

film review

BY LAURA COOK

Ocean's Twelve



Three years after Danny Ocean and his gang pulled off one of the most lucrative heists in history, the former gang members are each living out their financial fantasies while trying to live a legitimate lifestyle. With a returning all-star cast of George Clooney, Julia Roberts, Matt Damon, Brad Pitt, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Don Cheadle, Vincent Cassel, Andy Garcia, Carl Reiner, Elliott Gould, Scott Caan, Bernie Mac, Casey Affleck, audience's expectations of the film were satisfied when the film grossed over forty million dollars during its opening weekend. When Benedict threatens the thieves and orders the return of his fortune with inflated interest, the crew is forced to reunite in order to pay back casino owner Terry Benedict. With only fourteen days to raise back the hundred and sixty million dollars, the gang realizes that only another high profile burglary can help their financial quandary.

Soderbergh's directorial capabilities do a fabulous job of recapturing the carefree spirit of Frank Sinatra and his Rat Pack with an old school tone. Although *Ocean's Twelve* functions better as a comedy than a serious drama, the breezy dialogue never gets overly ridiculous keeping audience's attention and the reality level in check. With several big name stars, this film still takes advantage of a cameo appearance of Bruce Willis and a satirical surprise cameo of Tess by Julia Roberts. While each of these comedic elements is presented within the context of a traditional robbery film, Soderbergh manages to infuse certain camera techniques such as freeze frames and the occasional colored filter to up the modernity of the film's appearance. The result is an hour and forty-six minute long film with a PG-13 rating that begs for laughs from almost any audience member.

Music for the Masses

Much music at Ebenezer United Church, December 19 and December 24, 2004.

To celebrate the Joy and Peace of Christmas, Ebenezer United Church is offering services with three different ways of telling the Christmas story that should appeal to everyone in the Nassagaweya community. All involve music, a universal language.

A Children's Pageant is the first special service, to be held during regular Church Service time at 11 am, December 19. This is also the traditional White Gift Sunday, during which children are invited to bring gifts for other children who may be in less comfortable homes. The children and youth of Ebenezer will present "The Fumbly Bumbly Angels", a pageant that tells the Christmas story from the point of view of the angels. And not just any angels. These young ones are trying to find ways to join the Heavenly Choir. Their quest brings them to Bethlehem, and they discover who is there. The Ebenezer Christian Education group, led by Martha Smith, has been putting a lot of energy and enthusiasm into this fun presentation!

A more traditional celebration of Lessons and Carols is offered by the Ebenezer Choir at 7:30 pm on Sunday December 19. Here the Christmas story will be told through readings and Bible verse, and complemented and expanded through anthems and carols, with lots of opportunity for the congregation to sing many favourites. Ebenezer United Church has Marion Samuel-Stevens as Music Director and Heather Blair as accompanist. Marion, who lives quite close to the Church, has an extensive performance background as a soprano soloist with the Toronto Mendelsohn Youth Choir, the Orpheus Choir of Toronto, the National Ballet of Canada, and the Mississauga Choral Society. She was the 2004 winner of Symphony Hamilton's Young Artist Competition. Heather Blair has been a member of the congregation of Eden Mills United Church since she was baptized. She is now the organist there as well as at Ebenezer. She also has an extensive performance background, playing the French horn with several southern Ontario orchestras, including the Niagara Youth Orchestra and the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra.

Christmas Eve will offer another view of the Story, with the service at 10:30 December 24. The Pastor of Ebenezer United Church, Mark Rutledge, is also an accomplished musician, with a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Toronto, accredited by the Royal Canadian College of Organists, and an extensive history as Music Director in several churches before becoming a pastor. He has also played in several rock bands! Mark will be joined by Marion, and by Margot Hamilton, (who has a Bachelor of Music degree from Wilfred Laurier) and Rob Stark, a local musician with extensive performance experience. The group will lead and present a combination of traditional and contemplative music, all the while surrounded by images of the stars from the Hubble Telescope, projected onto the walls of the sanctuary.

Inspirational music, beautiful music, joyous music, welcomes Christmas this year at Ebenezer United Church.

And continuing to be mindful of the many different families in the community served by Ebenezer and its partner Churches at Eden Mills and Arkell, there will be a Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 pm at Eden Mills, and Boxing Day service at Arkell on Sunday, December 26, at 10 am.



New Releases

I Robot

Will Smith, Bridget Moynahan, Bruce Greenwood

Just as US Robotics is set to debut the much anticipated, newly developed, Nestor Class 5 (NS-5) to the world, a police officer uncovers the truth about the robots and what might happen if they are released.

Rated PG for violence and coarse language

Collateral

Tom Cruise, Jamie, Mark Ruffalo

Max has lived the mundane life of a cab driver for 12 years. The faces have come and gone from his rear view mirror, people and places he's long since forgotten...

until tonight. Vincent is a contract killer. When an offshore, narcotics trafficking cartel learns they're about to be indicted by a federal grand jury, they mount an operation to identify and kill the key witnesses, and the last stage is tonight. Tonight, Vincent arrived in L.A.... and five bodies are supposed to fall. Circumstances cause Vincent to hijack Max's taxicab, and Max becomes collateral-an expendable person in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Rated PG for violence and coarse language.

Top 10 Rentals

THE MAGIC OF THE MOVIES AT HOME

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



1. I, Robot
2. Collateral
3. The Bourne Supremacy
4. Dodgeball
5. The Princess Diaries 2
6. Spider-Man 2
7. The Terminal
8. Elf
9. Hero
10. Harry Potter & the Prisoner of Azkaban

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