

Best films of the season; child, cowboys, crimes and Kong

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Senior Reporter

More certain than snow on Christmas is a deluge of new movies at the local theaters. Here's just a partial list and some quick comments on the best films released over the holidays.

The Golden Child:

I've never really liked Eddy Murphy's comedy acts, but I usually enjoy his movies. In "The Golden Child," Murphy plays a private detective specializing in lost children. The lost child in "The Golden Child" happens to be, you guessed it, "The Golden Child," a mystical, bald kid from Tibet kidnapped by the forces of evil.

A beautiful, well-developed woman from Tibet gets Murphy to search for the lost boy. Murphy's biggest laughs stem from his skeptical attitude toward all the mystical mumbo-jumbo. He also gets laughs simply by laughing.

Murphy winds up in Tibet, running into nasty forces from the Darkside and doing all that "path to enlightenment" stuff Tibetans seem to enjoy so much.

Eventually Murphy goes back to Los Angeles and does battle with the forces of evil to save the Golden Child. There are some silly kung-fu scenes and lots of demonic special effects a la "Ghostbusters," but "The Golden Child" is good, solid entertainment. Its offbeat story makes the film interesting. I didn't feel like I was just watching some worn-out plot like "Beverly Hills Cop."

Three Amigos:

Let's face it, Chevy Chase and Steve Martin have both had their share of box-office bombs, and Martin Short has

never had a box-office anything. Put them all together, though, and "Three Amigos" is still a good comedy and a perfect send-up of "The Magnificent Seven." Martin, Short and Chase play three out-of-work silent-film stars who are hired by a poor village to chase away some wicked, nasty bandits.

But the three prima donnas think they're just going to put on a show. Actually they're all simpering wimps who start bawling their heads off when they find out the head bandit is going to blow their heads off.

"Three Amigos" is just as good as "Blazing Saddles," if not better. The humor is a little more intelligent than the Mel Brooks classic spoof of Westerns, which had to rely on farts and racial jokes for big laughs. Martin and Short are both excellent, but Chase is quite forgettable. Like "Blazing Saddles," the ending is so ridiculous that you just have to laugh.

King Kong Lives:

Let's get one thing straight before I start this review. "King Kong Lives" is an awful movie. The script is awful and ludicrous. The acting and characters are as wooden as Howdy Doody and the special effects are simply some guy in an ape suit crushing Tonka Toys. But I still highly recommend this "film." You've heard the expression, "It's so bad that it's good." Well, "King Kong Lives" is just that.

Try this premise: After King Kong took a dive off the Twin Towers in the last movie, someone actually managed to do CPR on the big ape. He's been hooked up on a life-support system for 10 years, waiting for scientists to invent a giant ape artificial heart! And once

they do fabricate a nine-foot Jarvik transplant, they forget to get giant-ape blood. Fortunately, they discover a giant female Kong on a Polynesian island, and they do a giant-ape blood transfusion. See, before your very eyes, artificial heart surgery performed on a giant ape! See a giant crane pull Kong's old bum ticker out of his chest. Ooh, grodie! If this sounds at all fun, "King Kong Lives" is the film for you.

Crimes of the Heart:

Three great actresses and one great script make "Crimes of the Heart" the best Christmas film. Beth Henley, who also penned one of 1986's best movies, "Nobody's Fool," is a great writer. In "Crimes of the Heart," she has created the McGrath sisters, played by Sissy Spacek, Diane Keaton and Jessica Lange. Keaton plays Linda, the spinster, too insecure to go out with men because she's missing an ovary, Sissy Spacek is Babe, the youngest sister, who just shot her state-congressman husband in the gut. And Lange is Meg, the singer trying to find fame in California, who returns home to help her distraught sister.

Originally a play, this film has a stage feeling. Henley, as she did in "Nobody's Fool," creates a strong sense of place in the small Mississippi town, along with three fascinating characters. Spacek nearly steals the show simply with her extraordinary acting and also because her character is the most interesting. Playwright Henley definitely has something against cats, though. In "Nobody's Fool," one of the minor characters baked some poor feline; in "Crimes of the Heart," a cat is hanged. Don't worry, fellow cat lovers, it's not shown on screen, only talked about.

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Committee fights for Block 35

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The committee went public a week ago. Randy Moody, a spokesman for the committee, read from a prepared statement at a press conference last Monday. The prepared speech said, in a nutshell, that the businesses are here, they are thriving, they don't want to move, and the proper steps to reverse the decision are going to be taken.

State Sen. Dave Landis was also at the press conference "because I shop up and down this street, and it seems to me that if you have thriving businesses, you shouldn't be closing them down on a matter of speculation."

So there waits the wrecking ball, pointed at one of the few culturally saturated blocks still thriving in Lincoln. The thought of the destruction of this block seems absurd. Other parking lots have been offered up as potential parking. The condemnation seems to go against the trend of wanting to upgrade the cultural diversity of Lincoln. As it stands, Lincoln's cultural scene is already graveyardish.

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Application forms are available at the Student Activities Financial Service Office, 222 Nebraska Union; ASUN Office, 115 Nebraska Union; or the East CAP Office, Nebraska East Union and should be returned by the applicant in person to 222 Nebraska Union or 300 Nebraska East Union. Students must bring their student I.D. cards at the time of application. Students who are unable to personally return their application to the Student Activities Financial Services Offices should contact Kim Underdahl, Room 222 Nebraska Union (phone 472-2181) before February 6, 1987 to make arrangements.

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