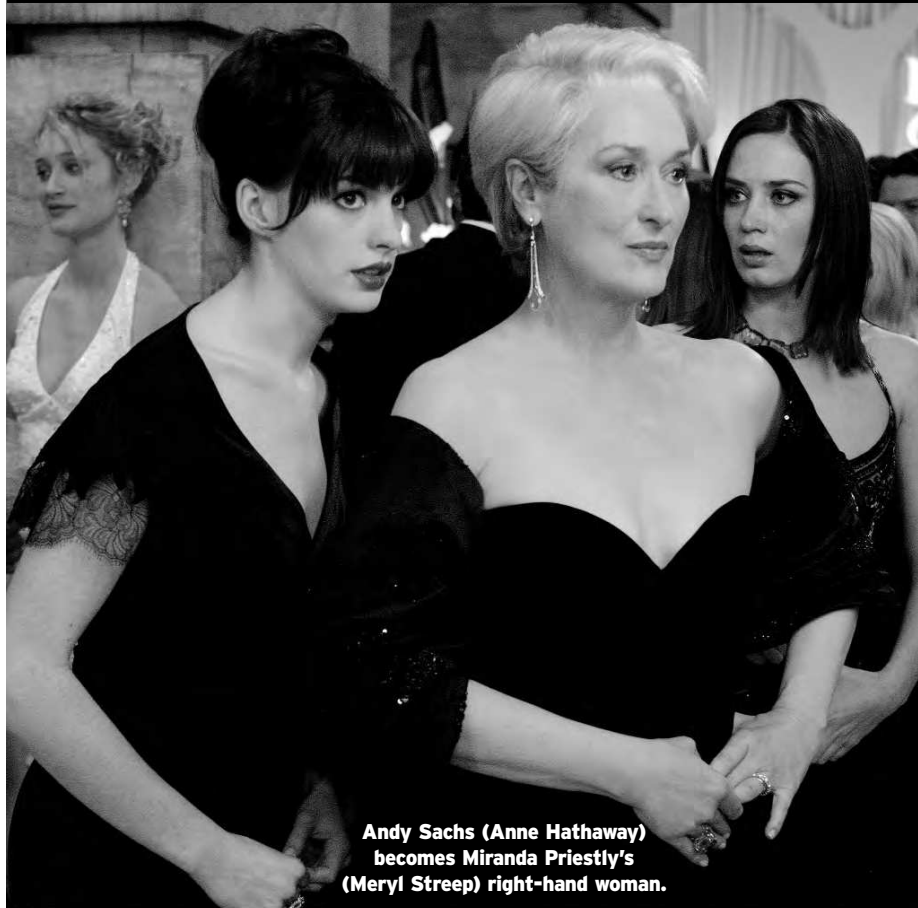




Andy Sachs (Anne Hathaway) becomes Miranda Priestly's (Meryl Streep) right-hand woman.

The Fashionistas

A fluffy romp down the runway

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA: Directed by David Frankel. Screenplay by Aline Brosh McKenna. Based on the novel by Lauren Weisberger. Starring Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway, Stanley Tucci, Simon Baker, Emily Blunt and Adrian Grenier. Fox 2000, 2006. PG-13. 109 minutes.

If ever there was a chance to parade expensive, beautiful clothing across a giant screen, you'd think *The Devil Wears Prada*, a Cinderella-in-Manolos tale based on Lauren Weisberger's bestselling novel, would be it. Our heroine, Andy Sachs (the endearing Anne Hathaway), lands a job at *Runway* magazine as assistant to Editor-in-Chief Miranda Priestly (Meryl Streep), whose opinion is fashion law. So these folks should be wearing some impressive garments, no? Alas. High fashion may not be known for its commitment to elegance and simplicity, but the outfits in which Hathaway and Streep stalk through *Prada* are often so garish you may begin to wonder if the film's take on the fashion industry consists simply of allowing it to point out its own questionable taste. (Though according to "The Duds of *The Devil Wears Prada*" in last week's *New York Times*, fashion folks aren't particularly enamored of the film's style either.)

