

Arts AND ENTERTAINMENT

TROY DAILY NEWS • WWW.TDN-NET.COM

CONTACT US

Send your news to Val Hunt, (937) 440-5265, vhunt@tdnpublishing.com.

A7

December 15, 2006

MOVIE REVIEWS AND SHOWTIMES

BREAKING AND ENTERING — Writer-director Anthony Minghella leaves viewers with their faces pressed to the glass, looking in on but not really involved with this dramatic study of a London couple and an immigrant mother and son whose lives cross over a series of burglaries. Rich performances from past Minghella collaborators Jude Law, Juliette Binoche and Ray Winstone, along with Robin Wright Penn, bring more depth and soul to the film than the somewhat superficial characters and overly contrived situations warrant. Law plays a landscape architect drawn together with a teenage Bosnian thief and his mother. An emotional frostiness in much of Minghella's work is distinctly present here, hindering the audience's ability to connect with the people on screen. R for sexuality and language. 119 min. Two and a half stars out of four.

CHARLOTTE'S WEB — Gary Winick would seem an unlikely choice to direct this live-action, computer-animated adaptation, with an A-list cast providing the voices of the classic children's book's talking animals. (Julia Roberts as Charlotte! With Oprah Winfrey as Gussy the goose! And Robert Redford as Ike the horse!) Winick co-founded the production company Indigent, known for stripped-down movies shot on digital video like "Chelsea Walls," "Pieces of April" and Winick's own "Tadpole," in which a 15-year-old boy falls in love with his stepmom. But he also directed "13 Going on 30," the charming Jennifer Garner comedy that struck just the right balance of childlike enthusiasm and grown-up insight. And he's done the same here. Winick stays mostly faithful to E.B. White's beloved book about a runty, idealistic pig (voiced movingly by 10-year-old Dominic Scott Kay) whose life is saved first by a little girl (the perfectly cast Dakota Fanning), then by a resourceful (and literate) spider. Corny? Overly simplistic? Perhaps. But those were grown-ups snuffing and wiping away tears at a recent screening — not kids — as the story reaches its heart-tugging conclusion. And there's no shame in that. G. 90 min. Three stars out of four.

DREAMGIRLS — The title of the film is "Dreamgirls" but it could have been called "A Star Is Born." Former "American Idol" contestant Jennifer Hudson absolutely walks away with this big, splashy dazzler of a picture, based on the 1981 Broadway musical, even before performing her plaintive, show-stopping number, "And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going." And that's quite a feat. Writer-director Bill Condon ("Gods and Monsters," "Kinsey"), who was nominated for a screenwriting Oscar for best-picture winner "Chicago," has crafted an endlessly entertaining, technically triumphant film. In following the rise of a Supremes-style Detroit trio — played by Hudson, Beyonce Knowles and Anika Noni Rose — the music, choreography, costumes, lighting and makeup are all superb. The editing is consistently fluid, the energy high. Yet the ending is so rushed it'll make your head spin (Condon really crams a lot into those last 20 minutes or so) and the whole thing is just hard to take seriously — especially "And I Am Telling You," which in the past 25 years has become a favorite drag-queen anthem. Jamie Foxx is sufficiently sleazy as the group's two-timing manager, with Eddie Murphy revisiting his "Saturday Night Live" James Brown impression as an R&B sex machine. PG-13 for language, some sexuality and drug content. 131 min. Three stars out of four.

ERAGON — This sword-and-sorcery tale loots its plot points and character archetypes from millennia of standard-issue mythology, old and new, including "Star Wars" and "The Lord of the Rings." It does offer some striking visual effects and a climactic battle of computer-generated combatants that's rousing enough, even if it looks like outtakes from the epic clash of "The Return of the King." And to the movie's credit, director Stefan Fangmeier has rounded up a top-notch cast, including Academy Award winners Jeremy Irons and Rachel Weisz, along with John Malkovich, Djimon Hounsou and Robert Carlyle. Adapted from Christopher Paolini's novel, the movie stars newcomer Ed Speleers as a farm boy who becomes a "dragon rider," "cruising the skies on his own personal dragon (voiced by Weisz) and battling an evil king. PG for fantasy violence, intense battle sequences and some frightening images. 103 min. Two stars out of four.

TARP



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Covering the Miami Valley music scene

BY VAL HUNT
Staff writer
vhunt@tdnpublishing.com

TROY

This band just clicks. In 2005, five individuals who split from their respective bands responded to an online advertisement seeking "like-minded, mature musicians who were interested in performing a diverse mix of music in a long term, stable band relationship."

