

# film review

By LAURA COOK

## Christmas With The Kranks

Based on the book *Skipping Christmas* by John Grisham, *Christmas With The Kranks* takes



audiences through the journey of empty nest syndrome gone wrong. After twenty-three years of family Christmases their daughter, Blair, has enrolled in the Peace Corps and won't be able to make it to this year's festivities. Instead of participating in anything to do with Christmas this year, the Kranks have decided to save their money and take a Caribbean Cruise. Much to their neighbors dismay, the Kranks boycott on Christmas disrupts the famous neighbourhood light decorating contest, causes upset with various fundraisers and leads the street of merry makers into a full out attack on the Krank household to free Frosty, the six foot plastic snowman.

Under the direction of Joe Roth, the film takes a satirical kick at society's need to conform to Christmas and its many expectations. When no one in the neighbourhood understands the Kranks' need to skip Christmas, the humour in the situation becomes all too familiar to anyone living under the coercion of a close-knit community. Luther and Nora (played by Tim Allen and Jamie Lee Curtis) spend the first half of the film avoiding neighbors and the pressures of retail America during the holidays. Hilarious scenes, such as the couple's trip to the tanning salon, are perfect demonstrations of traditional Commedia Dell'arte or Italian comedy. One specific aspect of this type of drama is slapstick comedy, which relies mainly on physical humour. By incorporating slapstick comedy into the film, the focus lies on the execution of the scenes rather than the actual content. When the couple receives a surprise phone call from their daughter Blair, who has decided to return from the Peace Corps for Christmas, the slapstick comedy shines through in the couple's scramble to prepare a party on moments notice.

Running only an hour and thirty four minutes, audiences won't get sick of this comedic story line that only gets sillier as the story progresses. When the Kranks' daughter Blair eventually does return home Christmas Eve, the climax of the film comes right at the ending when the neighbourhood decides to pull together in an effort to preserve her Christmas cheer. Rated PG-13 for the film's brief language slips and subtle suggestive comments, this film is suitable for any family seeking a holiday laugh this festive season.

## The Women of Note get into the spirit of Christmas

By JENNIFER ENRIGHT

A local singing group, *The Women of Note*, are continuing their Christmas tradition of performing at Knox Presbyterian Church in Milton.

For the last few years, the seven-member vocal ensemble has entertained audiences with Christmas music at the church located on Main St. This year, the concert will be held at 12 noon on Friday, December 17.

The concert, entitled *Christmas with Our Friends*, features the group's director, Laura Jeffrey, as well as her fellow singers Diane Young, Shirley Chester, Milree Latimer, Edel Klickermann and Barb Fullum. Accompanying them on piano will be a local musician long associated with the group, Dawn Brodie. And there will also be two musicians appearing as special guests at the concert, Rosanne Warren, a flutist, and Berry Smith, who plays percussion and bass.

Edel Klickermann says part of the program's appeal is its variety and the opportunity it provides to let people begin to experience the spirit of Christmas. "I must say it is a program that will appeal to many tastes and it is relaxing during a season that many people make hectic. The audience will be enveloped in beautiful music."

The concert will feature well-known Christmas music such as *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas* as well as lesser known works, including some performances of African Christmas music.

Established in 1996, the group entertains audiences in Halton each year and they usually perform two concerts, one at Christmas and another in the spring. Ms. Jeffrey says the group always tries to feature guest artists drawn from "the pool of extraordinary talent living in and around Milton." She says that her group's concerts have "presented wonderful veteran performers, as well as gifted young musicians."

The Women of Note also sing for many local groups and organizations.

Tickets for the concert are \$12 at the door. For more information, call 519-856-0909.



SUBMITTED PHOTO  
Laura Jeffrey, founder and director of The Women of Note



PHOTO BY JENNIFER ENRIGHT

Each December The Women of Note vocal ensemble presents a concert featuring Christmas music at Knox Presbyterian Church in Milton. The group's accompanist, Dawn Brodie (left), will be joining Barb Fullum (right), a singer with The Women of Note, at the group's Christmas concert on December 17. The concert begins at 12 noon. The other members of the vocal ensemble include Laura Jeffrey, Diane Young, Shirley Chester, Milree Latimer, and Edel Klickermann.

