

BY DUNCAN H. BROWN

MOVIE REVIEW

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST STARRING JOHNNY DEPP, ORLANDO BLOOM & KEIRA KNIGHTLY

Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest is a fun, frenetic movie. It's like a theme-park ride brought to life, which is no coincidence since *Pirates of the Caribbean*, a popular Walt Disney World ride, is the source of the idea for these movies.

As a continuance of the original *Pirates of the Caribbean: the Curse of the Black Pearl*, it brings back the stellar cast that we came to know and love in the first movie. The film is buoyed along by a stirring, heroic soundtrack, and wastes no time in immersing the characters in a whirlwind adventure and quest, beset with monstrous creatures, dastardly villains, and extremely funny supporting characters.

Unlike *Superman Returns*, in *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest* director Gore Verbinski realizes he's directing a comic book and not a serious movie with the weight of the world on its shoulders. He relaxes and lets the actors and actresses have fun. There are wondrous special effects, but they're all in the service of the story. You won't soon forget the mill wheel, or the human balls, or the Kraken.

Depp is again great fun as the slightly odd pirate captain Jack Sparrow. Orlando Bloom shines as the virtuous Will Turner. Keira Knightly is even better in this movie than in the first as heroine Elizabeth Swann; she shows us a lively spunkiness that dominates the screen whenever she's in a scene.

This movie sets us up for a sequel, but even with its unfinished business it's a fun ride and a good way to spend a hot summer afternoon or evening.

Watching this *Pirates*, I was reminded

of the Mummy movies starring Brendan Fraser. With pirates and monsters and supernatural forces, this could have been made as a gory, terrifying horror movie. But its light-hearted core makes it a movie that almost anyone can enjoy, though young children might be frightened by some of the (slightly) gory parts. If they go to the movie, they just have to understand that the monsters and scary-looking people they see on-screen aren't real; then they'll be fine.

NEW & NOTABLE ON DVD

The Matador starring Pierce Brosnan and Greg Kinnear. Reportedly a very funny, well-made movie about a hit man (Brosnan) coming apart and questioning his life. Greg Kinnear is a salesman he meets in a hotel. This film is aimed at mature adults; it's a character study.

MOVIE LEXICON: THRILLER

A genre where the hero has to figure out a mystery, generally while being chased at breakneck pace by the law and by mysterious and menacing bad guys. The hero must outwit and outfight experienced killers, all while figuring out what's going on and why he's being chased. This genre often requires that you suspend your disbelief, and overlook such trifling matters as the laws of physics and the limitations of the human body. If the thriller is well-made, you never have time to consider that if the hero were not being chased, he or she probably wouldn't ever have a clue about the secret that the villains are fighting to protect. Luckily, thriller villains are not smart enough to figure this out, even if they're evil geniuses in every other respect. Their tragic blind spot in this regard allows thrillers to continue to be made.

-DHB