

# 'Salaam Bombay!' focuses on struggling

By Lisa Donovan  
Senior Reporter

Of all the twisted plots in the movies today -- from the life and times of bartenders to the two people from different worlds who are brought together through the art of sexy dancing -- Mira Nair's "Salaam Bombay!" is a refreshing and new look at the struggle of the human condition.

Upon the boy's return, he finds the campground empty. Between the desolation of the campground and the look on the boy's face, one is able to experience a child's "I lost my mommy in the grocery store" feeling.

With very little money, the boy sets out for the city of Bombay.

After becoming acquainted with some of the local hoods, Krishna finds himself befriending a drug-dealer/addict, a prostitute, the prostitute's daughter and "Sweet Sixteen."

"Sweet Sixteen," (Chanda Charma) who arrives in Bombay at the same time as Krishna, is a young girl who is being groomed for prostitution.

It is at this point that one realizes how pathetic it all is -- not only are these children the butt of a bad deal in life, but they're manipulated as well as manipulative.

Because of this vicious cycle, these children find themselves staring karma in the face. Especially with Krishna (who is now called Chaipau); his swindling finds him time and again losing his money and/or having it stolen.

The technical aspects enhance the mood swings of the film. The cinematography and lighting capture the essence of the human condition. When times were tough, the camera captures the filth, dampness and darkness of the working-class neighborhoods and railway platforms of Bombay.



Courtesy of Sheldon Film Theater

Street urchins in "Salaam Bombay!"

In one scene, Krishna's friend Chillum (Raghubir Yadav), a broke

drug addict, has a withdrawal attack and in the middle of his fit decides he wants to throw himself in front of a moving rail car, but Krishna holds

him back.

But when times were good or at

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## movie REVIEW

And although the movie had subtitles, the quality and translation was excellent.

Filed on the streets of Bombay, this movie tells the story of a 10-year-old's struggle to "make it," alone on the streets of the overcrowded India city.

The young boy Krishna (Shafiq Syed), who exemplifies street life of poor and/or homeless children in Bombay, is thrown out of his home by his mother because he ruined a bicycle. He must work until he makes enough money, 500 rupees, to replace it. Then and only then will he be allowed to return home.

The story begins with Krishna on his first job -- with the circus. The group, camped out in the middle of nowhere, is packing to leave when Krishna is ordered, by his boss, to run an errand.

# Lack of detail damages otherwise decent Sheldon book

By William Rudolph  
Staff Reporter

Sidney Sheldon  
The Sands of Time  
William Morrow & Company

In fact, "The Sands of Time" seems to be a case of a little thing coming in a very big package.

Sheldon's latest thriller promises big things. It intends to detail what happens to a group of four nuns thrown into the real world after their Spanish convent is ransacked by government soldiers searching for Basque loyalists.

In addition, "The Sands of Time" also purports to take the reader into the fierce conflict between the illegal Basque underground searching for some measure to preserve its cultural identity and the desperate Spanish government trying to cope with both Franco's death and a growing men-

ace to its power.

Sheldon's nuns all hold the promise of being interesting characters. There's Sister Lucia, a spoiled daughter of a Sicilian mobster, who is on the run from a murder rap for avenging the death of her father. There's an unearthly beautiful Sister Graciela, who has escaped the sordid sexual nightmares of her past for the purer love of the Church. There's Sister Teresa, a fiercely devout and fiercely confused nun whose religious devotion proves to be her undoing. And last but not least, we have Sister Megan, a spunky orphan with an excitement for life and a burning desire to discover her mysterious

past.

Into these characters' lives, Sheldon throws the figures of Jaime Miro, the reckless revolutionary at the head of the Basque movement, and Colonel Ramon Acoca, the vengeful army commander willing to break any rule or go to any length to capture his obsession.

In due course, the lives of the nuns become intertwined with Jaime Miro's destiny, as they wind up

caught in the middle of the struggle between Miro and Acoca.

