

Finding the Time

Reeves and Bullock make temporal magic.

THE LAKE HOUSE: Directed by Alejandro Agresti. Written by David Auburn, based on *Il Mare* by Eun-Jeong Kim and Ji-na Yeo. Music, Rachel Portman. Starring Keanu Reeves, Sandra Bullock, Shohreh Aghdashloo, Christopher Plummer, Ebon Moss-Bachrach and Dylan Walsh. Village Roadshow Pictures/Warner Bros., 2006. PG. 105 minutes.

Despite its odd premise, *The Lake House* is a surprisingly enjoyable romantic confection decorated with clever filming and a clear love for the city in which it's set. Alex (Keanu Reeves) and Kate

(Sandra Bullock) are would-be lovers thwarted by the little problem of living two years apart. The setup shouldn't work, nor should the way they communicate, leaving letters in the apparently magical mailbox at the eponymous house, a glass-and-metal snowglobe outside Chicago. But — if you can refrain from poking too forcefully at the plot — it does work, thanks to a strong screenplay by David Auburn (*Proof*), the gentle, creative

hand of director Alejandro Agresti and solid, winning performances from Reeves, Bullock and their lovely supporting cast.

It's a nice change to see Keanu Reeves play an ordinary adult. As an architect with a difficult relationship with his father, Reeves seems comfortable and relaxed, like he's coming into his own as he passes 40. As lonely, work-fixated Chicago doctor Kate, Sandra Bullock mutes her earlier perkiness, offering instead wry smiles and dark eyes. Part of the movie's appeal is that it pauses for the details of everyday life, fleshing out its melancholy pair by showing them making dinner, having a drink with friends, chasing



Sandra Bullock in *The Lake House*.

after a dog or snatching moments at work to take care of personal business. Intimate scenes alternate with surreal moments, like the one in which a tree, planted by Alex in his two-years-ago time, appears instantaneously in front of Kate's building as she runs in from the rain. *The Lake House* never fully explains its year-skipping magic, instead using the mysterious wrinkle in time between Alex and Kate to explore how people connect. Though the end is rather muddled (you may want the magic to make just a *little* more sense than it does), this grown-up romance about the unlikely magic of timing and connection is rich with books, buildings, letters, love and charm. **EW**



Elisha Cuthbert and Camilla Belle in *The Quiet*.

Hush

This blue-light special is no big deal.

THE QUIET: Directed by Jamie Babbit. Written by Abdi Nazemian and Micah Schraft. Starring Elisha Cuthbert, Camilla Belle, Shawn Ashmore, Martin Donovan and Edie Falco. Sony Pictures Classics, 2006. R. 96 minutes.

The second feature film from director Jamie Babbit (*But I'm a Cheerleader*) is a muddle of dark, foggy rooms in which secrets and relationships play out to nasty ends. Nina Deer (Elisha Cuthbert) is a high school cheerleader who acts as if she had a perfect life before her parents (Martin Donovan and Edie Falco) took in their orphaned, deaf and mute goddaughter Dot (Camilla Belle). In their spooky, half-empty house, the Deers are a dreary, unsubtle version of the typical not-as-perfect-as-they-seem cinematic family. Mom pops pills; Dad's detached and rude, to say the least; Nina's troubles run far beyond her bitchy best friend and the burden of an unwanted houseguest.

Full of awkward acting and strangely washed in everpresent blue light, *The Quiet* has little to offer beyond the unusual face of Camilla Belle as Dot. Wide-eyed and silent, Dot finds herself absorbing Nina's darkest secrets and the lustful, private thoughts of schoolmate Connor (Shawn Ashmore, Iceman of the *X-Men* movies, seeming oddly out of place). To no one's surprise, Dot has secrets of her own, which collide with Nina's vicious whispers for a violent ending that strips all sense from the movie. *The Quiet* mistakes rough edges and cruelty for character depth, gloomy scenes and dated score for atmosphere. Its glacial pace and inexplicable shifts in character leave little to like and hardly more to find interesting in yet another story about how families are never perfect, and no one is exactly what they seem. —*Molly Templeton*

The Quiet opens Friday, Sept. 1 at the Bijou.

movie clips

OPENING OR RETURNING:
ArchaeologyFest Film Series: Best of 2006: Selected films from the 2006 Archaeology Film Festival screen as a benefit for The Archaeology Channel. *Viking Voyages* and *The Truth of Troy* show at 7:30 pm Sept. 2 at DIVA. \$6.
Broken Bridges: Country star Toby Keith turns actor, playing a man heading back to his hometown, where inevitable reunions and surprising introductions await. Plays only at 8:30 pm Sept. 7 at Cinemark.
Crank: Oh, Jason Statham. Once so charming (in *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels*), you took a turn for the deeply mediocre with *The Transporter* and now you're playing a guy who's been poisoned and, um, has to keep his adrenaline flowing? Are you serious? R. Cinema World. Cinemark.
Illusionist, The: In the first of the year's two magician movies (the second, the buzzworthy *The Prestige*, comes out in October), Edward Norton plays a Venetian stage magician caught up with an old love (Jessica Biel), a dogged inspector (Paul Giamatti) and a crown prince (Rufus Sewell). PG-13. Cinema World. Cinemark.
Lady in the Water: Paul Giamatti (*Sideways*) plays a building super who finds, in the building's pool, a creature called a "narf" (seriously) who needs to get back to her world. Director M. Night Shyamalan (*The Sixth Sense*) continues to alienate his audience. PG-13. Movies 12. **Online archives.**
Peaceful Warrior: Based on Dan Millman's spiritual memoir, the film follows the story of a young Olympic hopeful who learns to live in the now when he meets an old man (Nick Nolte) with unbelievable

abilities. PG-13. Cinema World.
Quiet, The: The second film from director Jamie Babbit (*But I'm a Cheerleader*) is disappointingly dank and dull. Nina (Elisha Cuthbert) has her life turned upside down when her parents take in their orphaned goddaughter, the deaf and mute Dot (Camilla Belle). R. Bijou. **See review this issue.**
Wicker Man, The: Director Neil LaBute (*In the Company of Men*, *Possession*) remakes the 1973 horror film about a police officer (Nicolas Cage) searching for a missing girl on an island with dark secrets. PG-13. Cinema World. Cinemark.

