

recreation & entertainment

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN HALTON

film review

By LAURA COOK

Spanglish



Photo © Copyright Columbia Pictures

Director James L. Brooks does it again with this romantic comedy starring Tea Leoni and Adam Sandler as Mr. and Mrs. Clasky. Told in the consistent format of a voiceover narration, the film follows the story of a young girl's journey with her mother from Mexico into the depths of the United States and her essay application to a prestigious American University. Speaking only Spanish, the mother (Flor) played by Paz Vega manages to find work and solace in the Mexican village near her home. When work becomes scarce, Flor is forced to look for work outside of her comfort zone of Spanish speaking people and journey into the suburbs as a maid for a white-collar family.

Finding it difficult to continue working there with no knowledge of the English language, Flor reluctantly asks her daughter Christina for help in learning the new tongue. When Flor and her daughter are eventually forced into moving in with the Clasky family, Christina is immediately taken under the wing of the urban family mother Deborah and praised for her beauty. Neglecting her own daughter in the meantime, Deborah's growing relationship with Christina becomes only a part of a pattern of betrayal that plagues Deborah's family until the climax of the film.

Rated PG-13 for some sexual content and language use, this film does a spectacular job of going beyond the typical conventions of a Hollywood crowd-pleaser. The story moves beyond what audiences would expect, and instead demonstrates the bond that unites two culturally different but caring parents who are devoted to their children in very similar ways. Playing a role completely opposite to his usual characters, Sandler's Mr. Clasky is a serious example of what it means to 'have it all'. His blooming career as a chef and the uncommonly open and trusting relationship he has with his adolescent daughter reminds audiences that Sandler's scope of abilities has only been touched on in his previous films. Although I wouldn't recommend this film for younger audiences because of the adult content in some areas, it is a great demonstration of what it means to sacrifice for the love of your children.

New Releases

Alien Versus Predator

Sanaa Lathan, Lance Henriksen,
The iconic monsters from two of the scariest film franchises ever, battle each other on Earth for the first time on film. The discovery of an ancient pyramid buried in Antarctica sends a team of scientists and adventurers to the frozen continent. There, they make an even more terrifying discovery: Two alien races engaged in the ultimate battle. No matter who wins, we lose.

rated: 14A for violence, language, horror images, and gore

Sky Captain and The World of Tomorrow

Jude Law, Gwyneth Paltrow, Angelina Jolie
Plot Outline: Famous scientists around the world have mysteriously disappeared and Chronicle reporter Polly Perkins along with ace aviator Sky Captain are on the investigation. Risking their lives as they travel to exotic places around the world. Can the fearless duo stop Dr. Totenkopf, the evil mastermind behind a plot to destroy the earth? Aided by Franky Cook, commander of an all-female amphibious squadron, and technical genius Dex, Polly and Sky Captain may be our planet's only hope.

rated: PG for sequences of stylized sci-fi violence and brief language

Arts Week celebrates work of Halton Hills artists

January 31 deadline for entries

By JENNIFER ENRIGHT
Organizers of the Halton Hills Arts Festival are hoping to improve on what was a successful start to the festival last year.

Lois Fraser, the festival's publicity coordinator, says the focus this year will be on attracting more local artists to the event, particularly artists from the Acton area. And organizers are also interested in increasing the visibility of the festival. "We aren't sure if everyone in the area knows about us."

In its second year, the 10-day-long festival is designed as a celebration of the arts in Halton Hills. From April 22 to May 1, the festival will highlight the work of both visual and performing artists.

Local artists can share display space or studio space with other artists or they can exhibit their work alongside that of other artists at an exhibition at the Georgetown Marketplace. There will also be a children's arts display at the Georgetown Marketplace organized by local artist Barb Van Sickle.

Aside from the work of visual artists, there will be performances by Georgetown Little Theatre, Georgetown Globe Productions, Georgetown Bach Chorale, the Georgetown Children's Chorus, and the Georgetown Choral Society.

Members of the arts festival committee are still looking for artists to take part in the festival. This year, they're hoping to attract not only more visual artists but also members of local dance studios and other performing arts groups.

The fee for artists to participate is \$150 and the deadline is January 31. For more information, call Gail Spence at 905-877-9292, Lois Fraser at 905-877-4411, ext. 253, or visit the website at www.haltonhillsartsweek.ca.

Top 10 Rentals

THE MAGIC OF THE MOVIES AT HOME

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

ROGERS VIDEO

1. AVP	6. Without a Paddle
2. Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow	7. Friday Night Lights
3. The Forgotten	8. Catwoman
4. Cellular	9. Troy
5. The Village	10. Napoleon Dynamite

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Seating is general admission and doors open at 7:15 p.m.
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