It all looks good, especially on the book jacket.

To be fair, "The Sands of Time" keeps the reader's interest. Sheldon's forte is fast-paced suspense, and his latest novel does not disappoint in that respect. Sheldon's screenwriting past shows up in brief scenes that cut

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## book REVIEW

According to a popular cliché, big things come in little packages. While this may work for people concerned about their height, in the case of Sidney Sheldon's newest novel, the reverse seems to be true.

## McInerney novel about an actress, sex and drugs

By Mark Lage  
Staff Reporter

Jay McInerney  
Story of My Life  
The Atlantic Monthly Press

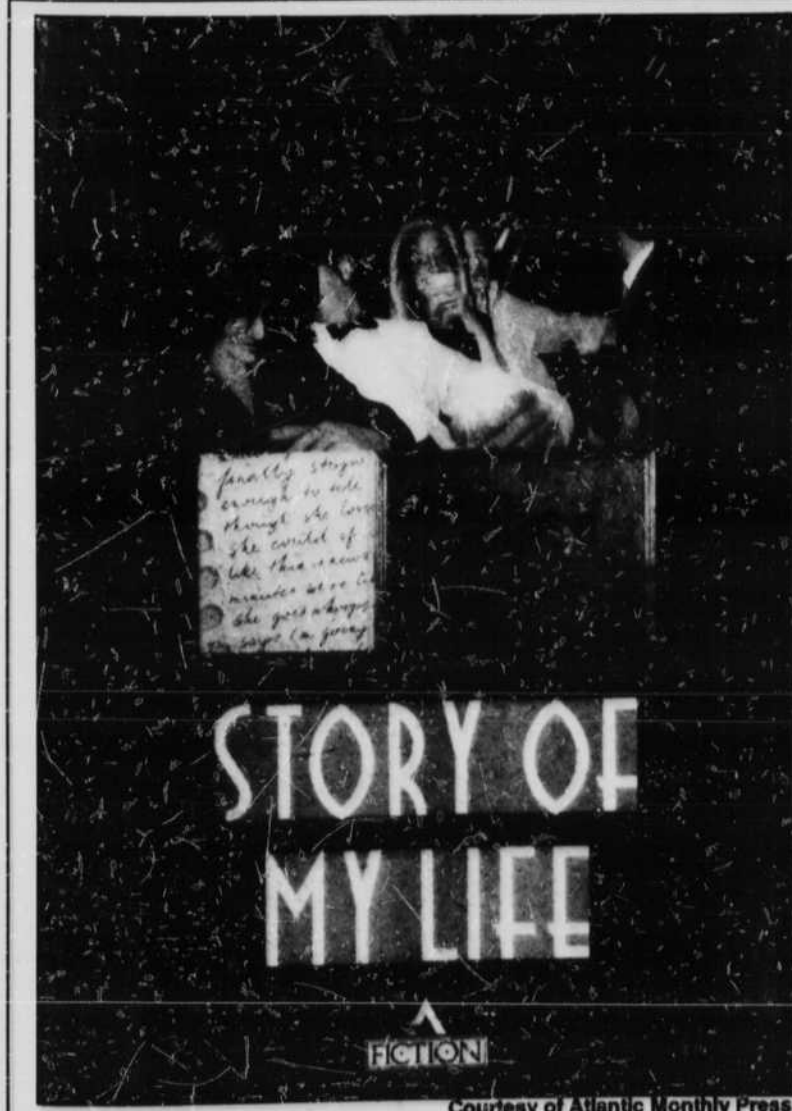
"Story of My Life" is the third novel by Jay McInerney, who is best known for his first, "Bright Lights, Big City." He also wrote the screenplay for that film, which starred Michael J. Fox.

After his second novel, "Ransom," which told the rather sedate story of a young man trying to regain control of his life by studying karate in Japan, "Story of My Life" is a return to the faster-paced, glamorous, cocaine-ridden New York City setting of "Bright Lights, Big City."