A few clicks brought the group together, and now Tarp, whose original goal was to play a few times each month, had nearly 80 gigs last year.

"It was a miracle how we all ended up together," said guitarist Jim Sprance about the audition.

In addition to Sprance on guitar, the online ad also generated guitarist/vocalist Brian Weaver, Fred Waldren on bass and acquired a two-fer with the married duo, drummer Todd (Theo Stix) and front-woman Lori Geuder.

"We were looking for a drummer and a singer and found both in Lori and Todd," Sprance said. "This was a dream come true because we always wanted a female lead."

Members agreed the band rapidly gelled.

"The power and energy took place fairly quickly," Weaver said.

But the band clicked on a personal level as well.

"I think (our) biggest element is the human chemistry," Weaver said. "We've always been at ease with each other."

Todd Geuder agreed, "There's not a lot of ego out here, and that's what makes this work. ... We have good communication, which a lot of bands don't have."

Despite members having a "messy divorce" from some of their previous co-rockers, the experience

with other groups proved to be valuable in developing Tarp's sound.

"When we left the other bands, we knew what we liked and didn't like," Weaver said.

Their diverse musical backgrounds also contribute to the overall effect. Lori Geuder had been performing in band and choir since she was in high school and even "pursued music" all the way to Chicago.

"I followed a guitar player," she laughed. Then that guitar player recruited a drummer, whom Lori Geuder married.

Weaver's competitiveness with his "pseudo-sibling" best friend deepened his interest in performing. It was via an onstage performance that he met his wife, as well.

Todd Geuder was first enveloped in a drum set when he was 8 years old.

out of the Air Force, Sprance said he was ready to get back into music.

"This was in my blood from the time I was 15 years old," Sprance said. "Performing is an addiction," Weaver added. "It's just like going over the first hill of a roller coaster, and that rush keeps going the rest of the time."

Members assembled and mission at heart, Tarp was ready to enter the Miami Valley music scene.

They had the talent, the know-how, the inspiration and the desire to perform. But the Tarp-ists had a few extra elements to consider — families and full-time jobs. Tarp had assembled its members and started developing a unique harmony: A melody of musical devotion blended with the counter-melody of work and family — the basis of Tarp's soul.



Blues and soul music had a major influence on Waldren. He said he always gravitated toward 'n' roll and surf music, but he discovered how blues affected rock as he knew it.

"I took the time to appreciate the background of (rock), and I got into blues and soul, and I saw how it transferred into rock," he said.

Sprance said he could pinpoint his rock infatuation to the hour.

"It was 8:15 on a Sunday night in 1964. I was watching the Ed Sullivan Show and saw the Beatles," he said.

"I watched George Harrison play guitar and I thought, 'I gotta do that.'"

Once his children grew and he was

"We live in three different worlds: family, job, band," Sprance said.

With scales balanced and scales rehearsed, Tarp hit area venues with a repertoire of cover songs. In fact, the band's namesake was based on that idea. Tarp promises its audience to "cover it all." From blues to rock to country, Tarp delivers a variety of musical genres.

"We do it all and make it our own," Todd Geuder said.

At first, members agreed going onstage was a little rough. They had to stick to their play lists and work on a comfortable level, but eventually, individuals developed skills, honed their talents, and now

Above, members of area cover band Tarp get in a power stance. From left are bassist Fred Waldren, lead vocals/lead guitar Brian Weaver, lead vocals Lori Geuder and lead guitarist Jim Sprance. Below is drummer Todd Geuder, aka Theo Stix.

Weaver and Sprance say they can just watch each other's fingers dance across the fretboards as they ad lib guitar breaks. The lead singer has overcome her stage fright, too.

"As we play together more, Lori has really come out of her shell," Weaver said. "There are times when she really gets into the zone, and Jim and I just step back and think, 'whoa.' She just blows everyone away."

"I wanted to sing and do nothing else," Lori Geuder confessed. "Todd helped me with my confidence." She still sings, but members said the intrepid troubadour also picks up a guitar, uses props and interacts with the audience and other members onstage. They said their chantress has learned to perform and not just vocalize.

Tarp's chemistry has brought the group closer on personal and professional levels. Members said they enjoy playing together so much, they gauge their overall success on how their music makes them and their audience feel.

"Of all the comments people say, the ones we get the most are, 'You guys really like each other,'" Sprance said. Tarp-sters say their payment is feeding off the audience's response.

"We've outgrown any delusions of grandeur we have of making it big," Waldren said. "We're satisfied with having fun."

But if Tarp's intimacy is not apparent to the crowd by the end of the show, members can wipe away any shadow of doubt with their closing ritual.

