

# Good book makes average movie

**John Hurlburt**  
News Editor

There is a strange incoherence that wafts throughout "Angels and Demons" that isn't really understandable until the ending credits start to roll and the words "Directed by Ron Howard" appear on the screen.

The movie throws you into the middle of a world you don't quite understand and expects you to put everything together right off the bat, instead of the gradual ease into the world that the book had supplied.

The first ten minutes of rushed confusion created skepticism in my mind about the rest of the movie. I'm happy to report my initial feelings were not completely founded.

"Angels and Demons" is a great book that turned into an okay movie.

Some of the concepts behind the film are perfect substances for two hours and 20 minutes of entertainment.

There's a mystery that needs to be solved, a murderer who brands Catholic cardinals like cattle, dissension in the church, a cute co-star and Dan Brown's trademark critique of Catholicism.

The movie is all about a faithless American symbolologist, Robert Langdon (Tom Hanks), who gets summoned by the Vatican to help stop a long

lost secret society called the Illuminati from blowing up Vatican City with a newly synthesized substance, antimatter.

If Langdon and a physicist named Vittoria Vetra (Ayelet Zurer), who helped create the anti-matter, don't stop a series of murders involving the top selections for the recent papal election, the preferiti, and disable the antimatter, the whole city will go up in an explosion on par with Hiroshima.

Hank's character, the same as in "Da Vinci Code," is supposed to be a badass intellectual type with an answer for everything kind of like Indian Jones minus the bullwhip tricks, killing spirit, laid back attitude, good jokes, rugged look, over the top stunts and Nazi fighting capabilities. On a second thought he is nothing like

Indiana Jones and instead his character comes off more like a know-it-all who makes the Catholic church look like a squabbling group of mentally stunted high school freshmen.

This time around, however, they cut the mullet-like haircut that plagued Hanks' appearance his first time around as Langdon.

The visuals in the movie are great and not once but twice do viewers get to watch as someone screams while burning alive.

Many of the locations throughout the movie are world-renowned such as the Pantheon and St. Peter's Square as well as a myriad of Catholic churches scattered throughout Rome. This is a fact that becomes more impressive when you consider that most of the scenes in the movie

were filmed in front of a green screen. The Catholic church banned "Angels and Demons" from being filmed in any of Rome's churches.

The movie's acting is believable. Although I didn't particularly like Hanks' portrayal as Langdon, I think this was more how the character is scripted in the film.

My main problem with the movie is that it is predominately a mystery - unless you happen to be a world famous Harvard symbologist - there aren't very many opportunities for the audience to solve anything.

Every advancement in the movie is made by Langdon figuring out the obscure clue that would involve the viewer having to understand ancient practices of the Illuminati as well as the history of nearly every sculpture in Rome.

This adds to the incoherence of the movie where the viewer can't really



connect with the movie. This is a major problem with the movie. The movie is a bad, but if you're not into the Dan Brown crossover, your money would be better spent checking out "Star Trek" and even if you are, you might be infatuated with some of the changes made in the crossover.

## Blockbusters: What's hot this summer? (besides the sun?)

**Mark Sunderland**  
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The sun has risen. The sky is a pale blue, and the sounds of students fleeing school grounds sing through the air. Yes, it is that time of the year again and that time of the year is summer vacation. A time when students leave the classrooms in droves, parents frown as their children forget the information taught in school, and teachers get a brief respite from the classroom.

Summer break also begets the question: "What do we do now?"

The question may be answered in many different ways from camping in the wondrous outdoors to staying at home with the family and friends, kicking back with a beer with the barbecue fired up or heading out the local theater and watching the latest flick.

Movies are one of the most common

forms of entertainment used nowadays and if one is headed to see a summer flick at the local theater, it helps to know what is coming out in the upcoming summer months.

"Up" is coming out next week on May 29, and it's another one of the many animated movies done by Pixar. Pixar is probably one of the leading animated movie makers out there and, more often than not, the animated movies Pixar comes out with rock the box office.

"Up" is about an old man by the name of Carl Fredricksen who ties thousands of balloons to his house and sets off on his lifelong dream to see the wilds of South America. Unfortunately for Carl Fredricksen the trip isn't going to be a leisurely trip by himself as he finds out Russell, 70 years his junior, is an accidental stowaway. The movie looks fun to watch, for those who enjoy a relaxing family movie.

"Drag Me to Hell" is another movie that is coming out on May 29, and it's a complete turn-over from "Up."

"Drag Me to Hell" is a horror movie about a young L.A. loan officer who lives a great life. Of course, that doesn't last long in the movie as an old lady comes into the office to ask for an extension on a house loan, but in an attempt to impress her boss, the young loan officer denies the old lady her request. This is where the movie takes its first twist as the old lady places a powerful curse of Lamia upon her and forces the young loan officer to save her soul from eternal damnation.

The movie boasts, from what one can garner from the previews, a twisting tale of self-soul saving and spine-chilling scenes of shock and awe. Here's to hoping it's more than just some shock-thriller with fancy graphics and neat special effects. Hopefully, it's actually horror with more than just the previews telling the story and special effects trying to make up for a lack of acting or story-writing.

June 5 is when "Land of the Lost" is coming out, a comedy starring Will

Ferrell that gets its name from the Saturday morning live-action TV series. It's a modern take on the TV series and promises a non-stop rampage of laughs and giggles.

This just names a few movies coming out within the upcoming week that should satisfy one's desire for a time at the theater. Here is also a list of movies that are coming within the couple months!

- "The Taking Of Pelham 123" June 19
- "Year One" June 19
- "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen" June 26
- "Ice Age 3: Dawn of the Dinosaurs" July 1
- "Public Enemies" July 1
- "Bruno" July 10
- "2010" July 10
- "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" July 15
- "G-Force" July 24
- "G.I. Joe: Rise of Cobra" Aug 7
- "Inglourious Bastards" Aug 21

### The last two weeks of school...

May 27: Chrysalis: Women Writers noon-2p.m. Rook Hall 220

May 28: Sustainability Project 2009: Sustainable Malmo noon to 1p.m. McLoughlin Theater  
Behind the scenes tour of "You Can't Take It With You." 4:30 p.m. Osterman Theatre

May 30: Utility Workforce Readiness Demonstration Day 8 a.m. Wilsonville Training Center

June 8-12: Finals Week. Yay!

June 11: Graduation Ceremony  
GED and AHSD

June 12: College Certificate and Degree Graduation Ceremony

June 13: Spring term ends