

Nothing too impressive about quirky romantic comedy

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Freelance writers Murray Townsend and Jennifer Smith, who have very different tastes in film, review a movie currently playing.

This time it was Murray's turn to 'Pick a Flick' and he chose the romantic comedy *Love Happens*.

Plot: When a self-help author (Aaron Eckhart) arrives in Seattle to teach a seminar, he unexpectedly meets the one person (Jennifer Aniston) who might finally be able to help him help himself.

What Murray thinks

As soon as this movie comes out on video you'll rush to see it. Just don't rush to the movie theatre.

It's not the worst movie, although it tries awfully hard. It wants to add quirkiness to the mix, but comes off as being too contrived to be taken seriously.



For example, Jennifer Aniston's character writes odd words on walls behind pictures for no apparent reason, and the two main characters go up in a cherry picker to watch an outdoor concert by Rogue Wave. Who? Not exactly U2; get your tickets at the door.

They even have a slow clap scene, which nowadays is used in

movies to be funny.

The Seattle scenery is nice, although it was also filmed in Vancouver, which is nice too. The story idea isn't bad, the supporting cast isn't bad, the acting isn't bad.

Overall, the movie isn't that bad. Problem is that it isn't that good, either. I give it 2.2 stars out of 5.

What Jennifer thinks

Love Happens is a romantic comedy that manages to be neither romantic nor comedic. In fact, all the funniest lines go to a cockatoo.

It took me a while to figure out exactly what was wrong with this movie, besides the endless travelogue shots of Seattle and the painfully obvious product placements.

It started off tolerably well as a rather lightweight 'love/hate at first sight' story, and Aaron Eckhart at least showed some promise of depth. But as the story grew more



Murray Townsend



Jennifer Smith

serious, I kept expecting the emotional stakes to get a little higher. A tragic setback. A dreadful secret. Something.

Instead, every sharp corner had been removed. The tragic setback is easily averted, the not-so-dreadful secret is revealed and resolved in three minutes flat, and everyone lives happily ever after. The end.

There, I just saved you an hour and 49 minutes. I give it two stars.

Go rent *Away We Go* instead.

Women settlers resilient, says Brown

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Throughout her work on the book, Brown said she was struck by the resilience of the women settlers; it only takes a walk through the Boston church cemetery to see some of them lost more than one child.

"To be miles from overseas and miles from neighbours... I'm not sure how they endured it," Brown said.

Publishing of the book was made possible by sponsors Andrews' Scenic Acres — it was Bert Andrews

who first approached Dills with the idea of the book — as well as Chudleigh's, Given Road West Communications, Home Hardware, the family of the late James Snow and the Milton Historical Society.

After the launch, the book will be available at the Waldie Blacksmith Shop, Milton Home Hardware, Recycled Reading, Harris Office Pro and Spice O' Life.

Stephanie Hounsell can be reached at sthiesse@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

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