

## MOVIE BEER NIGHT -TUE, JUNE 3, 2008 - EOP DAY 347-KWANZAA DAY 154

*Come and watch a movie or just kick back with other hashers, have a burger and a few cheap brewskis. Some of us just hang out over beers long after the movies have started, but at the movies we're still passing around the flasks.*

*All NOW run only \$4.50 each! (most other theaters are \$10)*

*Also – they seem to have some special of large popcorn & cokes for \$10 - & free refills with that special.*

*Irving Mall - Belt Line Rd x Airport Frwy (Hwy 183)*

*There's grub, beer at Fuddruckers at the mall b4hand ~ 6:15ish on.....next door to Barnes & Noble.*

*The sign says "FUDDS." Great burgers, fries, salads*

### THE STRANGERS (7:55)

*(Horror, Thriller) Critics: B-, C+ DMN: C Viewers: B+*

### SEX & THE CITY (7:15)

*(Chick Flick) Critics: B, B- DMN: A- Viewers: B-*

### INDIANA JONES & THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (7:00, 7:45)

*(Action/Adventure) Critics: B+, B- DMN: B Viewers: B+*

### THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (6:30, 7:35)

*(Adventure, Fantasy) Critics: B+, DMN: A- Viewers: B-*

### SPEED RACER (7:30)

*(Action/Adventure, Car Racing) Critics: A, C DMN: A Viewers: B-*

### WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS (7:50)

*(Romantic Comedy) Critics: C+, C- DMN: C Viewers: B-*

### IRON MAN (7:10, 8:00)

*(Action/Adventure) Critics: A-, A- DMN: B+ Viewers: A-*

### MADE OF HONOR (8:00)

*(Chick Flick, Romantic Comedy) Critics: C, D- DMN: C Viewers: C+*

### BABY MAMA (8:05)

*(Comedy) Critics: B, B- DMN: B Viewers: A*

### THE FORBIDDEN KINGDOM (7:25)

*(Action/Adventure, Martial Arts) Critics: F DMN: B- Viewers: A*

### PROM NIGHT (7:40)

*(Horror, Terror) Critics: F DMN: not rev'd Viewers: B+*

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## **THE STRANGERS (7:55)**

(Horror, Thriller) Critics: B-, C+ DMN: C Viewers: B+

**Rating:** R - for violence/terror and language

**Running Time:** 90 minutes

**Who's In It?:** Liv Tyler, Scott Speedman

**Synopsis:** James and Kristen (Scott Speedman, Liv Tyler) travel out to a house in the middle of nowhere to relax. However, they won't be doing much of that when they are terrorized by a masked gang of psychos who are trying to torture and kill them.T

**The Basics:** OK, question: If a person with a scarecrow mask on his head walked into your living room and started terrorizing you, wouldn't you run? You would, right? Like, immediately? And if your spouse came home, and you said, "Hey, there's not just one but three masked murderers after us!" and then the spouse tried to make you think you were imagining it, you'd still run right? If you answered yes, then you're not Tyler's character in this horror flick.

**What's the Deal?:** Having said all that, this is not a horrible time at the movies. In fact, it's still creepy and relentlessly jolting, because writer-director Bryan Bertino knows how to keep making you jump in your seat. He's got one gag — the killer leaping out of the dark or emerging unexpectedly in the frame — but he keeps doing it even after you think it's going to stop, and it just gets unnerving after a while.

**What's Seriously Wrong With It:** It relies on the victims being absolute morons and allowing themselves to be boxed in, and it allows for killers who can be everywhere at once and somehow totally silent whenever it suits the movie. There's a scene where Tyler has no idea one of them is coming up behind her. Outside. In the crackling brush of the woods. And the only sound audible to the audience is background score. I turned to my viewing companion and said, "Well, she might have heard the bad maniac approaching if someone had turned down the loud horror music."

