

# A VIEW FROM THE COUCH-- MOVIES FOR RENT AND MOVIES RE-RELEASED

By Rich Davenport

That's right, I'm baaaaaaaaaack! Welcome to the first installment of the Couch for this year. I've been away for a while, but you know, it's good to be back. I'm going to stick with my original format: three movies an issue, some video releases and some theatrical. This month, we're going with Lethal Weapon 4, Blade, and Saving Private Ryan.

Okay, first up is Lethal Weapon 4. Fans of this series will take note that this should be the last installment. Riggs and Murtaugh (Mel Gibson and Danny Glover, respectively, for those of you unfamiliar with Lethal Weapon) are back for one more round. They are promoted to captains, as the chief of police seems to think that this will keep them off the streets. It seems that the police force's insurance policies can't keep up with the destructive manner in which they handle their cases.

The promotion idea doesn't exactly work well; the guys manage to find trouble anyway, and chaos ensues. The climatic scene is worth the rental itself. Not the "last fight" bit, but the epilogue. It's great. Director Richard Donner, who claimed

that Lethal Weapon 3 was his last on the project returns to his most famous series anyway, and his control of action scenes is admirable.

The sound and special effects are terrific, as is the comedy from Gibson, Glover, supporting actor Joe Pesci, and newcomer Chris Rock. The scenes in which Leo (Pesci) and Butters (Rock) interact are particularly amusing. Lethal Weapon 4 is available on video, and it's worth the three bucks. Although it's just a bunch of fluff, it is fun fluff.

Next on the Couch, it's the Wesley Snipes vehicle Blade. Blade is based on the Marvel Comics character of the same name, but this movie is definitely not for the kids. The basis is that Blade (Snipes) is a vampire hunter with special powers which he gained when his mother was bitten while pregnant with him.

He and his partner, Whistler move from town to town hunting the "undead" with special weapons designed by Whistler.

This is not a bad movie, but the whole story is just another regenerated comic book plot with a little tweaking. While the whole thing reeks of Tim Burton's Batman

series, the idea is a good one. The action sequences are shot well and choreographed well, but the editing often makes the film look jumpy, a feel which makes the viewer think that they rushed something.

Towards the middle of the movie, the viewer is beginning to realize what's going to happen; the film's predictability is its major downfall. Not exactly a new concept, but fun action sequences and seeing Wesley Snipes as a kind of "Terminator" with a supernatural twist is enjoyable to watch. I'd say rent it if you like the whole MTV-juiced film genre. (Lots of music and action, not long on plot.) Blade is available for rent, and I would wait until you have a coupon to pick this one up, unless it is your kind of flick.

Last, but definitely not the least, of the selections this month is Steven Spielberg's Saving Private Ryan. This one was recently re-released in theaters for the big Oscars push, but it didn't need to be.

It is doubtful that anyone who saw this film will forget it soon. The cinematography is the key in this one. The rolling landscapes and the invasion scene at the

beginning of this masterful film capture the audience and don't let go. The main point of the film is a search for one soldier in a huge war. This may seem like a trivial subject for a film, but this movie is so much more.

Saving Private Ryan is a testimony to the human spirit and will, an examination of what fellowship means, and a look into the most violent and earth-shaking war in modern history.

Spielberg's mastery of direction is evident in every aspect of this film, from the quiet reflective scenes in which Tom Hanks ponders the reasons behind the war and life to the bone jarring attack on Normandy Beach to the gentle grief of the elder Private Ryan in the prologue and epilogue of the film.

This is almost a shoe in for at least Best Picture, Best Director and Best Cinematography at the Academy Awards in March. Go see this one, no matter what. See it in the theater while you still have a chance.

## MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT: JILL MARQUARDT

By Lisa LeGrand



Jill Marquardt surrounded by her art work.

Photograph by John Hannemer.

"Jill's ideas in art are often ambitious and either entertaining or meaningful... As a student she is not only a quick study, but she is a wonderful presence in the classroom or studio. Her sense of humor and play make her a pleasure to teach and will make her a beloved teacher," said Professor Keith Williams, teacher and travel companion to Mexico, of Jill Marquardt.

"I love art because I'm not very good at expressing myself with words and letting people in. With my art I can do both those things, express myself and let people know me," said Jill Marquardt.

Jill is a senior in the Art Education program for grade school age students in a public school. She'll graduate in May.

Jill enjoys black and white photography more than any other form of art. She said, "There are a lot of things I love about photography. I love how classic photography is. I love the simplicity and honesty of black and white photos. I love the way you can use light to express a feeling or emotion."

If you haven't seen any of Jill's art work, don't miss her senior art recital in the Music Building gallery space starting on March 8th, with a reception on March 13th, and running through March 31st.

Jill has not only been involved in art, but she's also played volleyball for four years and was captain her senior year. She was also a trumpet player in the CSP band for two years, has worked in the Athletic Department for two years, is a member of IMAGES Art Club, and has been a Resident Assistant in Hyatt for two years.

## The Movie Guy: Go out to the Movies

By: Joe Neuenfeldt

**Payback \*\*\*\***

Summary

Mel Gibson stars as Porter. (We never did hear his first name). Porter is a man seeking revenge and money that was wrongfully stolen from him. Porter will do anything to get his money back, even if it means killing everyone.

Opinion

Payback is pretty good in that "Pulp Fiction" kind of way. There is tons of violence, some drug use. The movie contains a very dark sense of humor.

Who Would Like It

Anyone who likes a lot of blood and violence should enjoy Payback.

**Rushmore \*\*\*1/2**

Summary

Bill Murray stars as the father of two boys who attend Rushmore. Murray's character meets Max, a very odd 15 year old who purposely does poorly in school just so he can stay there. Their friendship turns to war when they both fall in love with the same woman, a first grade teacher.

Opinion

Rushmore is humorous and quite odd. Max is mature and immature for his age,

but Bill Murray's character is the same way. Rushmore was very entertaining and also the weirdest movie I've ever seen.

Who Would Like It

Rushmore is a very dark comedy, but anyone looking for a good laugh should enjoy it.

**She's All That \*\*\***

Summary

Freddie Prinze Jr. stars as a star athlete, class president, and all around high school stud who gets dumped by his gorgeous girlfriend. Instead of wallowing, Prinze Jr.'s character accepts a bet from a friend to take the class weirdo and turn her into the prom queen. In the end, of course, he falls for her.

Opinion

She's All That is kind of predictable and far fetched, but has a sweet side. It's hard to believe that high school kids can do what these kids do, but it makes the movie funnier and more entertaining.

Who Would Like It

Girls and maybe guys with girlfriends.