Miranda Priestly is the boss from hell. She goes through assistants like basketball players go through shoes; she throws her befurred and bespangled coats and bags on their desks, rattles off obscene to-do lists, refuses to answer questions and dismisses them with a brisk, falsely sweet, "That's all" that makes you shudder in sympathy.

Though Andy doesn't look the part, Miranda hires her for the job "a million girls would kill for." Andy, we're told, is fat, frumpy and style-free. Hathaway is none of the above; she's willowy, wide-eyed and possessed of a remarkable array of enviable winter coats. Andy also has a pair of good friends and a sweet boyfriend (starry-eyed Adrian Grenier, from

"Entourage") who worry and disapprove when Andy's job takes over her life. Her fellow assistant Emily (Emily Blunt) is starving herself, eating a cube of cheese whenever she feels she might faint, because size 0 is the new size 2. Size 6 — Andy's size — is the new 14. So says Nigel (a very likable Stanley Tucci), who plays the fairy godmother role, taking Andy to the *Runway* closet and loading her up with the aforementioned gaudy high-fashion duds.

Streep is undeniably fantastic, steely and regal, but as good as she is, you get the feeling she could do this in her sleep. When the movie gives her the obligatory the-ice-queen-is-human-too scene, she's heart-breaking, virtually unable to give her personal problems precedence over work concerns. For a moment, the film allows for the possibility that Miranda's tough persona is simply the only way for her to do her job as well as she must do it. But sympathy for the devil is short-lived. A few scenes later, Andy's learning her tidy little lesson: She doesn't want to make such sacrifices for this kind of job.

Well, duh, sweetie. Lightweight and predictable, *Prada* has a few laughs and more than a few fine performances. But it's got nothing to say, except perhaps to suggest that even the most idealistic would-be journalist would consider selling her soul for a fashionably appointed closet. The movie happily accepts the fashion industry's obsession with super-skinny women (Andy is a proud size 4 by film's end), offers only the slightest insight into Miranda and never satisfyingly addresses the glaringly obvious question of why Andy doesn't just quit after a week. But without her misery and (possibly misplaced) determination, there'd be no movie. *Prada* is fluff, but at least it's well-acted fluff — if you want to escape into a world where only a size 0 is welcome.

EW

OPENING OR RETURNING:

America: Freedom to Fascism: Director Aaron Russo's film explores the erosion of civil liberties in America. The film received a standing ovation at the Cannes Film Festival; CBS Radio said it "Makes *Fahrenheit 9/11* look like *Bambi*." Screens at Cozmic Pizza at 6 pm July 6 (with introduction by Eugene Casternovia), 9 pm July 7, 7 pm July 8 and 8 pm July 9. \$3-\$10 sug. don.

An American Haunting: Sissy Spacek and Donald Sutherland star in the multigenerational story of a family haunted by Tennessee's notorious Bell Witch. Directed by Courtney Solomon, whose previous credits include *Dungeons and Dragons*. R. Movies 12.

Ice Age: Digitally animated story about a three-toed sloth and a woolly mammoth who try to save a human child at the beginning of an ice age. Has moments of humor adults may like, but it's not all that funny. G. Plays only at 10 am July 11 at Movies 12.

Idiot, The: Reading and film series focusing on Fyodor Dostoevsky's *The Idiot* and Vladimir Bortko's adaptation of the text. Third reading and episode July 6, fourth reading and episode July 11 and fifth reading and episode July 13: 7 pm film, 8 pm discussion each night. 142 Law, UO.