**Bottom Line:** It's ridiculous, but you'll still not want to be home alone when it's over.

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## **SEX & THE CITY (7:15)**

(Chick Flick) Critics: B, B- DMN: A- Viewers: B-

**Rating:** R - for strong sexual content, graphic nudity and language

**Running Time:** 148 minutes too long

**Who's In It?:** Sarah Jessica Parker, Cynthia Nixon, Kim Cattrall, Kristin Davis, Chris Noth

**Synopsis:** Picking up where the TV series left off four years ago, Carrie Bradshaw (Sarah Jessica Parker) is on the verge of marrying the love of her life, Mr. Big (Chris Noth). Miranda Hobbes (Cynthia Nixon) must deal with some shocking news from her seemingly devoted husband, Steve (David Eigenberg). Charlotte York Goldenblatt (Kristen Davis) is going to have a baby. Finally, Samantha Jones (Kim Cattrall) is now living in a different city: Los Angeles.T

**The Basics:** When I went to the press screening, a lady from New Line stood in front of the assembled critics and said, "Please don't tell anyone what happens." So here's what else happens besides all the stuff you're not supposed to know about: Carrie buys some Manolo Blahnik shoes, Big does some stuff with and to Carrie, then Miranda utters sex-related wisecracks and gets naked, and Jennifer Hudson introduces Carrie to the purse-renting joys of [www.bagborroworsteal.com](http://www.bagborroworsteal.com). There's a whole lot more, but it's secret.

**What's the Deal?:** Attractive rich people enjoying prohibitively expensive real estate is one of my guilty moviegoing pleasures. And there's a whole lot of consumption going on here. Meanwhile, it can be overstuffed and overlong like this one is, unwinding multiple storylines and meandering around and around and making mountains out of molehills — also like this one does — and still not outstay its welcome. You can chalk that up to the lingering affection these characters have cultivated through years of syndicated repeats on basic cable. They're like *The Brady Bunch* for aging sluts.

**Who Gets Sidelined:** Well, J-Hud seems to have been minimized in the editing bay. But it's the male characters, especially Charlotte's husband, Harry, that seem like afterthoughts. At least Big and Brady and Samantha's blond boy-toy are allowed to be plot catalysts to one degree or another. But Harry has fewer scenes than the adopted daughter.

**Costume Junkies, Take Note:** Rest assured, it's every bit the fashion show the TV series was. In fact, serious attention-payers will notice references to the show's trends and iconic clothing moments given cameos and nods here.

**What It All Feels Like:** Watching a marathon of episodes (five, to be more or less exact) on DVD. And that ain't a bad thing.

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## **INDIANA JONES & THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL**

**(7:00, 7:45)**

*(Action/Adventure)* Critics: B+, B- DMN: B Viewers: B+

**Rating:** PG-13 - for adventure violence and scary images

**Running Time:** 124 minutes

**Who's In It?:** Harrison Ford, Shia LaBeouf, Karen Allen, Cate Blanchett, Ray Winstone

**Synopsis:** In 1957, intrepid archaeologist Indiana Jones (Harrison Ford) is on the verge of losing his job at a prestigious university thanks to some questionable activities he's undertaken recently. He then meets up with a young rebel named Mutt (Shia LaBeouf) who asks Indy to go on another grand adventure: recover a legendary skull made out of crystal which allegedly will allow its owner to rule the world. Traveling down to Peru to an ancient lost city, Indy and Mutt must dodge an evil Russian agent, Irina Spalko (Cate Blanchett), who is after the same object.

**The Basics:** Indy finds himself in the middle of a hunt for a mysterious magnetic object that will unlock a whole lot of secret knowledge and power. No, it's not the Ark again. I said *magnetic*. Anyway, he'll also cross paths with a former flame (Allen), battle a very wacky Russian (Blanchett), have a tag-along annoyance (LaBeouf), an untrustworthy sidekick (Winstone) and at least one run-in with — and you knew this already because it's just famously part of his ongoing story — snakes.

