

A GHOSTLY MISADVENTURE

He's and American. She's a ghost. How much more romance do you want in a movie?

High Spirits, the new ghost spoof written and directed by Neil Jordan, is just the finals break everyone is looking for.

Based in Ireland in the old forlorn Castle Plunkett, High Spirits begins rather slow and predictable, but fortunately picks up.

One of the main characters, Peter Plunkett played by Peter O'Toole, is what you might call a 'one gin and tonic too many' type of fellow. Being in charge of this castle, manned by a motley crew of servants, Plunkett decides to turn the whole works into a Haunted Hotel to earn some much needed cash. (Scary music inserted here).

As the first batch of unsuspecting guests arrive, the chaotic result is a close relation to a bizarre Monty Python film I once saw. But as Plunkett and his servants are trying their bests to scare these poor American 'Yanks', something behind the old stone walls is beginning to happen. There truly are ghosts harboring there. And they're pissed.

The true story, although, is between Jack and Mary. Enter stage right please. Jack, portrayed by Steve Guttenberg is one of the guests of the Haunted Hotel. Along with his wife Sharon, Jack happened to stumble on this lovely second honeymoon idea. How romantic. The audience soon realizes though, that Sharon is the tightest sardine to ever be packed and really needs someone to slap her up. The term 'rich bitch' was exclusively coined for her existence.

Mary, played by Daryl Hannah, is the complete opposite of 'lovely' Sharon. Her only flaw is that she is a ghost.

High Spirits is a unique film constructed for the audience that really needs to let go and laugh. The action is non-stop and the ending is slightly unpredictable (unlike it's start).

Like all ghost or science fiction films, attention to special effects in very important and essential. High Spirits did a wonderful and truly entertaining job in this area.

This film opens today, Friday, November 18, at many Twin Cities theatres. If finals are starting to hassle you, take a break and take in High Spirits. The laughs are easy to come by and your imagination truly has time to roam and have fun with this film. I guarantee you'll learn a few things you didn't already know!

A TASTE OF ITALY

If you enjoy people watching and a touch of Italian ambience. I have found the perfect restaurant -- Figlio! Figlio, which means "son" in Italian, is located on the upbeat, trendy corner of Lake and Hennepin in Calhoun Square. Yes folks, that is Uptown Minneapolis. Figlio is perfect for the indecisive -- Calaman, Potato Spears, Beef Steak Tomatoes, and even Pizza. These are some of the spicy offerings on the appetizer menu. Figlio offers several dinner entrees, including Baked Ziti (\$5.95), Sausage on a Focaccia Bun (\$4.95), Angel Hair Pasta with a spicy sauce (\$6.95), or Blackened Red Fish (\$10.95).

The food is moderately priced, with good portions. Salads or soup are ala carte.

Figlio is open late night on Friday and Saturday evenings -- until 3:00 a.m. On other nights, food is served until midnight.

Originality best describes the atmosphere at Figlio. Large picture windows run along the wall facing Lake Street. During the summer months, you can enjoy food outside at umbrella tables on the sidewalk. The bar is tastefully decorated with mahogany wood surrounding the rails and stools. Figlio does not accept reservations. On the weekend evenings, the wait is usually around 45 minutes. In my opinion, it is definitely worth the wait!