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

CONTINUING:
Accepted: Putting the liberal in liberal arts, "B" Gaines (Justin Long) and friends open their own university. It's just to impress a girl, of course, but the "college" is way more popular than B anticipated. And, like, totally illegal, too. What's a fellow to do? PG-13. Cinema World. Cinemark.
Barnyard: When the farmer's away, the cows will ... order pizzas and throw a party? Don't think too much about this animated feature from the creators of *Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius*, or you might begin to wonder why the carefree lead cow, Otis (Kevin James) has udders. PG. Cinemark.
Beerfest: The Broken Lizard comedy group (*Super Troopers*) offers this tale of American brothers who discover an underground beer games competition at Oktoberfest. Jay Chandrasekhar (who directed), Kevin Heffernan, Jürgen Prochnow

and M.C. Gainey ("Lost") appear. R. Cinema World. Cinemark.
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. Movies 12. **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. Movies 12.
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. PG-13. Movies 12. **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. Movies 12. **Online archives.**
How to Eat Fried Worms: The classic children's book by Thomas Rockwell comes squirmingly alive on the screen as, on a dare, an 11-year-old comes up with creative ways to eat 10 worms in one long day. PG. Cinemark.
Invincible: Mark Wahlberg stars in the based-on-a-true-story tale of Vince Papale, an ordinary guy who made the team at an open tryout for the Philadelphia Eagles. With Greg Kinnear and Elizabeth Banks.

PG. Cinema World. Cinemark. **See review this issue.**
John Tucker Must Die: Jesse Metcalfe — whom you may know as the tempting young gardener on "Desperate Housewives" — plays the title character, whose many girlfriends get together to exact revenge on the cheating high school feller. PG-13. Movies 12.
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 is far more winning than it has any right to be. PG-13. Movies 12. **See review this issue.**
Little Miss Sunshine: Directors Valerie Faris and Jonathan Dayton guide a stellar cast (particularly Paul Dano, Steve Carell and Abigail Breslin) through a quirky family trip on the road to the titular beauty pageant. Sweet, smart and funny, though you can see the road bumps coming a mile off. R. Bijou. Cinemark. **Online archives.**
Miami Vice: Director Michael Mann (*The Insider*), who executive produced the original "Miami Vice" TV series, brings a darker version to the big screen. Colin Farrell and Jamie Foxx star as detectives Crockett and Tubbs, who are deeply involved in undercover work fighting drug traffickers. Naomi Harris and Gong Li costar. R. Movies 12.
Monster House: Three kids face off against a creepy neighborhood house that's something other than haunted. With the voices of Maggie Gyllenhaal, Steve Buscemi and Jon Heder. PG. Cinemark, in 3D for an additional \$1.50. **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. Goofball flick is directed by *Napoleon Dynamite*'s Jared Hess and written by Hess, his wife Jerusha and Mike White (*School of Rock*). PG. Movies 12. **Online archives.**
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 critters. PG. Movies 12.
Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest: Johnny Depp reprises his role as over-the-top swash-buckler 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. Cinemark. **Online archives.**
Scanner Darkly, A: Richard Linklater (*Before Sunset*) adapts Philip K. Dick's novel about addiction. Live performances were filmed, then painted over for a trippy, surreal look that works well with the film's themes of identity confusion and paranoia, but the story is a bit distant. R. Bijou LateNite. **Online archives.**
Snakes on a Plane: They're here! Samuel L. Jackson and Julianna Margulies fight reptiles in midair in the summer's most unlikely buzz film. R. Cinema World. Cinemark. **Online archives.**
Step Up: A kid from the wrong side of the tracks brings hip hop to a ballet school — chiefly, to a privileged dancer whose main problem in life is finding a partner for her

senior showcase. Goodness! What will happen? PG-13. Cinemark.
Strangers With Candy: Ex-con Jerri Blank (Amy Sedaris) is Flatpoint High School's only 47-year-old freshman. A prequel of sorts to the Comedy Central series of the same name, *Strangers* finds Jerri determined to win the science fair. R. Bijou LateNite. **Online archives.**
Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby: Will Ferrell and NASCAR. What more do you need to know? OK, well, Ricky Bobby (Ferrell) and his racing partner face a new challenge when a French Formula One driver (Sacha Baron Cohen) arrives on the scene. PG-13. Cinema World. Cinemark. **Online archives.**
Who Killed the Electric Car?: Director Chris Paine explores the life and untimely death of the electric car, focusing on the GM EV1, which hit the streets in 1996 and vanished a few years later. Paine's timely, fascinating documentary makes a compelling case for laying the blame on corporate and governmental interests. PG. Bijou. **Online archives.**
World Trade Center: Oliver Stone directs the story of two policemen, John McLoughlin (Nicolas Cage) and Will Jimeno (Michael Peña) rescued from the rubble of the World Trade Center on 9/11. With Maggie Gyllenhaal and Maria Bello as the officers' wives. PG-13. Cinemark. **Online archives.**
You, Me and Dupree: Kate Hudson and Matt Dillon star as a newly married couple whose new life together takes a sharp turn when perpetual bachelor Dupree (Owen Wilson) crashes at their place. Don't be fooled by Wilson's potential charm: This is a complete dud. PG-13. Movies 12.