

PREVIEW

Family Movie & TV Review

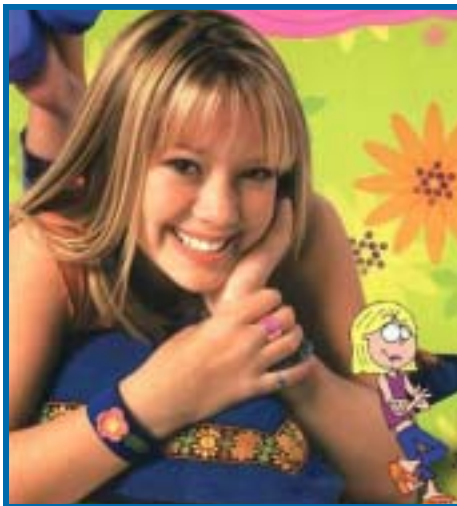
Volume 24

May 28, 2003

No. 5

The Lizzie McGuire Movie (PG)

Entertainment: +3
Acceptability: +2½



Walt Disney Co.

Popular Disney Channel character Lizzie McGuire (Hilary Duff) leaps to the big screen in this teen comedy. She is a pretty but clumsy middle-school teen about to embark on a two-week trip to Rome with her classmates. She embarrasses herself at her class graduation as the substitute speaker and receives snide remarks from self-centered, conceited Kate (Ashlie Brillault). Only Gordo (Adam Lamberg), Lizzie's best friend, seems to understand her. Under the watchful eye of chaperone Miss Ungermeyer

(Alex Borstein), one of the film's funniest characters, Rome begins to look pretty tiresome until Lizzie catches the eye of Italian pop star Paolo (Yani Gellman). Paolo convinces Lizzie to sneak out of the hotel and pretend to be a superstar to placate the record company and demanding fans. Insecure, awkward Lizzie gets a breathtaking tour of Rome, finds romance and experiences a taste of fame. Fun and funny, *The Lizzie McGuire Movie* is not mean-spirited like so many teen movies.

Young Lizzie can't resist the temptation presented by Paolo. He offers her adventure and romance. Unfortunately, she has to lie to her chaperone, ask her friends to lie for her, and pretend to be someone she isn't. Loyal friend Gordo willingly covers for Lizzie but begins to see that Paolo is using her. Lizzie and her classmates learn some important lessons about friendship, the importance of truth and the futility of lying. Her obnoxious little brother (Jake Thomas), on the other hand, plants tiny spy cameras in remote-controlled toys so he can make embarrassing videos of his sister and seems to intimidate his clueless

parents. *The Lizzie McGuire Movie* has no sexual content and is free of crude bathroom humor. Kisses on the cheek are as physical as the relationships get. Other than a few exclamatory profanities, the film is wholesome, although it still settles for catering to teenage superficial cravings. Overall, *The Lizzie McGuire Movie* earns *Preview's* recommendation for family entertainment.

[*Preview* reviewer: Mary Draughon; Distributor: Walt Disney Co.]

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It Runs in the Family (PG-13)	+3	-1 1/2	3
Matrix Reloaded (R)	+4	-3	4
Manic (R)	+1/2	-3 1/2	6
The Lizzie McGuire Movie (PG)	+3	+2 1/2	1
The Real Cancun (R)	-3	-4	6

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Crude/Obscene Language: none.
Profanity: few times – exclamatory (OMG)
Violence: none
Sexual Intercourse: none
Nudity / Near Nudity: none
Homosexual Conduct: none
Sexually Suggestive Dialogue/Action: none
Drug Abuse: none
Other: teenager lies and deceives others, theme of importance of loyalty and friendship
Running Time: 90 minutes
Intended Audience: Ages 7–12 and fans of the TV show

Daddy Day Care (PG)

Entertainment: +3
 Acceptability: + ½



Columbia Pictures

In *Daddy Day Care*, Charlie (Eddie Murphy), and Phil (Jeff Garlin), are two recently unemployed dads in desperate need of work and regaining their self-esteem. Charlie discovers, while spending his days at home with his son, Ben (Khamani Griffin), the apparent lack of competitive, high quality child-care in the area, and convinces Phil to join him in a “gold-mine” endeavor. The two inept dads start Daddy Day Care to compete with the hard-nosed and bitter Miss Gwyneth Harridan (Anjelica

Huston) who spends her days making children’s lives miserable. Though Charlie and Phil expect the job to be a breeze, the two businessmen soon realize they can’t manage children the same way they had managed their offices. Finally, the duo hires Marvin (Steve Zahn), a wacky Trekkie with a knack for kids. Marvin helps them identify with the children, which leads to the huge success of Daddy Day Care.

