

Bad movies making good money

I'm getting tired of bad movies getting my good money. And I'm even more tired of film critics telling me that bad movies are good movies.

To most of us it's a warning sign when a film critic gives a great review, but we don't often heed the warning, and then we're mad when we see the movie and hate it.

The problem is that film critics have different agendas than we do. They're looking for a good film, we're looking for good entertainment. Sometimes the two collide, but often they don't.

They watch a ton of movies every week, while we may watch one or two. They're not looking for the same things as us. That's why I make it a rule never to read reviews before I see a movie. I read them afterward by going to rottentomatoes.com, which is a Web site that breaks down the good reviews and the rotten ones.

This week I watched three different movies that came out on video recently. One was the highly acclaimed Good Night, and Good Luck; another was the family movie Dreamer that received mediocre reviews; and the other was the rather violent History of Violence, also receiving good reviews.

Movies are often a matter of personal preference. For exam-



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ple, some people like martial arts movies, and I hate them; I like British movies, a lot of people don't; I love war movies, but they're not for everybody; I think Harry Potter movies are stupid, other people love them; I think romantic comedies are good entertainment, others fall asleep. About the only thing we can agree on, apart from Milton's Jennifer Smith, is that Canadian movies are generally horrible.

I'd like to see movies broken down by the type of person you are and your interests, as well as why you want to watch the movie.

Let's start with Good Night, and Good Luck, a movie about the '60s and news anchorman Edward R. Murrow, and his battle against Senator McCarthy and his crusade against communists.

If you are a movie critic: 9

Family fun: 0

History buff: 3

If you're old enough to remember when Murrow was an

anchorman: 6

If you're not old enough to remember black and white television: 1

If you like artsy type movies in black and white: 7

If you're having trouble sleeping: 10

There, see how it works? I could probably fit about 10 more categories in there, but along with a brief synopsis of the movie, it would probably prepare you a lot more.

Let's try another one. Dreamer stars Kurt Russell and Dakota Fanning and is about a horse that breaks its leg and then attempts a comeback.

If you are a movie critic: 3

Family fun: 10

Film student: 2

If you need your spirit uplifted: 8

If you are a bunch of guys who like car crash movies and beer: 2.5

Finally, there's A History of Violence. I liked it, but that's just me. I sometimes enjoy watching people get killed.

If you are a bunch of guys who like car crash movies and beer: 9.5

If someone once took your parking spot and you dreamed about revenge: 8

If Bambi is your favourite movie: 0

If you're sitting down with the kids and popcorn: -5,000

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