

Movie Review



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIRAMAX FILMS
JASON MEWES (left) and Kevin Smith reprise their roles as Jay and Silent Bob in Smith's new film, "Chasing Amy."

Catch 'Amy' for atypical love chronicle

By ANN STACK
Film Critic

Call it a date-movie version of "Clerks" — a case of the highly improbably becoming the probable.

As the previews have said, "Chasing Amy" is a love story about two incompatible lovers. But it's also about relationships; platonic and otherwise.

It focuses on lifelong best friends Holden McNeil (Ben Affleck) and Banky Edwards (Ja-

son Lee) as they deal with the growing and changing that follow in the years after high school.

Banky and Holden, creators of a successful cult comic book series, are at a convention when they meet fellow comic book artist Alyssa Jones (Joey Lauren Adams). Holden falls hard for the beautiful, talented Alyssa — but there's one little catch.

She's a lesbian.

The two become good friends, though, and despite herself, Alyssa finds herself falling in love with Holden. So as their relationship

The Facts

Film: "Chasing Amy"
Stars: Ben Affleck, Joey Lauren
Director: Kevin Smith
Rating: R (Language, Sexual content)
Grade: A
Five Words: '90s sex explored in flick

Please see **AMY** on 13

Panel votes for stricter TV ratings

By JANNINE AVERSA
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Reflecting dissatisfaction with existing TV ratings, a Senate panel voted its support Thursday for legislation that could either require stronger ratings or ban violent shows when children are likely to be watching.

The Senate Commerce Committee voted 19-1 to send the bill to the Senate for consideration. The action turns up the pressure on the TV industry to voluntarily strengthen its six-tier, age-based ratings systems that went into effect New Year's Day.

"It's a sad day for the republic," said ABC lobbyist Billy Pitts. If the bill was enacted "shows like 'Schindler's List' could not be shown to broad audiences."

The Senate could vote on the measure this month, aides said. There appears to be less enthusiasm for an identical bill in the House, creating uncertainty whether the legislation will ever become law.

The bill by Sen. Ernest F. Hollings, D-S.C., responds to complaints that the industry's movie-like ratings don't give parents enough information about the type, amount and intensity of violence in each show.

"It may be the only way to get

Please see **RATINGS** on 13

Movie Review

Solid acting saves film from timeworn plot line

By GERRY BELTZ
Film Critic

The everyday stupidity of everyday people can be an unbelievably overwhelming force.

Take the case of Jeff (Kurt Russell) and Amy Taylor (Kathleen Quinlan). While driving through the desert, their brand-spanking new car breaks down. The cellular isn't within range, and Jeff's knowledge about cars stops at the radio knobs.

Enter nice-guy trucker Red Barr (J.T. Walsh), who offers them a ride.

Instead of staying together, these two Mensa candidates split up in the middle of nowhere — with Amy heading off with Red, and Jeff staying with the dead car.

Eventually, Jeff makes it to the supposed rendezvous. But he finds no trucker, and more importantly to Jeff, no wife. He tracks down the trucker, who claims to have never met Jeff before.

Naturally, Jeff begins to get rather testy, and local law officials think Jeff may be just a wee bit bonkers.

As it turns out, there was a kidnapping (gasp!) and Jeff is the only one who can do anything about it.

True, the "kidnapped-but-no-one-believes-him" plot is an old one, but solid acting from both

The Facts

Film: "Breakdown"
Stars: Kurt Russell, J.T. Walsh, Kathleen Quinlan
Director: Jonathan Mostow
Rating: R (Language, Violence)
Grade: B-
Five Words: Wife kidnapped, husband gets frantic

Walsh and Russell give this film some life.

One of Russell's best scenes involves the torture of one of the kidnappers with a roll of duct tape and the brakes on the vehicle. (OUCH!) However, Russell makes his character a bit too vulnerable by making him rather stupid (which garners him several blows to the head with blunt instruments by the bad guys).

Walsh is just a good ol' boy, and whether he's talking to the police or blackmailing Jeff, the character is the same; it's just a difference between wanting to shake his hand and beat him over the head with a shovel.

Quinlan? She's in the movie for about 10 minutes, either sleeping, talking about junk food or screaming. That's about it for her.

As a thriller, "Breakdown" keeps toddling down the highway, but it is by no means a classic.

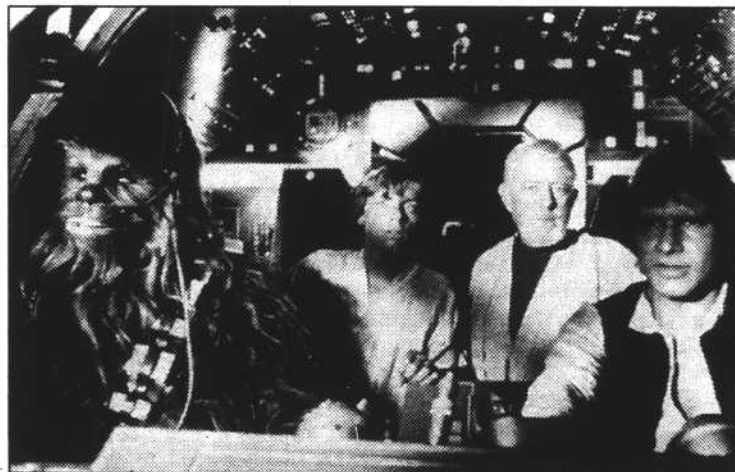


PHOTO COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY FOX
STARTING TODAY, "Star Wars," "The Empire Strikes Back" and "Return of the Jedi" will be appearing in the same Lincoln theater complex for the first time.

'Wars' trilogy to appear in one complex

By GERRY BELTZ
Senior Reporter

One building. One trilogy. Once in a lifetime.

As of this afternoon, when the special edition of "Return of the Jedi" opens at the StarShip 9, 1311 Q St., all three "Star Wars" movies will be playing in one movie theater, a first for Lincoln moviegoers.

"We're really expecting great things for it," said Lisa Fryda, manager of the StarShip 9.

With the opportunity to see the entire "Star Wars" trilogy on the big screen for just over five dollars, Fryda said, she is expecting business to increase.

"By getting the third (movie)," she said, "we expect business will pick up quite a bit."

With the computerized ticket sales

available at the StarShip 9, tickets for all three shows may be purchased at any time during the day of the show.

Even if the tickets are purchased ahead of time, however, moviegoers may not simply go to the next auditorium for the next movie.

"Most people come to the lobby anyway to visit the snack bar or go to the bathroom," Fryda said.

Fryda said she doesn't anticipate any problems of people sneaking from one movie to the next.

"That is something we have really cracked down on," she said. "It's not really a problem around here, though."

Also landing at the StarShip 9 this Friday will be pop and popcorn for one dollar, something Fryda said she had requested for a long time.

"I've really been pushing for one-dollar stuff," Fryda said. "A lot of parents drop off their kids here with a buck, and the smaller size of these

items will appeal to the kids coming to the movies on the weekends."

As of Thursday afternoon, those who wish to view the entire "Star Wars" trilogy in one day would have only one set of times to follow: The 2:00 p.m. screening of "Star Wars," followed by "The Empire Strikes Back" at 4:30 and "Return of the Jedi" at 8:30.

"With all three movies available in one complex," said Frank Rhodes, film buyer for Douglas Theatre Co., "it gives those people interested in the 'Star Wars' movies a chance to see all three movies on the big screen."

It's impossible to say how long moviegoers will have this opportunity, Rhodes said.

"It will be available for at least one week," Rhodes said. "A lot depends on the number of people going to see the movies for the second and third time."