**What's the Deal?** Let's see if I can review this with no spoilery details. I mean, yes, I just told you about the snakes. But that's not exactly the same thing. How's this: It's exactly what you think it will be and exactly what most people will want it to be. It's got plenty of excitement and funny, over-the-top unrealism; the story is ludicrously entertaining; and Ford doesn't try to be 30 years younger (well, not much). If there's anything to complain about, it's that you've been here before, and so there's no real surprise coming your way. But again, for me, that's not much of a complaint.

**What to Look For:** The difference between digital and analog effects. Either digital stuff has gotten so good that it seems three-dimensionally real, or quite a few old-fashioned mechanical-style booby-traps were built for the actors to play on like a whole film's worth of jungle gyms. Either way, it's a blast to watch.

**You'll Love, or You'll Hate:** Blanchett, as the severe, she-wolfish, Russian clairvoyant. She fully understands the cartoon she's signed on to be in, and she leaps around and sword-fights her way into redefining what "over the top" means.

**How Annoying /s Shia LaBeouf?** Not nearly as much as you'd expect. In fact, it seems that this was anticipated by the filmmakers, so they went out of their way to make his character already sort of a tool that you begin hating and learn to not-dislike by movie's end. So that was a smart move.

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## THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA PRINCE CASPIAN (6:30, 7:45)

(Adventure, Fantasy) Critics: B+, DMN: A- Viewers: B-

**Rating:** PG - for epic battle action and violence

**Running Time:** 144 minutes

**Who's In It?:** William Moseley, Anna Popplewell, Skandar Keynes, Georgie Henley, Ben Barnes, Peter Dinklage

**Synopsis:** The Pevensie children finally get to return to Narnia only to find out that over 1,300 years have passed in the magical land and everything and everyone they knew about it is dead and buried. The kingdom is now presided over by the despicable King Miraz (Sergio Castellitto) who rules with an iron fist. So, Lucy, Edmund, Peter and Susan (Georgie Henley, Skandar Keynes, William Moseley, Anna Popplewell) must return the displaced Prince Caspian (Ben Barnes) back to Narnia's throne to bring peace to the world again.

**The Basics:** The kids go back to Narnia (one year later, but 1,300 years later in Narnia time) to help Prince Caspian defeat the evil Telmarines and make the place safe for all Narnians again. But where's Jesus-Lion Aslan to help them? Nowhere to be found, unless you're youngest and most faith-possessing Lucy and you can see him when no one else can.

**What's the Deal?:** That sense of magical otherness that greets you on your first visit to an enchanted land of icy witches and all-seeing animal pals is pretty much impossible to recapture on your second pass through. So it's smart of the movie to dig deeper into the heroic action stuff. And if you don't know to look for them, then you'll take this double-edged fable that's full of biblical references at face value and just enjoy all the epic battling. Whether it's good or bad to be ignorant of the Bible isn't really for me to say.

**Title-Guy Problem:** Barnes as Prince Caspian is kind of an empty shell and spends the whole film with a wooden expression of grim determination on his face. It's really the continuation of the Pevensie kids' story anyway. You're on Caspian's side, of course, but if he didn't have four protectors backing him up, you might not care as much.

**Scene-Stealing By:** Eddie Izzard, who voices a highly confident mouse warrior. I have no idea if this is in the original book. I'm going to guess not. But still, he's really funny.

**Hey, Parents:** For those of you lulled into a false sense of security with the PG rating, you should know that people get killed left and right in this thing, and it's full of war violence. It's just the kind of war where people die without much bloodshed.

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## SPEED RACER (7:30)

(Action/Adventure, Car Racing) Critics: A, C DMN: A Viewers: B-

**Rating:** PG - for sequences of action, some violence and language

**Running Time:** 129 minutes

**Who's In It?:** Emile Hirsh, Christina Ricci, John Goodman, Susan Sarandon, Matthew Fox

**Synopsis:** Based on the classic children's cartoon, Speed Racer (Emile Hirsch) is a young hotshot race-car driver who has a good support team behind him, including his mom (Susan Sarandon), dad (John Goodman) and girlfriend, Trixie (Christina Ricci). With his powerful race-winning Mach 5 vehicle, Speed angers a ruthless mogul (Roger Allam) who is out to control the world of professional racing by "fixing" the competitions. Teaming up with the mysterious Racer X (Matthew Fox), Speed attempts to win the Crucible cross-country rally and keep the sport he loves honest.