Kinky Boots: Charlie Price (Joel Edgerton) inherits his father's failing shoe factory and, with the help of a drag queen named Lola (Chiwetel Ejiofor), takes on a whole new line of footwear. Predictable but sweet, with a standout performance from Ejiofor (*Serenity*). PG-13. Bijou. **See review this issue.**

Pink Floyd: Live at Pompeii: Adrian Maben's 1972 concert film was shot in an old Pompeii amphitheater. G. Bijou LateNite.

Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest: Johnny Depp reprises his role as over-the-top swashbuckler Jack Sparrow in the second *Pirates* film, which we rather fervently hope is as entertaining as the first. Orlando Bloom and Keira Knightley are the in-love eye candy — actually, it's a toss-up as to which of the three leads is prettiest. With Bill Nighy all betentacled as watery bad guy Davy Jones. PG-13. Sneak screenings at 12:01 am, 12:02 am, 12:03 am and 12:04 am July 6 at Cinemark; opens July 7 at Cinemark and Cinema World.

Sound of Eternity, The: Bastian Clevé's film is a visual interpretation of Bach's *Mass in B minor*. Bach Festival screening takes place with live performance conducted by Helmuth Rilling at 4 pm July 9 at the Hult Center. \$15-\$36. A lecture-demonstration about the film is at noon July 8 at the Hult Center.

Films open the Friday following EW publication date unless otherwise noted. See archived reviews at www.eugeneweekly.com

Continuing: **Akeelah and the Bee:** 11-year-old Akeelah (Keke Palmer) has a gift for words. Though her mother (Angela Bassett) isn't behind her, Akeelah (with the help of tutor Laurence Fishburne) enters spelling bees, eventually winning a chance to compete nationally. PG. Movies 12.

Break-Up, The: Jennifer Aniston and Vince Vaughn star in the latest from director Peyton Reed (*Bring It On*) as a Chicago pair who apparently aren't very good at breaking up. PG-13. Cinemark. **Online archives.**

Cars: The animation wizards at Pixar (*Toy Story*, *Finding Nemo*) team up with Disney for the story of a rookie race car (voiced by Owen Wilson) taking an unexpected detour on his way to a big race. Bonnie Hunt and Paul Newman also voice characters. G. Cinemark. Cinema World. **Online archives.**

Click: Christopher Walken gives Adam Sandler a truly universal remote: it lets him put the wife on fast forward, put the boss on pause, help the kid get even ... until the remote goes all TiVo on him and starts making decisions on its own. PG-13. Cinemark. Cinema World.

Da Vinci Code, The: Dan Brown's gazillion-selling book about a centuries-old religious mystery arrives in cinematic form with a glowing pedigree. As if the book isn't popular enough, the adaptation is directed by Ron Howard and stars Tom Hanks. And you probably know this. You're actually on the way to the theater already, aren't you? PG-13. Cinemark. **Online archives.**

Devil Wears Prada, The: Meryl Streep stars as demanding, high-powered fashion magazine editor Miranda Priestley, whose new assistant (Anne Hathaway) is fresh from college and totally clueless about fashion. Based on Lauren Weisberger's bestselling novel. PG-13. Cinema World. Cinemark. **See review this issue.**

Fast and the Furious, The: Tokyo Drift: The series gets a new star in Lucas Black (*Friday Night Lights*), whose character moves to Japan and gets caught up in the underground world of drift racing. PG-13. Cinemark.

Garfield: A Tail of Two Kitties: Bill Murray returns as the voice of the once-some-what-classic Garfield, who follows his owner Jon (Breckin Meyer) to London. Some kind of mad cat switcheroo ensues with a high-falutin' royal feline named Prince. PG. Cinemark.

Ice Age 2: The Meltdown: Manny (Ray Romano), Sid (John Leguizamo) and Diego (Denis Leary) are back for another adventure. The animals are excited that the ice is melting — it's a paradise of water parks! But where is all that new water going to go? PG. Movies 12.

