

# Audiences everywhere ask: what is *The Matrix*?

SHELBI WESCOTT  
Associate Copy Editor

Critics are praising it. Audiences are flocking to it. People are asking, "Have you seen it yet?" And somehow you know which movie they are referring to. By now you've probably heard about *The Matrix*.

*The Matrix* was an immediate hit and will, no doubt, be a cult classic. All types of moviegoers are reveling in its awesomeness and depth. However, the lure is not in the special effects, the intense and well-written screenplay or even the outstanding performances, but rather a balanced formula of all those quali-

ties. Although it's not a flawless movie, the genius of the film outweighs the mistakes and weaknesses.

But, what exactly is the Matrix? Well, unfortunately this is something you will have to learn and see for yourself. I will tell you this: The movie is a battle of Good vs. Evil or Us vs. Them. It adds a whole new meaning to the phrase: *Big Brother is watching you*. It toys with your perceptions of reality. It makes you think about your own life and all that you are capable of. And, that's only the beginning.

The movie has been described as a cyperpunk/martial arts thriller, but don't let those de-



## THE MATRIX

scriptions fool you. I am not a fan of Kung Fu (despite my own brother being a black belt) and yet I still found the scenes en-

grossing (even the second time around). Also, *The Matrix* is crammed with Biblical and literary allusions, an engaging story line, intellectual mind-games and all the needed elements to move this film beyond the "thriller" genre.

The most important aspect of this film is that it doesn't spoon feed its audience members. Sorry, but you're gonna have to think a little. The plot isn't too complicated to understand in one sitting, but it took me two sittings to pick up on the subtleties of the script. Also, the movie is much more enjoyable when all your energy isn't devoted to following

the advances in the story.

Keanu Reeves (*Speed*, *Bill and Ted*) isn't "amazing" as Neo, the hero fated to save humanity. However, the movie is so incredible that his performance is unimportant. He is convincing and that is all that matters. Laurence Fishburne (*What's Love Got To Do With It*) plays Morpheus, the leader of a rebellion of Freedom Fighters. And Carrie-Anne Moss makes her feature film debut as Trinity, an attractive, karate fighting member of the rebellion.

If you haven't seen *The Matrix*, put it on your "movie list" and make time in your busy schedule. You have no idea what you're missing.

## Barrel full of 3 Monkeys

For all you fashion savvy students or those who simply love to shop, I advise that you read the following article carefully and religiously. Being a *chic* freak myself, I love to spend hours browsing eccentric shops outside of the ordinary Nordstrom and Abercrombie & Fitch stores (although they are some of my favorites). Thus, I have taken it upon myself to enlighten everyone else out there who loves to spend money as much as I do as to where some of the hottest shopping spots are around town.

With a name like *3 Monkeys*, you can't help but to wonder just what exactly a shop is trying to promote. Located on NW 23rd, adjacent to the ever-popular Music Millennium, this store remains hidden unless you happen to be looking for it—which I was.

It was a cold Saturday evening, and as I made my way down 23rd street, I was determined not to overlook the store that I just happened to miss every other time I made the trip downtown. It's easy to miss, but it definitely should not be.

My first thought as I walked inside was, *Oh my God!* I was overwhelmed with all the stuff that was covering shelves and hanging off the walls. *3 Monkeys* is every accessory freak's dream. This is the haven of all accessory stores, but unlike every other accessory store, this one actually carries *cool* stuff. There was a range of miniature to large disco balls—like the ones you actually see in John Travolta movies—next to diamond butterfly hair clips and Spice Girl Lollipops (OK, so maybe those aren't so cool).

Walking further into the store, you encounter a multitude of memorabilia and odds and ends that have some of the greatest late starlets embossed

on them. I mean, who can resist a Betty Page lighter? On a shelf just a few feet away is a shrine for the 21-and-over—everything you could ever need to make alcoholic beverages (except for the alcohol) is readily available. *3 Monkeys* has the coolest martini glasses ever, but since I have a few more years to go, I decided to hold off on that purchase.

At the very back of the store are some raunchy but very funny cards and collectibles—the sort of thing you'd send to your best friend, but not your great aunt.

There's also a display of candles that are scented like Betty Crocker's favorite concoctions, like angel food cake and butterscotch. I was that close to buying one, but being a little short on dough, I resisted.

My biggest mistake when visiting *3 Monkeys* was that I didn't bring enough money. I had no idea that such a little store could hold so much

## Fashion Goddess

MANDI LINSTROM  
Associate Editor



interesting stuff. The cool thing about this store is that everything in it is so random, yet when you look around, you seem to find a way to justify buying cologne scented like a graham cracker.

Anyone who is looking for a way to kill some time downtown should visit this store! If you are looking for that perfect gift that will be unlike anyone else's, then *3 Monkeys* should be your first—and last—stop. But just a warning—don't believe the mirror that tells you you have something in your teeth when you first walk in the door...

## 10 things I hate about 10 things I Hate About You

| 10 REASONS TO SEE...*                                                      | 10 THINGS I HATE ABOUT YOU                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 "DEVILISHLY ENTERTAINING!"<br>Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE               | 6 "HILARIOUS & WITTY!"<br>Paul Clinton, COMEDYWIRE                    |
| 2 "ENGAGING & INTELLIGENT!"<br>Jeffrey Lyons, RKO-TV                       | 7 "SHEER FUN!"<br>Lots of sly humor!<br>Susan Granger, FOX SYNDICATE  |
| 3 "SPARKLING & FUNNY!"<br>Katie Thomas, LOS ANGELES TIMES                  | 8 "HIP, HONEST & CHARMING."<br>James Langford, THE MOVIE MONITOR      |
| 4 "I LOVED IT."<br>The script was too funny!"<br>JEANNE WOLF'S HOLLYWOOD   | 9 "CLEVER, HONEST & HEARTFELT!"<br>Cameron Thomas, DANKIN & HOLLYWOOD |
| 5 "UPROARIOUS!"<br>Best comedy since 'Clueless'!"<br>Jim DeRita, CBS RADIO | 10 "BRIGHT AND REFRESHING!"<br>Jay Carr, THE BOSTON GLOBE             |

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Julia Stiles and Heath Ledger star in 10 Things I Hate About You. Also appearing in the film are Joseph-Gordon Levitt (3rd Rock From the Sun) and Andrew Keegan (Fox's Party Of Five).

JOHN THORBURN  
Sports Editor

*10 Things I Hate About You*: a remake of *Taming Of the Shrew*.

1. The acting contains no more substance than an after-school special.
2. In the fresh new direction of films in the '90's, this film takes a step 10 years back into the '80's with its "boy gets girl" attitude.
3. No actor (with the exception of Julia Stiles as the "shrew") fits the role they're playing. Cast Doogie

Howser as the "hero" and the movie loses no glamour.

4. While the film is a light remake of the *Taming of the Shrew*, it lacks complete humor and all believability.
5. That annoying kid from Third Rock from the Sun.
6. This movie falls into the usual filming pitfalls—shooting everyday scenes more than 30 miles apart. (Ex: The actors are filmed going to class at Tacoma's Stadium High School, but then are shot hanging out after school in some of

Seattle's hot spots 37 miles away).

7. Why is it that the "bad boy" always ends up being not so naughty and the "bad girl" is swayed by his new charming ways?
8. That annoying kid from Third Rock from the Sun.
9. This film lacks all appeal and depth. The only way to sit through this film is under the influence of some sort of drug or alcohol.
10. Just read the nine previous reasons. Trust me. It sucked.

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