"One thing that blows me away is that everybody in the band hugs each other at the end of the night," Sprance said. "That's unheard of elsewhere."

Catch Tarp at 9:30 p.m. Saturday at the Avalanche Lounge in Troy. For more information, visit www.tarp-band.com.

CINEMARK
THE BEST SEAT IN TOWN
CINEMA 6 - MIAMI VALLEY
1-75 Exit 82 Miami Valley Centre Mall 937-773-7295
FRI., DEC. 15TH - TUES., DEC. 19TH ONLY
PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS (PG-13) (1:00) 4:00, 7:00 [10:20]
DECK THE HALLS (PG) (1:15) 7:10
SANTA CLAUSE 3 (G) 4:05 [10:10]
ERAGON (PG) (1:25) 4:25, 7:20 [10:25]
HAPPY FEET (PG) (1:20) 4:20, 7:25 [10:00]
THE NATIVITY STORY (PG) (1:10) 4:10
DEJA-VU (PG-13) 7:05 [10:15]
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) (1:05) 4:15, 7:15 [10:05]
Pass restricted movies, () Sat & Sun Only
() Fri & Sat Only

MOVIES 5 STADIUM SEATING
SHERWOOD SHOPPING CTR. 339-FILM
NOW ACCEPTING MC & VISA FOR TICKETS & CONCESSIONS
HAPPY FEET
FRI 5:10 7:30 9:45 SAT 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:45 PG
APOCALYPTO FRI 4:00 6:45 9:30 SAT 1:15 4:00 6:45 9:30 R
THE HOLIDAY FRI 4:30 7:15 10:00 SAT 1:00 4:30 7:15 10:00 PG
CHARLOTTE'S WEB
FRI 4:50 7:00 9:15 SAT 12:45 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:15 G
ERAGON FRI 5:00 7:20 9:45 SAT 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:20 9:45 PG
MAYFLOWER 4
9 WEST MAIN - 339-FILM
DECK THE HALLS
FRI 5:00 7:30 9:30 SAT 1:30 3:30 5:30 7:30 9:30 PG
UNACCOMPANIED MINORS
FRI 4:45 7:00 9:00 SAT 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00 PG
BLOOD DIAMOND FRI 4:15 7:15 10 SAT 1:15 4:10 7:15 10 R
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS
FRI 4:30 7:20 9:30 SAT 12:30 2:30 4:30 7:20 9:30 PG13
www.TEICHERTHEATERS.com 84936

Floors & More To Your Door!
Shop at home for your Flooring and Window Treatments. Call the Home Decorating Center Today and have a Decorator on staff bring flooring and fabric samples to you! Let us help you make the right choice for your home!
Professional service. Quality products. Affordably priced- Guaranteed!
Call us or visit on-line for more details. (937)-440-8800 or www.HDCTroy.com
Located Downtown Troy, 113 E. Main St. PRID ADVERTISEMENT 84872

Public Skating Schedule
Hobart Arena
Friday, December 15th, 8-10pm
Saturday, December 16th, 2-4pm
Saturday, December 16th, 8-10pm
Adults: \$4.50, Children (14 and under): \$3.75
Skate Rental \$2.25 Group Rates for Groups of 20 or More.
Contact the Hobart Arena office for further info at 339-2911 or www.hobartarena.com. Office Hours: M-F 8am-5pm. Sat 9am-12 Noon.

TROJAN INSURANCE AGENCY
SERVING MIAMI COUNTY SINCE 1939
339-2674
1401 W STONycREEK Rd., Troy
PERSONAL SERVICE, you DESERVE it.
www.trojaninsurance.biz
STATE AUTO
INSURANCE COMPANIES

Take your first step to feeling good, looking great and making a memorable impression every time you smile. You owe it to yourself!
Find out more about Zoom! professional tooth whitening
Andrew R. Jackson, DDS
289 Looney Rd., Piqua 778.1700 **CALL TODAY**

ROUND UP A FEW FRIENDS!
And Come See Us At The...
PIQUA FLEA MARKET
State Route 36 & Looney Rd. (Behind Home Depot)
Located just minutes from TROY & SIDNEY. Exit 82 off I-75 / US 36E to Looney Rd. turn left.
Open Year Round: Saturday 9:00-5:00 and Sunday 10:00-5:00
OPEN Dec. 23 & Dec. 26 9am-5pm
SPECIAL HOLIDAY HOURS:
CLOSED CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY
NEW YEAR'S EVE & NEW YEAR'S DAY 10am-5pm
Dealer Space Available! Low Rates! Phone (937) 778-2299 or 615-0860