Is *Titanic* too big to float?

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In April 1912, the massive luxury liner Titanic set sail across the Atlantic. It was by far the largest ship of its time. Its makers advertised the ship as "unsinkable" with its gilded halls, ornate dining room and extravagant ballroom. Many said that sailing it was risky.

Those words echo again today.

"Nobody was ready for a movie this big," said Bill Mechanic, CEO and chairman of Fox Filming Entertainment. "It was on a massive scale. No one had ever tried anything like it."

On April 15, 1912 the Titanic sank into the cold depths of the North Atlantic.

On Dec. 19, 1997 the movie *Titanic* will sail into theaters. Director James Cameron is hoping for different fortune. Cameron, known for big-budget films like *Terminator 2* and *True Lies*, is making Hollywood history with a film exceeding $200 million. The biggest of all time.

To compare it to a present movie, *Starship Troopers* cost $70 million. This is like comparing the SS Minnow to the Titanic. This time it's the Titanic though that is taking the three-hour tour. A lengthy movie that has already taken expensive cuts according to Cameron.

According to calculations from producers, the movie will have to make about $400 million in the world market just to break even.

The sinking of the Titanic was the biggest maritime disaster in the history of time. The movie *Titanic* could be Hollywood's biggest disaster. Past movies have shown that big money does not always mean big audiences. How about *Waterworld* and *Speed 2*. Are the waters safe?

Paramount has joined with Fox in creating this massive production that began risky. Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet lead the show as a young romantic couple set for doom. Supporting cast includes Bill Paxton, Gloria Stuart, and Kathy Bates as Molly Brown.

Why such a high budget? Cameron basically had the entire ship remade. A studio in Mexico completed a 17 million-gallon water tank to house it. High-tech filming was done in Nova Scotia's deep waters for actual footage of the original wreck.

When the film was less than halfway completed it already cost nearly $50 million. Mechanic tried cutting scenes to save money.

"If you want to cut my film, you'll have to fire me," said Cameron. "And to fire me you'll have to kill me."

According to *Titanic's* crew Cameron became obsessed and passionate about the film. Ahab and Moby Dick?

"If anything was the slightest bit wrong he would lose it," said Winslet.

The movie trailers are good, but are too long. (surprise, surprise.) Only time will tell if she will sink or swim at the box office. Or will history just repeat itself?

The Titanic sinks...but will the movie suffer the same fate?

UPCOMING A&E EVENTS AT CLACKAMAS

The College's Instrumental Jazz Night will be held Wednesday, Nov. 19 in the cafeteria. The annual event will start at 7:30 p.m. Admission for adults is $3, and $2 for students and seniors.

A Flea in Her Ear will be playing in the McLoughlin Hall on Nov. 20, 21, 22, Dec. 5 and 6 at 8 p.m. There will also be a special matinee at 2:30 p.m. on Dec. 7. Prices are $6 for adults, $3 for students, and seniors over 62 are free with reservations. For more information or reservations, contact Alice Nelson in M112 or call extension 2356. Four to six ushers are also needed for each show.