**The Basics:** Speed Racer battles capitalism and a huge gang of race-car-driving total cheaters when he takes on the meanest, richest racing tycoon alive and defends the honor of his father, his dead older brother, Rex Racer, and all of the sport of racing by vrooming to the finish line first in the world's biggest vroom-fest. There's also a chimp.

**What's the Deal?** You know what's great about being assigned a review of this movie? I could just write "OOGA-BOOGA, OOGA-BOOGA, YOW-YOW-YOW, TRIXIE!" over and over and people

would go see this anyway. The other great thing about writing "OOGA-BOOGA, OOGA-BOOGA, YOW-YOW-YOW, TRIXIE!" over and over again is that it would actually be a meaningful analysis of the movie, which is brilliantly, manically, brain-meltingly bizarre, the coolest nonsense you'll see all year. It's a win-win for the critic and the audience.

**Favorite Part:** There's a big fight scene — and I mean, this is *the* big fight scene of the whole movie — and the entire thing is accomplished with people leaping into the air and freezing that way in action poses. Seriously. It's like being art-pranked by someone saying, "OK, this is the *idea* of fighting. I'm *commenting* on fighting." And even though you kind of admire the prank player for his nerve, you still want to punch him in the face.

**Other Favorite Parts, Besides All the Scenes With the Chimp, Which Are Usually Automatically My Favorite Part of Any Movie Awesome Enough to Include a Chimp:**

When the characters are allowed to bend time, leaping from one subplot to another. At other moments, they experience the future in fast-forward sequences before returning to the "real" action. Or maybe that future action is really happening in some other dimension? I don't know.

**Net Effect on Your Consciousness:** As though you had just drowned in a huge tilt-a-whirling bowl of psychedelic pudding.

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## **WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS (7:50)**

(Romantic Comedy)      Critics: C+, C-    DMN: C    Viewers: B-

**Rating:** PG-13 - for some sexual and crude content, and language, including a drug reference

**Running Time:** 99 minutes

**Who's In It?:** Cameron Diaz, Ashton Kutcher, Rob Corddry, Lake Bell, Dennis Miller, Queen Latifah

**Synopsis:** Two random strangers (Cameron Diaz, Ashton Kutcher) wake up in a Vegas hotel room and discover that they got married to each other during a night of drunken debauchery. They also learn that one of them won a huge jackpot while playing slots with the other's quarter. They must then spend the entire day retracing their steps to figure out who owns the lucky coin and who actually owns the jackpot.

**The Basics:** Uptight chick and slacker dude meet in Vegas, get drunk, get married, play the slots, win \$3 million, ask a judge for an annulment ... but instead get their winnings frozen and are sentenced to "six months hard marriage," try to ruin each other's life, fall in love. Weirdly enough, it's not as awful (but it *is* just as dumb) as it sounds.

**What's the Deal?:** I've written about this before, so I won't go over it too much again, but my elderly mother lives in a nursing home and sometimes I take her to the movies because, you know, nursing homes can be a drag. And this is exactly the kind of thing she'd enjoy: pretty people, a scenario that will never even happen in the Bizarro World, enough laughs to make you not flat-out hate it for existing and a happy ending.

**As Usual:** The supporting players get all the best stuff to say and do. Is this some kind of law now — that you'd be way happier watching the movie that was about the wisecracking best girlfriend or the jerkwad best buddy?

**Most Recent Film It Steals Its Plot From:** *Knocked Up*, just change out the baby with the money and the funniness with the kinda-sorta funniness.

