

Arts and Entertainment

James Cameron: king of the film world

By Mica Paulicheck
Staff Writer

James Cameron's *Avatar* was definitely a hit this winter. The director's futuristic twist on saving the environment, combined with epic battle scenes and a touching love story really connected with the audience.

Avatar is about Jake Sully (Sam Worthington) who takes the place of his late scientist twin brother in the Avatar Program on distant planet Pandora. On his first day out, connected with his new body, Sully is attacked and chased by one of the many interesting-if-not-strange beasts of Pandora, and is separated from this rest of his group, including Dr. Grace Augustine (Sigourney Weaver) and Norm Spellman (Joel Moore). Neytiri (Zoe Saldana), daughter of the Na'vi leader Eytukan (Wes Studi), deems him special and saves his life, bringing him into the village. She is told to teach him the ways of the clan, and learn more about him and the Sky People. Colonel Miles Quaritch (Stephen Lang) wants war with the Na'vi, and tells Sully to find out as much about the Omatikaya clan as possible. Sully is also supposed to convince the Omatikaya to leave their home, a giant tree, because the humans are planning on destroying it in order to get a hold of a mineral known as Unobtainium.

All in all, *Avatar* is fairly fast-paced with a mix of intensity and seren-

ity that holds the audience's attention, and is especially entrancing in 3D. The effects were great, and once you got used to the appearance of the Na'vi characters, you could almost believe they were real. In 3D, the movie was more captivating than without the extra effects, and it was more personal, sort of like being there. My favorite effect was the flying Ikran; large winged animals that a Na'vi must tame and ride to become a warrior. The performances were good, and the movie itself was a success. Cameron should be pleased with himself, having created a digital experience that is fast becoming the all-time best movie, taking place of *Titanic*, which was also his creation. *Avatar* is a movie people enjoy, and as well as putting out his message of forest preservation and in a way, peace on earth, James Cameron once again managed to capture the heart and feeling of the audiences.

I recommend this movie to anyone who has a love of fantasy and action and can accept the message being delivered, whether they believe in it or not.



Photo Courtesy of Google Images.

Lost continued...

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Sayid if his body is being used as a vessel by Jacob (much like John Locke's body is now occupied by the man in black/smoke monster).

We do know—that is, if we trust the temple Others—that something dark is growing in Sayid. But what exactly? Could his body have been claimed by the smoke monster? Maybe. If they want to keep the monster out of the temple, then it would make sense for their leader to slip Sayid a poisonous pill.

Finally we know that Claire is still out there—even if she's looking and acting more like Rousseau these days. There's not much more to be sure of other than the fact that she's alive, she has a "darkness" growing in her, and

she shoots to kill. Lucky for Jin, who was about to be the target of some misdirected Other violence before Claire came along.

We've also seen Claire in her parallel universe after landing in LAX. Through a strange series of events, Kate ends up taking Claire to the hospital when she feels she might be going into labor. Even creepy Other Ethan is there at the hospital—fitting because he's the one who tried so hard to get Claire to give up her baby to the Others. Thank goodness Charlie killed him.

One more surprise was Sawyer's tearful admission to Kate that he was going to propose to Juliet. Now that she's gone, Sawyer's gone more rogue than ever: escaping from

Tim Burton's Alice in Wonderland: A very important date

By Erica Patterson
Staff Writer

Millions of people around the world are anxiously awaiting the arrival of "a very important date": March 5, 2010. From the director of movies such as *The Nightmare before Christmas*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *Corpse Bride* comes a mysterious story that only Tim Burton, himself, could create. Burton takes a darker, more bizarre twist on the classic Lewis Carroll story of *Alice in Wonderland* and creates an entirely new look to the characters and the plot.

19-year-old Alice (Mia Wasikowska) attends a party at a Victorian estate and later is proposed to in front of hundreds of guests. Running away and following a white rabbit, Alice disappears into a rabbit hole and returns to the magical world of Wonderland. Even though Alice had visited Wonderland ten years earlier, she has no memory of her adventure. She is reunited with some familiar friends and begins to learn of her true destiny: to end the Red Queen's reign of terror.

