

# AT THE MOVIES

## 'The Shadow' knows what audiences want



Alec Baldwin is Lamont Cranston and Penelope Ann Miller is Margo Kane in the Russell Mulcahy film "The Shadow."

### "The Shadow"



By Gerry Beltz  
Staff Reporter

Before Kal-El had been sent to Earth from Krypton, before Bruce Wayne's parents were murdered by Joe Chill, there was ... "The Shadow."

He knew what evil lurked in the hearts of men. He had powers of the occult, including being a master of hypnotism and gaining the ability to "cloud men's minds" so that he would not be visible to the naked eye.

Things aren't any different on the big screen. By day, The Shadow (Alec Baldwin) is millionaire playboy Lamont Cranston. But at night Cranston lets his dark side come out from his soul and transforms his body (and wardrobe and overall attitude) into The Shadow.

He is chasing after Shiwan Khan (John Lone, "The Last Emperor"), the last remaining descendant of Ghengis Khan. Khan intends to detonate an atomic device, and only The Shadow and Margo Kane (Penelope Ann Miller, "Carlito's Way") stand a chance of stopping this diabolical plot.

Although the story and script need a bit of work, the special effects and overall fun of the movie make "The Shadow" highly enjoyable. The effects when The Shadow beats the crap out of the bad guys are particularly good.

The movie is set with a dark mood in mind (a la "Batman"), but the superhero in this flick at least has a chin. The sets, costumes and music all combine for a terrific backdrop for the Shadow's hunting grounds.

The cast is great too. Baldwin is great both as The Shadow and as the smart-alecky Cranston. He manages to differentiate between the two characters very well, and word has it that he did the Shadow's laugh by himself without any computer help.

Lone isn't bad as Khan, but at times, he lacked a certain intensity. Miller is good as Margo, a woman whose true powers lie latent just below the surface, and so is Peter Boyle as Moe, one of the Shadow's many agents throughout the city.

Tim Curry ("The Three Musketeers") shows up as Farley Claymore, an evil scientist with the intelligence of a furniture dolly who looks like he combs his hair with buttered toast. His character was a bit overboard, even for this flick.

"The Shadow" is a film worth going to see.

## Strong acting highlights Not-so-ordinary 'Forrest'

### "Forrest Gump"



By Anne Steyer  
Staff Reporter

"Forrest Gump" is the extraordinary story of an extraordinary man.

Gump (Tom Hanks) is an endearingly simple small-town man with a small IQ. The movie follows his story, beginning with Forrest's first difficult days in elementary school, where he meets the most important person in his life: Jenny (Robin Wright).

Abused when she was a child, as an adult Jenny follows every wrong path she can, although she remains Forrest's friend throughout.

They are friends through high school and even college where Forrest runs his way to the All-American football team. He writes her faithfully every day during his tour of duty in Vietnam. And he loves her unflinchingly his whole life.

In Vietnam Forrest meets two pivotal people in his life — his friend Bubba (Mykelti Williamson) and his commanding officer, Lt. Dan (Gary Sinise). Forrest becomes a hero in the war, although he always only did what he thought was right.

But Forrest does other things too, including teaching Elvis to dance,

meeting three presidents, winning the Medal of Honor, and playing ping-pong in China.

He consistently finds himself in incredible situations, although he is never himself awed.

Forrest Gump is the perfect person. He allows the small things in life to make him happy, he follows the golden rule. He's earnest and honest, a loyal friend who keeps his word and follows the rules. He cares about people, even when they have contempt for him, contempt he does not understand.

Obviously, Hanks carries the picture — and he is perfect. He could have played this character completely over-the-top, making a mockery of all that Forrest is, but he did not. Instead, his Forrest is real and a true hero.

The supporting cast is outstanding as well. Wright holds her own with Hanks in a difficult part that could have been an unsympathetic one. Williamson is funny and touching. But Sinise stands out as Lt. Dan — a man wracked with self-pity and hate, who nevertheless becomes Forrest's friend and partner.

Director Robert Zemeckis (of "Roger Rabbit" fame) uses terrific special effects to blend Forrest into actual news footage of historical events. The result is astounding.

"Forrest Gump" clocks in at over two hours and is worth very wonderful minute.

## Stay away from 'Trouble'

### Movie's stars do their best with mediocre story



### "I Love Trouble"



By Joel Strauch  
Staff Reporter

I didn't love "I Love Trouble." Not intended to be a summer blockbuster, this film fills its spot in a video library on the shelf of mediocrity.

Peter Brackett (Nick Nolte), a legendary columnist for the Chicago Chronicle, matches wits with an overzealous cub reporter from the Chicago Globe, Sabrina Peterson (Julia Roberts).

The two compete for the latest scoops on an ongoing front-page saga about a local train derailment. Both reporters begin to find clues that the derailment might not have been an accident.

They put aside their differences and decide to work together. As they get closer to the truth of the train wreck cover-up, they get closer to each other. But their equally strong desires to get the scoop makes any romantic involvement almost impossible.

The two continue to try and outwit each other and somehow manage to outwit the bad guys.

The plot was rather transparent and the ending sadly predictable. The only parts that catch the audience unawares are the unrealistic aspects of the film.

There were several scenes where the humor and the intensity rise above mediocrity, but the film always faded back to its lackluster storyline.

The acting by Roberts and Nolte is quite good, but the parts that they are forced to play don't leave any room for outstanding performances.

Supposedly a romantic thriller, "I Love Trouble" was not very romantic and not very thrilling. If you're a die-hard fan of Nolte or Roberts, catch it at the \$1.50 theater. Otherwise, wait for video.



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Julia Roberts and Nick Nolte star in "I Love Trouble."