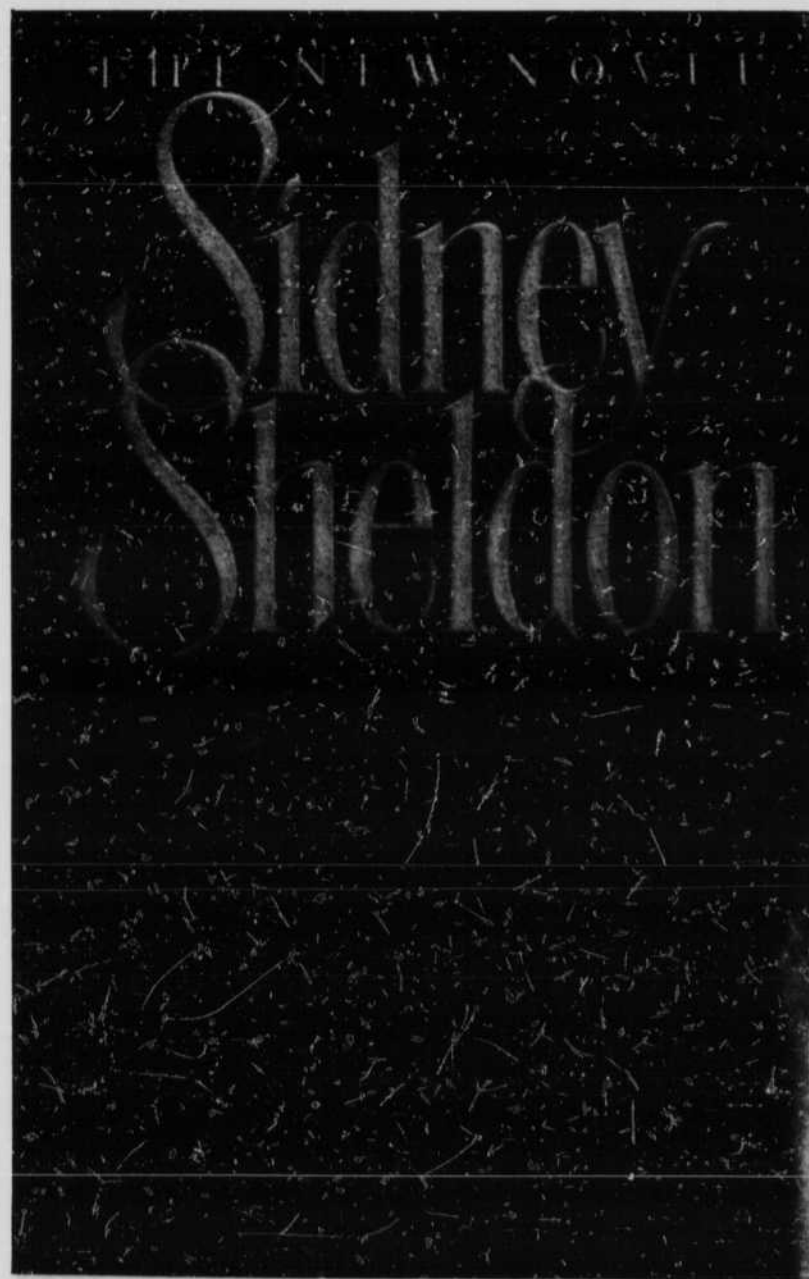
The glamor and humor of books like "Bright Lights, Big City," and "Story of My Life," make them enjoyable reading, but there is much more to them than that.

The story and life in question here is that of Alison Poole, 20, an over-privileged Jewish-American princess type who is trying to get a grip on the good life before it beats her into submission. She is enrolled in a New York acting school, and her outside interests

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Courtesy of Atlantic Monthly Press



Courtesy of William Morrow & Company, Inc.