

'Hitch' goes off without one

Amanda Polopolus
The Clackamas Print

From watching the previews for the movie "Hitch," I was expecting it to be an over-hyped comedy that's funniest parts were only shown in the commercials, but I was proved wrong when I actually saw the film. "Hitch" was pleasantly surprising with unexpected quirks that made it a very enjoyable film to watch.

We meet Alfred Hitchens (Will Smith) in the lively city of New York, where he resides as a consultant to men who are of the less-confident and smooth persuasion. Hitch is more commonly known as the "date doctor." He helps men of all kinds to win the heart of the girl of their dreams by the third date.

His love interest, Sara (Eva Mendes) is a successful gossip columnist for a tabloid in the city. They meet at the same time Hitch is helping his overweight and clumsy client (Kevin James) win the heart of a hot, young,



SMITH

million-dollar heiress that he works for. Mendes and Smith meet at a club and their strong, confident and somewhat cocky egos attract as well as butt heads.

This movie was originally titled "Last First Kiss," one of Hitch's lines in the movie. The title was changed to "Hitch," perhaps because the producers wanted people to view it as more of a comedy than a romantic movie. Although it is a love story, the comedy is what stole my heart. The part of Sara was rumored to have been played by Jennifer Lopez, but I think Eva was more deserving of the part; she was graceful yet cunning, and I think she gives us a fresh face to look at; this movie gave her a time to shine.

All in all, this movie is fresh, different, and hysterical. Very rarely do movies make me laugh deep down, but "Hitch" accomplished just that. This is definitely a great date movie. I'd advise everyone to go see this hilarious movie about how love strikes in unexpected ways.



Smith, the "Date Doctor," gives his clueless client (James) a few much-needed dating tips in hopes he'll catch his million-dollar heiress.

Love for 'Pirates!' is arrr-dent



Internet Photo

Romancing governors' daughters is fun, until their fiancés find out and challenge you to a duel, that is.

Isalah Croel
Über Nerd

Batten down your hatches, hoist your main sail and swab your poop; "Sid Meier's Pirates!" is sure to bring out the scurvy dog in ye.

Ever since Captain Shawn Fanning set sail across the internet under the infamous colors of cat in head phone, piracy in its many forms (drinking rum and stealing in particular) has become quite popular with the bilge rats.

Granted Johnny Depp was blazing hot in "Pirates of the Caribbean" and that skull and crossbones thingy is really rather menacing to have on your spiky leather jacket, but I for one was totally above the whole, "ooh, look, I'm a pirate" thing ... until Sid Meier redid his 1987 release "Pirates!" that is.

I must be honest, I never played "Pirates!" when it came out (at that time I was more interested in climbing trees and pretending to be a pirate than watching pixels dance across my vision) but having played "Pirates!" redone, I wish I had the same disdain for physical activity and imaginary exercise then that

I do now.

"Pirates!" offers a number of avenues of game play, each of which has its own form of mini-game. Role-players will enjoy drifting about from port to port romancing governors' daughters, action nuts will enjoy battle on the high seas and strategy junkies will revel in ransacking various ports of call.

Each of the mini-games centers on the kidnapping of the main character's relatives and his quest for revenge. I named the



Internet Photo

main character Bilgey McRats but you can feel free to name him something like Blue Beard if you are an unimaginative prick.

The goal of the game is to find Bilgey's family and avenge them by (gasp!) killing the pirate responsible for their abduction.

Seems straightforward, but when the Spanish send ship after ship laden with riches your way, or when the English stronghold has a shortfall of guards and an excess of doubloons, it is hard to remain focused on the task at hand.

The game starts off easy enough for an eight-year-old to master but rewards you with extra shares of the booty for higher difficulty settings. The open-ended nature of the game combined with the easy interface creates a very high replay value.

The graphics are cartoony but lend themselves quite well to the simple action and number-pad controls. For some reason, after installing the game, I experienced a number of out of the blue error screens and game terminations. Setting the video settings to the lowest levels of detail only increased the sudden terminations but miraculously setting them to the highest fixed the problem completely.

So, if nautical nonsense is something you wish, grab your cutlass, pop open a bottle of Captain Morgan's, throw on that Captain Bogg and Salty CD, put "Pirates of the Caribbean" on mute and throw "Sid Meier's Pirates!" into the old disc drive.

CONCERT GUIDE

FEBRUARY 18

FEBRUARY 19

DJ Pander, Lust O Rama
9 p.m.
Dante's
1 SW 3rd
\$7 (21+)

Tsunami Fundraiser
Flowmotion, Ashbury Park
9 p.m.
The Crystal Ballroom
\$7 at the door (All ages)

Subtle, Dept. of Angels
9 p.m.
Doug Fir Lounge
830 E Burnside
\$8 (21+)

The Locust
8 p.m.
The Meow Meow
320 SE 2nd Ave
\$10 (All ages)

Roundabout, Linus,
Alliance, Last Stand
7 p.m.
Paris Theater
6 SW 3rd
\$8 (All ages)

Ashes to Ashes w/ DJ Rob
Swift
7 p.m.
PSU Stott Center
930 SW Hall St.
\$6 (All ages)

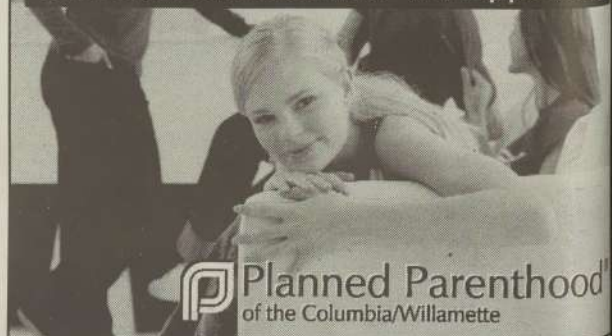
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