

Lechery abounds in Universal's 'Cat in the Hat'

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A&E EDITOR

While visually stunning, an excess of innuendos and lack of moral fiber makes "The Cat in the Hat" unsuitable for its target audience ... children.

The Universal Studios film opened last week nationwide. It features a mischief-making rascal of a cat (played by Mike Myers) who leads two children on a crash course in fun. This brother-sister combo unleashes sweet mayhem around the house while their single working mother hurries to the office at the summons of her demanding boss.

Throughout the film, the quarrelsome siblings are forced to work as a team, with the help of their feline friend, to thwart the efforts of the neighbor who is desperately trying to make whoopee with their mother.

Stunning sets with vivid color schemes and a virtually endless supply of Purple Goo help bring the world of Dr. Seuss to life. The visual effects, however, are quite frankly the only redeeming factor this film has to offer.

While the original "Cat in the Hat" personality was an obnoxious, troublemaking nuisance, he was only vulgar on rare occasion and never lecherous. Myer's portrayal of the classic character, however, is every bit as lewd as his other characters (think Austin Powers, International Man of Mystery).

The scene that really left me thinking, "Can they do that?" involved a piece of gardening equipment and a totally inappropriate sexual reference. Admittedly, I found it a little funny, but the six-year-olds in the audience thought it was absolutely hilarious.

The film would have been a laugh riot if only it wasn't marketed towards children. Mike Myers may be funny to a teenager, but to children under the age of 13, Mike Myers is a god.

I do not believe that children should be subjected to this kind of moral degradation at such an early age. Let them become Universal's pawns after reaching puberty but not before hand.

I give "The Cat in the Hat" a whopping 2 out of ten on the This-is-a-genuine-children's-film-o-meter.



INTERNET PHOTO

Mike Myers' portrayal of 'The Cat in the Hat' is more suitable for a mature audience, despite Universal's extensive marketing towards pre-adolescents.

Recipe and photo courtesy of the November issue of 'Taste of Home' magazine.



Pumpkin Ice Cream Torte with Ginger Crust

Prep and cook time: About 1 hour, plus 5 hours to freeze.

Ingredients:

- 8 oz crisp gingersnap cookies
- 2 T butter or margarine, melted
- 1 15 oz can pumpkin, chilled

Directions:

1. Place one-third of the cookies in a zip-lock plastic bag, seal and roll with a rolling pin until cookies are finely crushed. Pour into 9-inch cheesecake pan with removable rim (at least 2 inches tall). Repeat to crush remaining cookies and pour into pan. Add sugar and butter, mix. Press cookie mixture over bottom and about 1 inch up sides of pan.

- 2 t pumpkin pie spice
- 1 1/4 C caramel ice cream topping
- 1 qt vanilla ice cream, softened
- 1 C hot fudge sauce or chocolate ice cream topping
- Candied Walnuts

2. Bake crust in at 325°F until lightly browned, 10-12 minutes. Let cool 5 minutes, then chill or freeze until cold, 5-10 minutes.
3. In a large chilled bowl, mix pumpkin, pumpkin pie spice, and 1/4 cup of the caramel topping until smooth. Add ice cream and mix until blended.
4. Working quickly, spoon about a third of the ice cream mixture into

Notes: For the smoothest texture, use a rich, full-fat ice cream. To soften slightly, heat in microwave in the carton at half power for 15-30 seconds.

Makes 12 servings.

the cold crust. Drizzle with 2 tablespoons each of caramel topping and fudge sauce (if fudge sauce is too stiff, warm slightly in microwave oven at full power, stirring once, just until fluid, 15-30 seconds); sprinkle half the Candied Walnuts on top. Repeat with two more layers, omitting nuts on the top layer. Freeze until solid, about 5 hours, then cover and freeze up to 1 week.

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