**Question: Which Current Release Is the Most Realism-Bound: This Film, *Speed Racer* or *Iron Man*? Answer: Yes. Also, no.**

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## IRON MAN (7:10, 8:00)

(Action/Adventure)

Critics: A-, A- DMN: B+ Viewers: A-

**Rating:** PG-13 - for some intense sequences of sci-fi action and violence, and brief suggestive content

**Running Time:** 126 minutes

**Who's In It?:** Robert Downey Jr., Gwyneth Paltrow, Jeff Bridges, Terrence Howard

**Synopsis:** Tony Stark (Robert Downey Jr.) is a billionaire industrialist whose forte is building weapons of mass destruction. When he's severely injured while testing one of those weapons in Afghanistan, he's kidnapped by insurgents and has to build a suit of iron armor to escape his captors. After returning to the U.S., Stark refines his iron creation and transforms himself into a flying metallic repulsor-ray-firing superhero. When his biggest business rival, Obadiah Stane (Jeff Bridges), gets his hands on Stark's original plans, he creates an even bigger iron adversary to defeat Stark once and for all.

**Factoid:** Director Jon Favreau planned out Iron Man as the first in a trilogy, and has signed on all the original actors. He feels that sequels could allow a latitude in tone, and explore darker story elements such as alcoholism, which he intentionally set aside from the first film. Favreau feels depicting Iron Man's nemesis, the Mandarin, will be challenging, as he finds the character (who was created as a metaphor for communism) dated. Downey said he is so passionate for the character that he would make 15 sequels. Cameos include actress Hilary Swank, Iron Man co-creator Stan Lee (whom Stark mistakes for Hugh Hefner), rapper Ghostface Killah, and director Jon Favreau as Stark's bodyguard Happy Hogan.

**The Basics:** A conscience-free war profiteer (Mr. Downey Jr. — think a younger, hornier, more quick-witted Dick Cheney) realizes the error of his ways after getting a taste of his own brutality and develops a supersuit that will restore justice and peace to the world. Of course, there are people who want to stop him ...

**What's the Deal?:** You probably know that, last summer, I was really into *Transformers* and how post-talented Michael Bay was and that it didn't matter that nothing made sense and who cared anyway because it was about giant fighting robots. And I still feel that way. But *this* film, about a giant fighting guy dressed up in a superpowered robot suit, is better, faster and stronger than that other one because he's someone you're genuinely pulling for instead of just cheering on the destruction of it all. That probably marks me as sentimental and weak, but whatever.

**Walking the Line:** Superhero movies often seem to take place in eras that are out of their time or too much in their time. Some things will appear modern, some things won't, Tobey Maguire will speak in this odd, gee-whiz manner, Jack Nicholson's Joker will be very self-consciously '80s-cool and wind up looking dated. This one's modern and funny — "now" but not frozen-in-2008 hip. It gets its tone just right.

**Casting Wins:** Well first, the great news is that Downey Jr. is perfect and seems to be playing a version of himself (talented smartass gets his life pulverized only to rise from the ashes), and Bridges has the perfect shaved head for a bad guy. Only Paltrow continues to annoy. At first, she seems more steel-spined than you've ever seen her. And then she wilts. I want about 15 pounds more Barbara Stanwyck in that woman and soon.

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## MADE OF HONOR (8:00)

(Romantic Comedy)

Critics: C, D- DMN: C Viewers: C+

**Rating:** PG-13 - for sexual content and language

**Running Time:** 101 minutes

**Who's In It?:** Patrick Dempsey, Michelle Monaghan

**Synopsis:** Tom (Patrick Dempsey) has it all: great career, good looks and women falling all over him. Hannah (Michelle Monaghan) is the one woman he's never slept with, and the two of them are platonic best friends. After Hannah leaves for an extended overseas trip, Tom realizes just how much he is in love with her and vows to propose to her when she gets back to the States. However, when Hannah returns, she is engaged to a man (Kevin McKidd) she just met, and she asks Tom to be her "maid" of honor at her wedding. Tom valiantly accepts the job but only as a last ditch attempt to win Hannah's heart and to stop her from marrying someone else.