Being a Tim Burton fan, I was definitely ecstatic when I found out about the movie. I hope that everyone wants to see this movie just as badly as I do, since I've never been disappointed in any of Burton's movies. The fact that Tim Burton gives the characters a twisted, bizarre makeover is what draws me to see-



Photo Courtesy of Google Images.



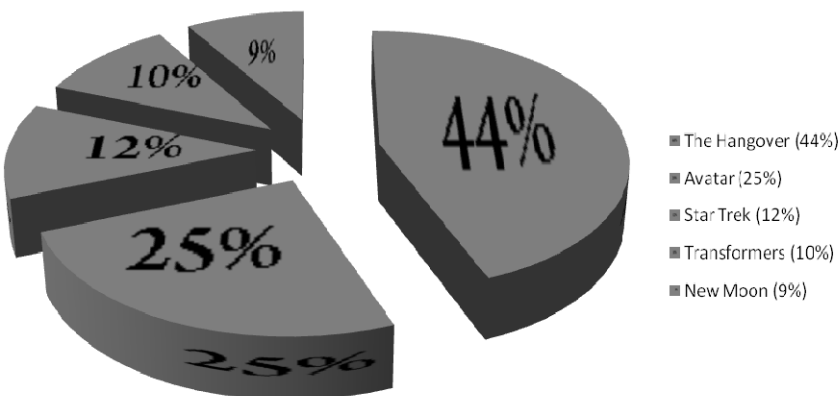
Photo Courtesy of Google Images.

ing this film; the way he creates a twist in the plot while having it similar to the original story puts me on the edge of my seat.

Some of the well-loved characters that will appear in the movie are The Mad Hatter (Johnny Depp), The Red Queen (Helena Bonham Carter), The White Queen (Anne Hathaway), and Tweedledee/Tweedledum (Matt Lucas). Characters such as The Cheshire Cat (Stephen Fry), The White Rabbit (Michael Sheen), and The Caterpillar (Alan Rickman) are computer ani-

mated. One thing to expect with The Red Queen is the size of her head, which is computer animated 3 times larger than normal size. This thrilling adventure will also be presented in 3-D in select theatres and 2-D in all theatres, so don't be late!

Freeman's Top 5 Favorite Movies of 2009



the temple and barely able to look at Kate. Could the Kate/Sawyer/Jack love triangle be just a ghost of its former self? Sawyer might not be interested at the moment, but it sure seemed like Jack was. Before

Kate and Jin head out of the temple to find Sawyer, Jack grabs her arm and they share a goodbye and a knowing look.

Looks like we have to wait and see what fate has planned for that relationship.

Arts and Entertainment

The MAC: great for all

Rachel Robinson
Staff Writer

Most wouldn't think of Spokane as a city with much art and culture, but it really is. From music to art for the eye—and even hands on art—Spokane has got it. In the heart of downtown Spokane is the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture (MAC). The art and exhibits displayed at the MAC changes every few months, so your visit the museum doesn't have to be a one time thing.

Some exhibits that are currently displayed at the MAC are Plateau Celebrations: Cultural Transitions in the Indian Reservation Era, which is a collection of portrait paintings, clothing, and archival photos that demonstrate the American Indian cultural transitions from the 1930s reservation era. Some of the things on display are a diary, a canoe that looked difficult to have ridden in, and other artifacts as well. Some of the collection dates back to the 1800s.

There is also the Spokane Timeline: Personal Voices, which is a collection that tells of past important people of the area and many artifacts that depict life in Spokane through the ages. A lot of the collection is what you would expect from most cities through history, but it's still interesting to compare your life with the lives of those who lived in the same place, just in a different time.

The most interesting exhibit was America at a Crossroads: From the Jazz Era to World War II, which shows



how important music was around WWII and the years that followed. There were old black and white movies playing on projectors of people swing dancing. There was also an area set up for the viewers' personal opinion on music then and now, and the effects of racial segregation and the influence music had on the people of this time.

