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Digital Sound in ALL Auditoriums

Adult **\$7.25** ¥ Fri & Sat **\$7.75**

Child/Senior **\$5.00**

Adult Matinee **\$5.25** (before 6:00pm)

Student with ID **\$5.75**

CLERKS II R

11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:40, 10:10

MY SUPER EX-GIRL-FRIEND PG13

11:25, 1:55, 4:30, 7:30, 10:05

3D MONSTER HOUSE PG

10:05, 12:40, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10, 10:40

MONSTER HOUSE PG

11:20, 1:50, 4:20, 7:10, 9:40

LADY IN THE WATER PG13

10:40, 11:15, 1:25, 2:00, 4:10, 4:45, 7:20, 7:50, 10:05, 10:35

YOU, ME & DUPREE PG13

10:15, 12:55, 4:00, 7:05, 9:55

LITTLE MAN PG13

10:20, 1:10, 4:05, 7:10, 9:55

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST PG13

10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:15, 1:30, 3:00, 3:30, 3:45, 5:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:15, 8:30, 10:00, 10:30, 10:45

DEVIL WEARS PRADA PG13

9:50, 1:05, 3:50, 7:15, 10:00

SUPERMAN RETURNS PG13

11:50, 2:50, 3:25, 7:00, 9:20, 10:35

CLICK PG13

9:55, 12:50, 3:55, 7:05, 9:45

CARS G

10:10, 1:20, 4:15, 7:20, 10:15

LAKE HOUSE PG

12:10, 6:55

*NO PASSES/NO SUPERSAVERS

MOVIES 12 - SPRINGFIELD

Gateway Mall - Beltline @ Gateway 741-1231

SHOWTIMES FOR 7/21-7/27

No children under age 6 will be admitted to any R-rated feature after 6:00 PM

SINBAD PG

TUESDAY 7/25 AT 10 AM ONLY

THANK YOU FOR SMOKING R

12:10, 2:40, 5:00, 7:35, 10:05

THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3: TOKYO DRIFT PG13

11:40, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:55

GARFIELD'S TAIL OF TWO KITTIES PG

12:05, 2:10, 4:35, 6:50, 9:10

POSEIDON PG13

11:35, 2:20, 4:45, 7:20, 9:45

THE BREAK-UP PG13

11:25, 2:00, 4:30, 7:05, 9:40

THE WILD G

11:45, 2:15, 4:25, 7:10, 9:20

X-MEN: THE LAST STAND PG13

11:15, 11:50, 1:55, 2:30, 4:20, 5:10, 6:45, 7:40, 9:30, 10:10

ICE AGE: THE MELT-DOWN PG

12:00, 2:45, 5:15

RV PG

11:20, 11:55, 1:45, 2:35, 4:10, 5:05, 6:55, 7:25, 9:15, 10:00

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 PG13

11:30, 2:25, 7:00, 7:30, 9:50, 10:15

STEREO SURROUND SOUND IN ALL AUDITORIUMS

4-DAY ADVANCE TICKET SALES - NO PASSES - NO SUPERSAVERS

SHOWTIMES AVAILABLE AT CINEMARK.COM

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DIG = DIGITAL SOUND BARGAIN SHOWS IN ()

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Adv. Tix on Sale MIAMI VICE (R) - ID REQ'D ★

LADY IN THE WATER (PG-13) DIG

(1150 225 455) 725 1010

CLERKS II (R) - ID REQ'D DIG

(1210 240 500) 715 955

MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND (PG-13) DIG

(1140 215 450) 725 1000

MONSTER HOUSE (PG) DIG

(1155 230 445) 700 945

YOU, ME AND DUPREE (PG-13) DIG

(1130 220 455) 730 1005

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST (PG-13)

DIG

(1200 250 325) 650 705 1005 1015

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA (PG-13) DIG

(1145 235 505) 730 1005

CARS (G) DIG

(1135)

ALBANY 7

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Call Theatre for Showtimes

9TH ST. CINEMAS 4

Behind Skippers 9th St

541-928-7469

800-FANDANGO 312#

CLERKS II (R) - ID REQ'D DIG

(1200 250 510) 730 1010

YOU, ME AND DUPREE (PG-13) DIG

(1230 300) 720 1000

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA (PG-13) DIG

(1215 315) 710 945

CARS (G) DIG

(110 405) 700 955

Times For 7/21 - 7/23

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Will Shortz
Jon Stewart
Bill Clinton
Ken Burns
Bob Dole