**The Basics:** He's a womanizer who can only say "I love you" to golden retrievers. She's a smart art restorer who never fell for his lines. They become best friends over mutually boring interests (antiquing! lemon cake!), and when she decides to marry someone else, *he* decides to sabotage it so that he can have her instead.

**What's the Deal?:** When this movie was called *My Best Friend's Wedding*, you at least had the pleasure of watching Rupert Everett steal every scene from the boring leads, you got to hear Cameron Diaz sing karaoke hideously, and then there was the bizarre, inexplicable yet still somehow pleasurable restaurant sing-along scene built around "I Say a Little Prayer for You." *None* of that charming-stuff-around-the-edges exists in this one. It's just one more STOP-THE-WEDDING movie you've seen before. And before. And before.

**Featuring the Wasted Talents Of:** Monaghan. I realize that really great character roles are hard to come by for pretty women like her. But she's managed to find some and do really interesting work. Like in *Gone Baby Gone* or *Kiss Kiss Bang Bang*. And even in that crummy please-give-Charlize-Theron-another-Oscar movie about sexual harassment called *North Country*. It makes me nuts when they finally get their name above the title and then get drained of all humanity. Call it the Life-o-Suction, if you will.

**Dear Fat Women, You're Still a Joke in Case You Hadn't Been Reminded of That in the Past Five Minutes:**

Seriously, there's a part where the bridesmaid, who's a size 12 (OMG! MORBID OBESITY!), tries to pretend to be a size eight so that she can look "pretty" for the wedding, then goes on a stupid crash diet and — here comes the spoiler because it deserves to be spoiled — then at the wedding, her dress rips. It's funny because she's a big ugly pig. Thanks for all that empowering sisterhood, Chick Flick Industry.

**My Pitch for the Next Wedding Movie:** It will star Spencer and Heidi from *The Hills*, and she's getting married in a long-dormant volcano, and he has to stop her wedding by hang gliding into it. Only then, the volcano erupts, and everyone has to run for their lives but then — BAM! — there's Predator, and he decimates them all. The end. Clay Aiken sings the song over the closing credits.

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## BABY MAMA (8:05)

(Comedy)

Critics: B, B- DMN: B Viewers: A

**Rating:** PG-13 - for crude and sexual humor, language and a drug reference

**Running Time:** 96 minutes

**Who's In It?:** Tina Fey, Amy Poehler, Greg Kinnear, Steve Martin

**Synopsis:** Kate (Tina Fey) is a single woman with a successful career who is longing to have a baby. However, instead of putting her climb up the corporate ladder on hold to get pregnant, she hires a surrogate mom (Amy Poehler) to have the kid for her.

**The Basics:** Fancy lady Tina wants white-trash chick Amy to carry her fertilized eggs around, because Tina's insides are a rocky place. They fight and get into wacky situations, and then at the end, Amy says, "You taught me how to be a mother." And she means it. So I just gave you the worst part of the movie right there. Everything else is really, really funny.

**What's the Deal?:** I'll confess to a pre-viewing bias in favor of Fey and Poehler because *30 Rock* is the funniest thing on TV right now and because every time Poehler's in a small film role, the rest of the movie can be sort of "whatever," but she always knocks it out of the park. Having said that, I'm glad my record of being right all the time isn't in danger of being upset, since this one made me laugh from beginning to end. Even if I barely remember why and even if ...

**There Are Problems:** Too mainstream, too safe, too predictable, too soft, too willing to be a normal movie where people are odd but not off-puttingly strange or unlikable. In other words, Poehler doesn't hop around on one leg or scream about her "mad skin tags" like when she does a similar, darker, character on *SNL*. I know that means my mom is going to really love it, but I expect a more jagged brand of comedy from both of these women.

**Number of Useless Characters:** One. That would be Kinnear, who seems to exist in the movie simply to provide a third-act surprise.

**Better Than:** *My Baby's Daddy*, *Baby Boom*, all of the *Look Who's Talking* movies. Not as good as *Citizen Ruth*, *Juno* or *SuperBabies: Baby Geniuses 2*.

