

# Film adapted from novel nears perfection



## "Howards End"



By Anne Steyer  
Staff Reporter

Looking for a near masterpiece? Normally the best recommendation would be directions to the nearest bookstore, but right now the advice is to go see "Howards End" (Mary Riepma Ross Theater).

"Howards End" is the latest film adaptation of an E.M. Forster novel. Not surprisingly, director James Ivory, producer Ismail Merchant and screenwriter Ruth Prawer Jhabvala do a tremendous job — previously they did two other superb Forster adaptations, "A Room With a View" and "Maurice."

The heroine of sorts is Margaret Schlegel (Emma Thompson of "Dead Again"), a thirtysomething Englishwoman who lives in a London townhouse with her free-spirited sister Helen (Helena Bonham Carter of "A Room With a View," and "Hamlet") and brother Tibby (newcomer Adrian Ross Magenty).

Intelligent, cultured and a bit ahead of the times for 19th century England,



Courtesy of Sony Pictures

Margaret Schlegel (Emma Thompson) and Helen Schlegel (Helena Bonham Carter) appear in a scene from Howards End.

their family unit is funny, touching and more eccentric than most. That is, of course, what makes them so endearing. Their interchanges are witty and engaging, as are the actors.

The emotional core of the movie is

the brief but powerful friendship that

develops between Margaret and Ruth Wilcox (Vanessa Redgrave). Ruth is the matriarch of a traditional and thoroughly British family that includes Anthony Hopkins as her husband,

Henry.

The two women meet after an unfortunate encounter between Ruth's youngest son and Margaret's sister Helen. Although Helen moves on to concern herself with the unhappy life of a young clerk, Margaret and Ruth

develop a unique relationship that includes Margaret as heir apparent to Ruth's ethereal vision of life and her family manor, Howards End.

As would be expected with a film adapted from a complex novel, there is much more going on — Margaret is kept from Howards End by Ruth's family and later becomes involved in an unlikely courtship, a family struggle and emotional turmoil.

While at times the story seems complicated, it never becomes overwhelmingly so, primarily because of the near-perfection of all aspects of the film.

The leads are sensational. Thompson is exceptional and absolutely splendid as Margaret. Bonham Carter is also quite good and plays Helen with as much verve and wit as she did Miss Honeychurch in "A Room With a View."

Although Hopkins and Redgrave's roles are small, they are pivotal. Hopkins' Henry is such a welcome change from the Hannibal Lecter, who coveted media attention all last year, and brings into focus the measure of Hopkins' talent.

Redgrave is visibly radiant in her role, even as Ruth lay dying. As Ruth, she takes the stuffy existence of stubborn and provincial London and transforms it into a romantic and perfect world of cool breezes and brilliant sunsets at her home at Howards End.

Two hours and 20 minutes may seem a bit long to some, but the excellent acting, the stunning visuals, the enveloping story and the engaging (and oftentimes humorous) dialogue make the length matter not a whit.

## Fresh Kid Ice fails to inflame stereo speakers with solo album

Fresh Kid Ice  
"The Chinaman"  
Effect Records

### Reviews



Fresh Kid Ice, member of controversial 2 Live Crew, has come out on his solo debut with more of the same kind of music, but lower quality than ever.

Unlike Luther Campbell's (Luke Skywalker's) solo attempt "Banned in the USA," Ice decided not to feature the other members of the group on his album. This album is all Fresh Kid Ice.

And that's the problem. Ice brought in two DJs, DJ MadMan and DJ Domain, and a new production team and took away all the advantages that 2 Live Crew gave him.

No longer do we see Mr. Mixx's crafty scratching and mixing. We still see the sex rap as the predominant style of rhyming, but Ice clearly seems to have been a junior partner in this company. Apparently, without Brother Marquis and Luke to help

write, Ice can't come up with any new twists on the sex rap.

We find Luther Campbell as the executive producer, but from the way the album sounds, he must have been more "executive" than "producer."

Bass is still a heavy part of this Miami-based rapper, but even that has been dampened. In the age of hypersonic bass and groups that warn that their album might blow out your speakers, Ice barely reaches the bass level of New York City rappers. For a Miami rapper to lessen his bass is almost a sin, and to say the least, embarrassing.

No tracks really stand out on this album. "Miami Da Bottom" has the most potential with good bass, but Ice's mediocre rhymes and monotone voice hold this song back. None of the lyrics are worth repeating.

Songs like "Dick 'em Down," the first single, and "Long Dick Chinese" are feeble attempts and could never match the level of 2 Live Crew songs like "Me So Horny."

Then Ice tries to sing non-sex raps with "Dance to the Rhythm" and "I'll Be Here." He does an even worse job with these songs lyrically, and based



Courtesy of Effect Records

### Fresh Kid Ice

on what we expect from Kid Ice, they're laughable.

The best points on this album are, unfortunately, the guest spots from other rappers. Newcomers Shake G and Fat Daddy show promise and give us a break from the droning sounds on Kid Ice.

So even if you like 2 Live Crew sex rhymes, you probably will be disappointed by this album. You probably won't even want to dub it.

— Greg Schick

## Anthology a good read

### book

REVIEW

"Bootcamp 3000"  
Edited by Charles G. Waugh and  
Martin Harry Greenberg  
Ace Science Fiction

By Sam Kepfield  
Staff Reporter

Charles Waugh and Martin Harry Greenberg's anthology is military science fiction, the third book in a loosely related series on military themes.

"Supertanks" and "Body Armor: 2000" are the first two in the anthology.

Basic training for future armies is explored through seven previously published stories by well-known authors. The first, "Hero," by Joe Haldeman, is the novella that was later expanded into his book "The Forever War." It won a Hugo Award in 1976. Haldeman, a Vietnam veteran, portrays future war with a gritty realism bearing an uncanny resemblance to a land war in Asia.

Harry Harrison's "The Starsloggers" looks at training and first brush with the enemy from a

satirical viewpoint. Recruitment by deceit, brutal training, inedible meals and menial duty are carried to their extremes until the hero comes full circle at story's end. This story and "Hero" alone are worth the price of the book.

Jack Vance's "Sail 25" takes recruits on a light-sail trip past Mars and Jupiter where everything goes wrong. Locked in a cramped ship with an instructor who is either drunk, mad or merely resigned to his fate, they are pushed to their limits.

"Test Ultimate" by Christopher Anvil has a timeless moral drawn from the transcripts at Nuremberg and has plenty of action.

Every anthology has its clunkers, and there are two here that just don't quite fit the theme. They're not bad, just misplaced.

Chad Oliver's "Transfusion" is an interesting anthropological mystery and a good story, but it's straining to place it alongside Haldeman and Harrison.

"The Short Ones" by Raymond Banks is a bit closer to being a kind of boot camp, but is still out of place.

Nonetheless, if one can get past those faults, the book is a solid read.

## Poster Children performance bringing power to East Union



From Staff Reports

That well-known hippie flower is emblazoned upon posters across campus.

It means that the Poster Children are coming.

They will be performing at 8 p.m. Saturday in the Great Plains Room of

the East Campus Union.

The four-person band was born in 1987 in a Champaign, Ill., residence hall room.

Poster Children's latest release, "Daisychain Reaction," was produced by Steve Albini, who also produced Big Black, The Pixies and The Wedding Present.

Plan to see Rick, Jim, Rose and Johnny play hard on stage.

After all, they say that the main point of their band is power.

They call their performance good if Rick can wring his shirt out, Rose has bruises and Jim's hands are bleeding.

Now that sounds like powerful music.



Courtesy of Sire Records

The Poster Children are appearing 8 p.m. Saturday at the East Campus Union.