

# Oh No! Looks like the Grinch is back

DANA PALMER

Staff Writer

Inside a snowflake, the small town of Whoville and the zany wisdom of Dr. Seuss underwent a year 2000 interpretation.

Theodore Geissel, widely recognized as the lovable Dr. Seuss, never sanctioned his stories' conversion to film. *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas* went into production with the approval of Geissel's wife, Audrey. It seems in this case that the doctor did know best.

Jim Carrey, under the direction of Producer Ron Howard, undertook the momentous chore of transferring a childhood icon to the big screen. Unfortunately, *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, while certainly witty and undertaken wholeheartedly in typical Carrey fashion, falls short. Audience members who know the story leave feeling cheated. Like the Grinch's heart in the story's

beginning, the movie does not grow to its full potential. Classic Seuss is transported into Seuss 2000 in way that dilutes and hinders the beauty of the simple, original tale.

Seuss' charm was his ability to instill messages in a simplistic yet entertaining rendering of society and its strengths and shortcomings. The cinematic version tilts the perspective of the story and the beloved, simplistic and gentle Whos are portrayed as less humane than the evil Grinch, who later learns the meaning of Christmas. Sadly, the materialistic movie Whos appeared to be physically altered replicas of

*Audience members who know the story will leave feeling cheated.*

greedy humans embracing materialistic goods over the values of family and tradition. The only Who that Carrey's Grinch can model himself after throughout the movie seems to be Little Cindy Lou Who, who has doubts of her own.

The movie is a social satire playing on stereotypical gender roles. Comedically Carrey is right on here as he manages to poke fun at everyone,



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL STUDIOS  
Grossing \$73.5 million, "*Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas*" stole the Thanksgiving holiday weekend audiences from other movies.

including Director Ron Howard. Unfortunately what would have made for an occasional adult laugh in a movie playing to Seuss' child audience becomes the story, leaving the original story hanging askew in the back of the audience's mind. Dr. Seuss' stories always remained true

to his audience of children. He gave them stories that encouraged their intelligence and challenged them. Seuss was able to entertain and embrace his audience without downplaying their understanding.

*'Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas* is a witty movie

that showcases Carrey's physical comedy. The audience will laugh, but the message of the original is lost. Acceptance, and the value of family, becomes a backdrop for a year 2000 look at humanity's faults and idiosyncrasies.

## Napster no longer naps, merges with media

MICHAEL CHOE

Staff Writer

The controversial Internet site Napster recently made huge strides towards respectability, signing a contract with media mogul Bertelsmann AG.

The new collaboration will be headed up by Bertelsmann AG's new e-commerce group BeCG. This news was just the break that Napster so desperately needed.

Lawsuits pending by five major recording companies, (including Bertelsmann's BMG) had reached verdict and in June a federal judge ordered that Napster be shut down.

However, to the delight of the public and dismay of the record labels, on the eve of the shut-down, an appeals court ruled that while the case was being appealed, Napster could continue to operate.

Meanwhile... Napster has continued to grow. Currently, Napster boasts a clientele of an estimated 38 million and growing.

The site enables users to share music files, both legal and

illegal, which has angered artists and their recording companies.

Until now, Napster has been completely free of charge, the key ingredient in Napster's success thus far. The choice of buying a CD for \$11-\$18, as opposed to burning one for the cost of a blank CD, did not seem much of a choice at all to Napster fans.

Now, Napster faces more questions than ever. How does a company start charging someone for a service they had initially been giving away? How much is the subscription rate going to cost? Did they sell out?

In addition to these questions, the fact remains that even after the subscription system is in place, and BMG withdraws its lawsuit, the other big labels, Sony, Warner, EMI, and Universal still have pending cases against Napster.

Through all of the drama, Shawn Fanning, founder of the infamous software-swapping giant, has managed to stay positive. He insists that Napster is destined for bigger and greater things.

"If you think Napster's great now, just wait," said Fanning. "We're just getting started."

## Oh Dad, Poor Dad, Mamma's Hung You in the Closet and I'm Feeling So Sad

This "off-beat farce" is about what happens when a widow, her son and deceased dad, complete with coffin, visit a tropical island

for their vacation. The play won the Vernon Rice award for Off-Broadway Theatre in 1962 and will be presented in early March.

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