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## **THE FORBIDDEN KINGDOM (7:25)**

(Action/Adventure, Martial Arts) Critics: F DMN: B- Viewers: A

**Rating:** PG-13 - for sequences of martial arts action and some violence

**Running Time:** 113 minutes

**Who's In It?:** Jackie Chan, Jet Li, Michael Angarano

**Synopsis:** Jason Williams' (Michael Angarano) obsession with kung fu movies leads him to an antique store, where he finds an ancient Chinese staff. When he grabs hold of the stick, he is transported back in time, where he meets the drunken martial-arts master Lu Yan (Jackie Chan), the Silent Monk (Jet Li) and the beautiful Golden Sparrow (Crystal Liu Yi Fei), who all help Jason return the staff to its rightful owner, the Monkey King, who has been imprisoned by the nefarious Jade Warlord (Collin Chou).

**The Basics:** More *Karate Kidness*. But unlike in the recent *Never Back Down*, this time you actually get Li and Chan to teach the boy how to kung-fu his way to glorious victory over the bad guy.

**What's the Deal?:** So Li finally meets Chan on screen. And, yeah, it should have happened years ago (many, in fact) when they were both at the top of their game and could really indulge in some extreme face-kicking. But it's still kind of cool to witness. If you've seen their old movies, then you know they've both sort of slowed down. But let's say you're a kid, and you've never seen a single martial-arts film before. This one isn't a bad place to start, kind of like Baby's first kung fu. You can read the subtitles on *Drunken Master II* when you're older.

**Fight Flub:** Can someone explain why Chan has to wear robes all the time in this movie? Because if I can't see you fighting, then you might as well be a stunt man. Oh, wait ...

**Urinetown Touring Company Auditions Are Down the Hall, Sorry:** It can't be tip-toed around easily, so I won't. Li pees in Chan's face. Not kidding either. And it kind of goes on for a while, too. Any parents who complain about it should have maybe thought of that before they allowed their kids to watch *Shrek's* fart humor over and over. This is the next step in hilarity.

**Trying to Figure Out Where You've Seen the Kid Before?** He played Sean Hayes' son on *Will & Grace*.

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## **PROM NIGHT (7:40)**

(Horror, Terror) Critics: D+, D DMN: not rev'd Viewers: B

**Rating:** PG-13 - for violence and terror, some sexual material, underage drinking, and language

**Running Time:** 88 minutes

**Who's In It?:** Brittany Snow, Scott Porter, Jessica Stroup, Dana Davis, Collins Pennie, Kelly Blatz

**Synopsis:** Like most teenagers, Donna (Brittany Snow) is expecting her prom night to be the greatest night of her entire life. While the party being hosted at a posh hotel goes off without a hitch, Donna and her friends are pursued by a serial killer in the suite of rooms they've rented for the night.

**The Basics:** Absolutely nothing like the first *Prom Night*, where the killer's identity was kept secret until the final moments, this time, a former teacher turned stalker is after Snow, and you know it immediately. He's already murdered her entire family, spent some time in the nuthouse and escaped. Now he's back because he really, really likes prom. And stabbing former students.

**What's the Deal?** What this makes up for in relative excitement (the original is slow and boring), it loses by virtue of sheer dumbness. In a post-*Scream* world, there's no excuse for the kind of never-seen-a-horror-film antics on display here. More than once, more than TWICE, a victim actually walks into a spookily lit room saying stuff like, "Hello? Is someone there?" So how is the audience meant to respond when they finally get stabbed by the killer who jumps out of the dark at them? That's right, with laughter.

**The Prom is Coming From Inside the House!** My favorite part happens when you realize that the killer has serious ninja skills and is able to not only lay waste to every cop in his path and disguise himself by putting on a hotel employee's uniform but nothing on his face, he's also capable of infiltrating Snow's home and silently kill more people without anyone hearing him.

**What This Film Lacks Besides Scares:** A choreographed disco dance number like in the original. It could have at least had a Jamie Lee Curtis cameo. She could have been the school principal. Something.

**Who Will Like It:** 10-year-olds.

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