The MAC is filled with a ton of Spokane's history; history we didn't even know about. It was really interesting, and it was a great way to know more about the city we live in. It's not just a museum of paintings and sculptures, but a museum where learning is very easy.

Viewing these historical exhibits aren't the only things to do at the MAC. There are many hands-on activities, and other things that are very visual-learning friendly. The MAC is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and with a student ID, it only costs \$5 (\$7 for an adult).

I Think Ur a Contra

By Terin Saylor
Staff Writer

The music world might have been distracted by the release of Vampire Weekend's much anticipated second album, *Contra*, which was released January 12.

The New York City quartet gained their attention for their fresh style, making an unlikely, yet enjoyable, blend of Afro-Pop and new wave. They have truly made a name for themselves in the music industry.

Vampire Weekend left us wanting more after their debut album, *Vampire Weekend*, and this fits the bill. These Columbia grads have the genre of Upper West Side Afro-Pop all to themselves, and on *Contra*, they seem to know what to do with it.

When they announced plans to release *Contra*, excitement and skepticism sprung up in the music community. Their sound is very unique, which brought up some questions on whether or not they could actually keep their fun, quirky spirit going for another record.

At first listen, *Contra* (a reference to the '80s video game by the same name) is somewhat confusing. So was the second. And the third. Af-

ter the fourth, it finally made some sense. The booming lilt-ing "Giving Up the Gun" isn't about revolution and strife; it's indie rock. The gun in question is a guitar. Most pointedly, the "Contra" is a girl that front-man Ezra Koenig can't get his head around. It's a brilliant metaphor for a guy who portrays himself as in this world: a soulful, rebel incognito among the cold-eyed players.

There are fewer guitars and a far richer sound bed. The African sources are still audible, but this time Congolese thumb pianos, reminiscent of



Konono No.1, crop up upon the album's busy and up-tight single opening track, "Horchata." This is Vampire Weekend to the core. The message of reminiscing upon the past is clear. Also,

something must be said about Koenig's creative rhyming of 'horchata' and 'balaclava' in the opening lines. It's so absurd, it works.

The forthcoming single is "Cousins", which was released on November 17, 2009. It's worth listening to and is definitely a party tune. Short enough to get everyone raving, long enough to have it echo in your brain- in a good way of course-, and adequately bizarre to make you want to listen to the whole album.

The Lovely Bones: A great novel between heaven and earth

By Kai Ratheiser
Staff Writer

The novel starts with narrator Susie Salmon describing from heaven, her death through being raped by a lonely man from the neighborhood she lived in when she was 14. Nobody really assumes he could be the murderer of that poor girl. Her family went crazy during that time feeling completely helpless, and the police can't find any evidence. As Susie's father helps the lonely man, named Mr. Harvey, to build a tent in his backyard, he feels that something is wrong with this person. As the policeman, Len Fenerman, interviewed Mr. Harvey about the sad case, he recognized that he is a weird guy, but he cannot find any clues about the dead girl at Harvey's. Later, Susie's little sister, Lindsey,

starts following clues, as do some of Susie's friends. The story goes further into the relationship and how Susie observes the life on earth, while her family changes completely.

The author, Alice Sebold, was raped during her freshman year at university. This drastic event in her past transformed her life. Later, she learned that the rapist's previous victim had died. She reported him later to the police as she saw him on the street. The rapist received the maximum sentence after he was convicted. She began *The Lovely Bones* in the early 1990s.

While Susie is in heaven, she manages to grow up; her perspective and tone change throughout the novel. The whole world she has built in "her" heaven, where she gets everything she really wants to

have is amazing. But, she also recognizes that she is never going to be able to return to earth, which is sad when she wants to send signs down there but it doesn't work no matter how hard she tries though.

All in all, Sebold's writing amazes her audience throughout the book with her precise descriptions, and understandable language. Sebold did a great job and satisfied me completely. If you were going to watch the movie, I would recommend that you to read the book first, so that you can imagine

your own image of "her" heaven. Excellent book.

