

Three new rentals inspire laughter, tears or disgust

Video: *The Truman Show*, *Out of Sight* and *Disturbing Behavior*

ANGIE DASCHEL
Associate Editor

Imagine that every single minute of your life is taped and broadcast on television 24 hours a day, without your knowledge or permission. This is what happened to Truman Burbank (Jim Carrey) in *The Truman Show*, an incredibly original movie with a fresh plot.

Everything in Truman's life is fake, including his surroundings (the town is a gigantic television studio) and his relationship with his wife (Laura Linney, "Primal Fear"). Truman is unaware of anything artificial because he has lived in the environment of the TV studio since he was a baby.

Ed Harris ("Stepmom") plays Chrisof, the God-like director of "The Truman Show." Funny and touching, *The Truman Show* is a movie that is not to be missed.

On the other hand, *Disturbing Behavior* is a waste of film, time and money. This lame excuse for a movie stars Katie Holmes ("Dawson's Creek") and a few other actors too pathetic to identify.

Holmes lives in Cradle Bay, an isolated little town which can only be reached by ferry (ooh, scary). In the town's high school there is a select group of kids called Blue Ribbons. They only associate with each other, excel in sports and academics, and pretend to help their community. Sometimes these kids are prone

to extreme acts of violence, like shooting cops and breaking a girlfriend's neck.

It turns out that these kids have been implanted with some mind control device to make them overachievers, but sometimes they go a little nuts. If you want to torture yourself with this movie, go ahead. But be warned, it sucks.

If you want to see a movie that does the complete opposite of sucking, rent *Out of Sight*. George Clooney plays Jack Foley, a suave bank robber who ends up in prison. Jennifer Lopez plays Karen Cisco, a U.S. Marshal who happens to be in the right place at the wrong time when Clooney breaks out of jail.

Clooney and Ving Rhames ("Pulp Fiction") use Lopez's car to escape from the prison. Clooney and Lopez have to snuggle in the trunk to avoid being caught and an instant attraction develops between them.

After Lopez gets away, Clooney and his partners plan a diamond theft from a man they were in prison with (Albert Brooks, "Mother"). Lopez spends the entire movie trying to find Clooney, not to turn him in, but to see what could happen romantically between the two of them.

Everything in this movie is slick: the acting, the writing, the music, even the way it was filmed is awesome. *Out of Sight* is one of the best movies of 1998 and is worth seeing again and again.



Travolta tries his hand at law in *A Civil Action*

JANOS J. PLESKO
Staff Writer

A Civil Action, starring John Travolta and Robert DuVall, is a surprising movie, not because justice prevails at the end, but because an honest, dedicated attorney (Travolta) fights the case until he and his legal team financially lose everything.

This attorney is a very commendable character; he relentlessly pursues justice no matter the cost.

This gripping movie, based on a true story, frightfully uncovers the mysterious illnesses of the people of a small town. A nearby leather processing factory owned by Beatrice Inc. discharges toxic wastes into the environment of this town. The deadly results are obvious: miscarriages, and dead children.

A dead child's mother, played by Kathleen Quinlan ("Apollo 13"), asks Travolta to initiate a class action suit against the owner of the factory. "I am not asking you to do this for money," she says, "but for the principle of justice, and for the protection of the town's children."

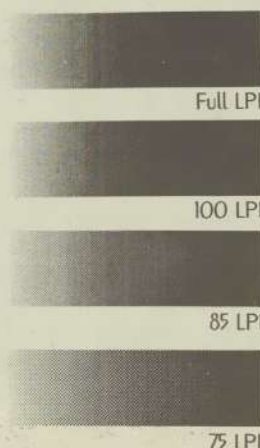
John Travolta replies, "A dead

child is worth the least amount of money. It would require a lot of money to prove the crime, and our firm doesn't have that kind of money. Besides that, at the end we don't get paid."

The popular belief nowadays is that it is hard to find an honest and conscientious lawyer. Maybe so, but because of Travolta's conscience, he accepts the case.

The suspense and excitement grow as he and his team determine how to locate the toxic wastes, which were disposed of many, many years ago. And the struggle for justice goes on.

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