollars, with the help from movies like *Batman* and *The Abyss*.

### Piller's Picks by Rick Piller

You may be asking yourself what did I think about those and other summer movies. I will start with *Batman*, or should I say "The Great Wonderful Supra-stylistic Jack Nicholson in an Ultra-confused Movie?" The look of the movie was great. The shadows and buildings reminded me of other man vs. machine movies like *Blade Runner* and *Metropolis*. The musical score was well above any other for the year so far and should win an Oscar. The script and storyline, now I have a problem with

these two aspects of the movie. This was confused and didn't stick to the original storyline. What happened to Robin? He didn't appear because of supposed homosexual undertones. Micheal Keaton's role as Batman was diminished so that they could get their monies worth out of Jack Nicholson. Jack Nicholson acted like Jack Nicholson and not the Joker. I only hope that he doesn't wear the Joker make-up in the upcoming sequel to *China Town*.

James Bond is back, with a vengeance. Though *Licensed to Kill* wasn't of award winning calibre, it did bring excitement back to the tired old genre of super-spy films.

*Casualties of War*, the newest film about the Vietnam conflict was a well made movie, that made the viewer both think and feel about and for the characters. Directed by Brian DePalma, the film was very stylistic and exciting to watch.

*The Abyss*: wonderful,

fantastic, extraordinary, phenomenal, exceptional, outstanding, striking, commanding, stunning, it was all these and much more. It is a rare treat to see a film like this, but it's even more remarkable to have several movies of this calibre to come from the same director. James Cameron has pleased and astounded audiences world wide with films such as *The Terminator* and *Aliens*.

**"What happened to Robin? He didn't appear because of supposed homosexual undertones."**

That was my review of a few summer movies, last week I went to see *Black Rain* the new Micheal Douglas film. I only wish one thing, that I have ten million dollars in my bank account. Then I would be able to make a real Japanese gangster movie, without the

cliches and Micheal Douglas in it. Don't get me wrong, I like Micheal Douglas, but in this film I thought that every word he said was gratuitous. He played the ultimate American cop cliché. He rode a Harley Davidson without a helmet, he was divorced yet he still played the perfect father. He was a "renegade cop" in trouble with "the suits", and he was on the

take, yet in the end he did the right thing. Maybe I might have been able to like the movie a little bit more if they had left out the echo punch sound effects, in the final fight scene. The film was good on this account though, it allowed the viewer to get a small experience of Japan, which these days might be beneficial.



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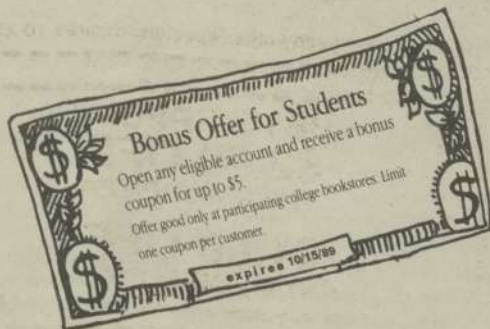
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