

Sky-diving Elvises fall flat in film



"Honeymoon In Vegas"

By Gerry Beltz
Staff Reporter

Yuck! Bleah! Ick!
The comments are for "Honeymoon In Vegas" (Stuart, East Park 3), and it's not looking good. Nicholas Cage plays Jack Singer, a private investigator who promised his mother on her deathbed that he would never get married.

The years pass, and he keeps his word, much to the chagrin of his longtime girlfriend, Betsy (Sarah Jessica Parker).

"Marriage is a disaster waiting to happen," Jack says.

One day, Betsy puts Jack on the proverbial spot with the "now-or-never" approach. Surprisingly, it works, and the two fly off to Las Vegas to get married.

Once in Vegas, high-stakes gambler Tommy Cormen (James Caan) catches sight of Betsy, and is instantly entranced. Through a flashback, we find out that his former companion, Donna, died of skin cancer (too much sun) and bore an amazing resemblance to Betsy. One would hope so — Parker played both roles.

Anyway, Tommy invites Jack to a "friendly" poker game, where Jack ends up with a \$65,000 IOU.

Of course, Tommy wants to "help" Jack with his problem, so he offers Jack a deal: one weekend with Betsy in exchange for the IOU.

Jack assumes the weekend will be spent in Vegas, but Tommy jets off to Hawaii with Betsy.

From there, the chase between Tommy and Jack begins, culminating back in Vegas with a troop of sky-diving Elvises.

Yes, that's right. Sky-diving Elvises.



Nicolas Cage, Sarah Jessica Parker and James Caan star in "Honeymoon in Vegas."

This entire movie is clichéd, inane and predictable from the opening credits on. All the jokes fall flat on their faces, but the really bad thing is that they keep pounding the same bad jokes and sight gags throughout the film.

A warning to the weak of stomach — this movie takes place during an Elvis look-alike contest.

Also, the soundtrack consists of classic Presley tracks that have been redone by modern rock icons such

as Billy Joel, Bruce Springsteen and Amy Grant.

Obscure trivia time! The "Anyone? Anyone?" teacher from "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" shows up in here as a miserly, anal-retentive airline patron who blocks Jack's pursuit of Betsy.

Other cameo appearances in "Honeymoon In Vegas" include Anne Bancroft as Jack's dying mother, Peter Boyle as a tribal chief with a penchant for musicals and

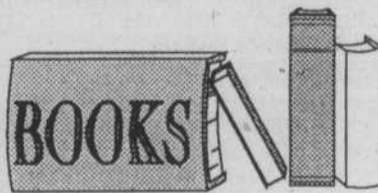
Pat Morita as a hustling cab driver.

While Parker is a relative newcomer to starring roles and can chalk this one up to experience, Caan and Cage have been around for a while and should have known better.

This should not be considered a "romantic comedy" simply because it ain't romantic, and it sure as heck ain't funny!

One can only crap out with "Honeymoon In Vegas."

Sci-fi collection rewrites history, JFK's exploits



"Alternate Kennedys"
Edited by Mike Resnick
TOR Science Fiction
By Sam S. Keptfield
Staff Reporter

In any discussion of alternate history and the game of "What If?" one inevitably turns to Nov. 22, 1963, the day John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

Mike Resnick, fresh off his Hugo Award for "The Manamouki," has now branched out into editing. "Alternate Kennedys" is actually his second foray into the alternate history sub-genre — "Alternate Presidents" appeared in January.

"Alternate Kennedys" is self-explanatory but with a few surprises. Anything having to do with the Kennedy clan is fair game and not all the stories are the misty-eyed reverential pieces one might expect from a Sorenson or a Schlesinger.

Nancy Kress' "Eoghan" is a generation-spanning tale with a prophetic and magical touch.

Two of the most powerful and moving tales in the book center on Rosemary Kennedy, the mentally challenged Kennedy sister: Alan Rodgers and James MacDonald's "Rosemary: Scrambled Eggs on a Blue Plate" and "Rosemary's Brain" by Martha Soukop.

The now-legendary sexual excesses of JFK come under scrutiny in two pieces.

Michael P. Kube-McDowell explores "The Inga-Binga Affair," a real-life liaison that a young Lt. Kennedy had with a suspected Nazi spy.

Charles von Rospach's "Til Death Do Us Part" splashes the affair between Jack Kennedy and Marilyn Monroe over the front pages.

Another piece is Joe Haldeman's telling of the 1960 election as a WWF wrestling match. Brian Thomsen pictures future historians viewing the assassination and aftermath, using the National Enquirer as source material.

If you are one of those who worships the Kennedys, then you might want to fling this book across the room in anger or disgust.

However, if you want a ride through history that is alternately sentimental and irreverent, then it's \$5 well-spent.

Rap album appealing

Fourteen-year-old strives for mature lyrics

Reviews



Chi-Ali
"The Fabulous Chi-Ali"
Relativity Records

At first listen, you might wonder if the Native Tongues posse was trying to capitalize on the recent Kris Kross success with 14-year-old rapper Chi Ali, but by the end you realize this is a definite Native Tongues joint.

The album was produced by Baby Chris, the Roadmanager/Violator from the Jungle Brothers.

The first of the album's 14 tracks, "Maniac Psycho," comes off hard with familiar samples from L.L. Cool J and Boogie Down Productions.

Several other freestyle tracks follow the first, including the strong "Check My Record" and "Let the Horns Blow," a track with guest raps from Phife of A Tribe Called Quest and Dres from Black Sheep.

In "Roadrunner," co-written and rapped with Trugoy the Dove from De La Soul, Chi-Ali proclaims that no

matter how hard the others try, they can never catch him. And you will believe it when you hear the song's jazzy saxophone and bass line.

This idea shows up again in "Step Up," with Chi-Ali challenging suckers to try and take him out, and in "Chi-Ali vs. Vanilla Shake," a straight up one-on-one rap battle.

Chi-Ali tries to tackle the subject of girls throughout the album and especially on "Age Ain't Nothin' But A#." In this song, he tries to get older girls while claiming the ones his age aren't mature enough.

With lyrics like "Little girlie listen to me/Stop gigglin' and kissin' to me/Try to refrain from playing the childish games" and "I'm not tryin' to dis you/I'm just tryin' to blow up/But do me a favor, hon/and grow up," he seems to expect a lot from 13- and 14-year-old girls.

The weakest tracks on "The Fabulous Chi-Ali" were the attempts at gangsta rap.

"Shorty Said Nah" is a song in which Chi-Ali gets jumped by six hoods. They struggle with a gun and



Chi-Ali's "The Fabulous Chi-Ali"

Courtesy of Relativity Records

Chi says, "No one tried to stop it/Until they seen me runnin' for the joint/I picked it up and thought 'Should I pop it?'"

"Murder Chi Wrote" is especially

hard to believe. Here Chi and his partner drink, hit the skins and dust off six punks one night when they visit Harlem. These scenarios seem too unrealistic for a 14-year-old.

Despite the weak spots, "The Fabulous Chi-Ali" is a strong album and will definitely appeal to hip hop lovers.

—Greg Schick