## New Releases

### The Bourne Supremacy

Matt Damon, Julia Stiles

Bourne continues to find himself plagued by splintered nightmares from his former life. The stakes are now even higher for the agent as he coolly maneuvers through the dangerous waters of international espionage-replete with CIA plots, turncoat agents and ever shifting covert alliances all the while hoping to find the truth behind his haunted memories and answers to his own fragmented past.

Rated PG for coarse language and violence.

### Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story

Ben Stiller, Christine Taylor, Vince Vaughan

When a local gym is threatened by being bought out by a fitness chain, a group of members band together and enter a dodgeball tournament in Las Vegas. Rated 14A for crude content and coarse language.

## Top 10 Rentals

THE MAGIC OF THE MOVIES AT HOME

This week's Top Ten Movie Rentals brought to you by

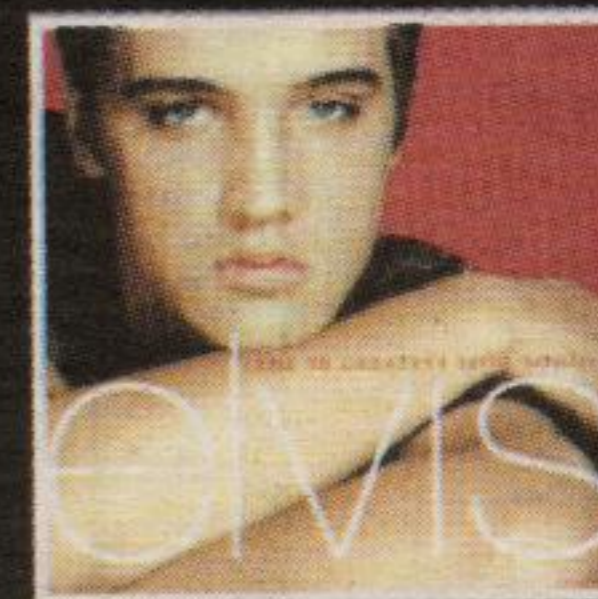
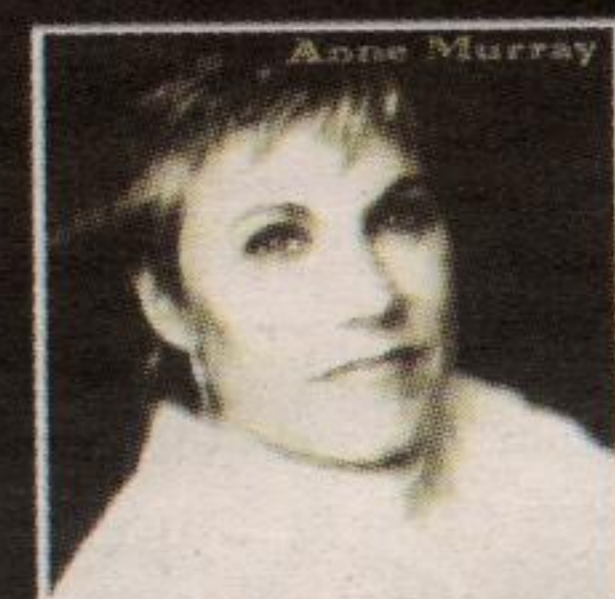
### ROGERS VIDEO

1. The Bourne Supremacy
2. Dodgeball
3. Spider-Man 2
4. The Terminal
5. Hero
6. Elf
7. Harry Potter & the Prisoner of Azkaban
8. The Chronicles of Riddick
9. The Stepford Wives
10. Shrek 2

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## All Time Favourites



★ BEATLES ★ FRANK SINATRA ★ NAT KING COLE  
★ TONY BENNETT ★ DIONNE WARWICK ★ TOM JONES

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