Inconvenient Truth, An: Following the 2000 election, Al Gore changed tack, turning his focus to the worldwide crisis that is global warming. Director Davis Guggenheim combines footage of Gore's traveling multimedia presentation on climate crisis with Gore's personal story, creating an effective and engaging film. PG. Bijou. **Online archives.**

Lake House, The: Kate (Sandra Bullock) and Alex (Keanu Reeves) are carrying on a correspondence through the mystical mailbox of a house on an Illinois lake — despite living in worlds that are two years apart. Time-challenged romance sounds kinda corny, but hey, Ebert and Roeper both liked it. PG-13. Cinemark. Cinema World.

Mission Impossible 3: Can Tom Cruise dodge the mountains of press about his personal life — er, many guys with guns and explosives in his way — and save the woman he loves from an impressively creepy Philip Seymour Hoffman? R. Movies 12. **Online archives.**

Nacho Libre: Jack Black stars as Nacho, a cook in a Mexican monastery with a secret second life as a lucha libre wrestler. But the real story is that the goofball flick is directed by *Napoleon Dynamite*'s Jared Hess and written by Hess, his wife Jerusha and Mike White (*School of Rock*). PG. Cinemark. **Online archives.**

Omen, The: The evil child returns for a remake with an ominous release date (a rare Tuesday opening to hit 6/6/06). Julia Stiles and Liev Schreiber play the nice parents who don't know their adopted son Damien is actually the spawn of Satan. With Mia Farrow, the classic mom-of-evil, as the nanny. R. Movies 12.

Over the Hedge: A gang of woodland creatures wakes up from their winter hibernation to find a big green thing has appeared in their world. On the other side, they hear, wacky creatures called "humans" exist. Bruce Willis, William Shatner and Steve Carrell are among those voicing the critters that venture forth for an antic-filled exploration of suburbia. PG. Cinemark.

Prairie Home Companion, A: Director Robert Altman and writer Garrison Keillor present a winning story about the imagined death of Keillor's radio classic, "A Prairie Home Companion" (still going strong in real life). A first-rate ensemble cast, including Keillor, Meryl Streep, Lindsay Lohan, Kevin Kline, Lily Tomlin, Woody Harrelson and Tommy Lee Jones, makes the film sparkle. PG-13. Bijou. **Online archives.**

RV: In Barry Sonnenfeld's latest film, Robin Williams tells his family they're going on vacation to Hawaii — but instead packs his wife and kids into an RV and heads to Colorado. Jeff Daniels heads up a wacky bunch of full-time campers. It's a sure bet there are hijinks involved. PG-13. Movies 12.

Scary Movie 4: Director David Zucker (*Airplane!*) takes on the fourth entry in the seemingly endless series, which sends up *War of the Worlds*, *The Grudge*, *The Village*, *Saw* and more. Stars Anna Faris and Regina Hall with an outlandish array of celebrity cameos, including Shaq, Dr. Phil and Lil' John. PG-13. Movies 12.

Stick It: From the writer of *Bring It On* comes this slightly absurd-sounding film in which a rebellious former gymnastics star, forced to return to the world of gymnastics after trouble with the law, butts heads with a hard-nosed coach (Jeff Bridges). *Bring It On the Floor Mat?* Nah, their title is better. PG-13. Movies 12.

Superman Returns: At long last, the man of steel returns to movie screens — and to Earth. In director Bryan Singer's new film, Superman's been gone five long years, during which his former flame Lois Lane has had a son and found a new fellow. Oh, and Lex Luthor is out of prison. Starring Brandon Routh as the man in tights, Kate Bosworth as Lois and Kevin Spacey as Lex. PG-13. Cinemark. Cinema World. **Online archives.**

X-Men: The Last Stand: The third X-Men movie combines the loved-by-fans "Dark Phoenix" storyline with the discovery of a "cure" for mutancy. Hugh Jackman, Halle Berry, Famke Janssen and the rest of the core cast return (sans Nightcrawler, oddly). Stay through the credits for a vital scene. PG-13. Cinemark. **Online archives.**