WORDPLAY

5:15, 7:15 & 9:15 Nightly

Sat & Sun Mat 3:15

soon: STRANGERS WITH CANDY

aninconvenienttruth

5:05, 7:20 & 9:35 Nightly

Sat & Sun Mat 3:00

next week: A SCANNER DARKLY

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11:10 pm

fri, sat sun

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fri, sat sun

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WORDPLAY: Directed by Patrick Creadon. Written by Patrick Creadon and Christine O'Malley. Cinematography, Patrick Creadon. Music, Vic Fleming and Peter Golub. Featuring Ken Burns, Bill Clinton, Neal Conan, Bob Dole, Liane Hansen, Mike Mussina, Amy Ray, Emily Saliers and Jon Stewart. IFC Films, 2006. PG. 94 minutes.

Part of the pleasure of the new film *Wordplay* is how it manages to make something as trivial as crossword puzzles seem profoundly important to our lives and our culture. Along the way, *Wordplay* doesn't condescend or proselytize. It doesn't try to convince you that crosswords will save your life, your marriage or your bank account. Instead, *Wordplay* does what all great documentaries do: It connects us to people or things we've overlooked and in the process shows us who we are. In the sense that it examines a fanatical, grammatical subculture, *Wordplay* is not unlike a *Spellbound* (2003) for adults. It's a small masterpiece.

Although billed as a Will Shortz tribute film, *Wordplay* actually is much more than that. Shortz, the "Errol Flynn of crossword puzzling," is the current puzzle editor at *The New York Times* and the creator of the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament. A godlike figure to puzzlers the world over, Shortz is the natural centerpiece here. But *Wordplay* is about the various personalities who have gravitated to, triumphed over and been defeated by the puzzles Will Shortz helped create.

One of the many achievements of *Wordplay* is how it manages to balance so many stories at once. It's so ingeniously constructed that no summary can do it justice. Bookending the film is the 2005 Tournament hosted by Shortz in Stamford, Conn. Predictably, we meet the best players from prior tourneys, setting us up for a finale involving people we know. The puzzlers range from an intensely competitive college student to a deeply introspective studio piano player whose definition of art borders on the sublime. They are misfits all, and you expect that in a film about championship crossword puzzling. But these are the proudest misfits you'll ever meet.

Some of the most effective scenes in the movie don't involve the competitors at all. *Wordplay* moderates the geek factor to great effect by interviewing prominent American

crossword devotees. Among them are the Yankees' Mike Mussina, folk-rock act the Indigo Girls, former President Bill Clinton, former Senator Bob Dole, filmmaker Ken Burns and comedian Jon Stewart. Stewart, whom you know (or should know) from television's "The Daily Show," is in full mock-attack mode here, repeatedly challenging Shortz to a fight over the difficulty of his puzzles. It's a brilliant act. Only Stewart could turn crosswords into a life or death event.

As if this weren't enough to make *Wordplay* exceptionally entertaining, the

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movie documents the creation of a single puzzle from master puzzle constructor Merl Reagle. To Reagle, puzzle creation is as simple as reciting the alphabet. If he didn't look like Bigfoot, he might be a crossover celebrity. Later, in a brilliant example of how tightly fitted together *Wordplay*'s parts are, the celebrities are given Merl's puzzle, which they attempt to solve with uneven results. You've never seen your heroes more real than while they're struggling with the Sunday crossword. It's fantastic.

In the end, *Wordplay* isn't about crossword puzzles at all. It's about how far people will go to solve problems and how competition brings out our best and worst natures. What is intelligence? What does it mean to be human? These are the questions at the heart of this film. Easily one of the strongest movies of the year, *Wordplay* deserves the widest audience possible. It's a subtle and inspiring work. It boasts top-class production and visual effects — yes, it even has cool special effects — but its charms are predominantly human in nature. Never is this more obvious than when Ellen, a self-proclaimed nerd and Tournament champion, answers her boyfriend's teasing with this proud retort: What are *you* best in the country at?" **EW**

Wordplay opens Friday, July 21 at the Bijou.

20 JULY 20, 2006

eugene weekly

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