This easy-going movie from Columbia Pictures is a cute, fun-filled family comedy. Unfortunately, *Daddy Day Care* seems to lack something. Though it was very humorous at times, it left the viewer wanting a little more amusement and laughter, even if it meant sacrificing some of the cuteness. Apart from a few profanities and some bathroom humor, the film is comparatively clean and even has some positive messages. Though the dads start off unbelievably inept, in the end they have each developed better parenting skills and improved family values. Charlie learns to actually communicate with his son instead of just dismissing him and Phil learns to deal with the unpleasant veracity of being a kid. The most positive message was the value change in Charlie’s life. In the beginning of the movie he is devoted to work and earning money while missing out on his child’s life, but in the end he sacrifices a better paying job to spend time with his son and continue providing Daddy Day Care. [Preview Reviewer: Shaun Daugherty; Distributor: Columbia Pictures]

SUMMARY: Daddy Day Care
Crude Language: Several (5) times – Mild 1, moderate 4
Obscene Language: None
Profanity: Few (3) times – Exclamatory 3 (OG 1, OMG 2)
Violence: Several times – Mild (kids

throw food and wrestle with adults in costumes, man kicked in shin, child walks into the wall, man kicked in groin, man chased by bees, other mild physical comedy involving falling down, etc.)
Sexual Intercourse / Nudity / Near Nudity / Homosexual Conduct / Sexually Suggestive dialog/Action / Drug Abuse: None
Other: (Camera follows child to bathroom and hears sound of urination, other bathroom humor; father depicted as unreliable in family commitment, father has crisis of values, father learns to communicate with his son)
Running Time: 95 minutes
Intended Audience: Children and Adults

Down With Love (PG-13)

Entertainment: +2
 Acceptability: –1

Set in 1962, this romantic comedy has the look and feel of films of this era. Barbara Novak (Renee Zellweger) is a feminist author of a new book for women called *Down with Love*. In it she teaches women how to be “more like men” — focused on career, empowerment and sex. Her book espouses the view that women excel in the workplace by accepting the so-called fact that love is to be ignored and casual sex is to be embraced. At first the book does not do well. But once she gets the book promoted on the Ed Sullivan Show, the sales take off. She does so well and her book is so popular that men do not want to date her. But debonair Catcher Block (Ewan McGregor) is a womanizing playboy publicist who stands for everything that Barbara is against, and he is determined to get her



to fall in love with him. In this case, opposites attract but not without some interesting twists and turns.

While this movie brings the nostalgia of movies from a bygone era, it definitely carries with it the poor moral values of contemporary Hollywood. The language does not fall into the in-your-face objectionable category but is rather is an accumulation of sexual innuendoes scattered throughout the story. A split screen is used in a telephone conversation that places the two in such a way that it appears they are having sex. And in several overheard conversations, double meanings can be inferred so that innocent conversation takes on a sexual nature. And unfortunately the message offered regarding women being treated badly by men is for the women to get back at men by treating them the same way. Because of sexual humor and language and poor moral values, *Preview* cannot recommend this movie.

[*Preview* reviewer: Alan Boyer; Distributor: 20th Century Fox]

SUMMARY: Down With Love

Crude Language: mild (2) – bastard, bitch.

Obscene Language/Profanity: none. **Violence:** none.

Sexual Intercourse/Nudity: none.

Near Nudity: women wearing bra and short dress, women in bathtub covered by bubbles, man in underwear, man covered by a towel.

Homosexual Conduct: none.

Sexually Suggestive Dialogue/

Action: none.

Drug Abuse: drinking alcohol, smoking tobacco.

Running Time: not available.

Intended Audience: adults.

It Runs in the Family (PG-13)

Entertainment: +3
Acceptability: -1½



MGM

With a touching and sometimes funny story, *It Runs in the Family* grabs the filmgoer's heart and doesn't let it go. The Grombergs, a wealthy Jewish family, have three generations of life to deal with. Mitchell Gromberg (Kirk Douglas) is the patriarch, who struggles with the rigors of old age and the challenges of relating with his wife (Diana Douglas, Michael Douglas's real-life mother), his son and his grandsons. Alex Gromberg (Michael Douglas) is caught between the commitments of work, the temptations of the flesh and the demands of family. His wife Rebecca (Bernadette Peters) is similarly torn. Young Asher (Cameron Douglas, Michael's real-life son) and Eli (Rory Culkin) Gromberg are learning about life, love and loss as they choose their values. Through all of the extraordinary challenges of a normal life, the family grows, enduring severe strains but remaining committed and bonded.

It Runs in the Family deals with real life issues, from the temptations of sex and drugs to the problems of age and youth. The film provides valuable insights and generally sends positive messages, such as the theme of forgiveness. Mitchell Gromberg

ponders his own immortality. Despite all of their mistakes and problems, the Grombergs stick it out, understanding that love bears all things. The film contains significant references to Judaism. The family celebrates the Passover Seder meal during which they gather to pray, and the males are often shown wearing yarmulkes. In dealing with sex, the film sends a mixed message, favoring faithful relationships but remaining neutral on premarital sex. Though it contains many redeeming features and positive messages, *Preview* cannot recommend *It Runs in the Family*, due to significantly objectionable language, and some sexual content and drug abuse.

[*Preview* reviewer: Shaun Daugherty; Distributor: MGM]

SUMMARY: It Runs in the Family

Crude Language: many (35) times – mild 21, moderate 14.

Obscene Language: many (23) times – S-word 16, other 7.

Profanity: many (16) times – regular

PREVIEW

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from a Christian and
family oriented perspective

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13 (G 2, GD 5, J 3, C 1, JC 1, G sake 1); exclamatory 3 (OMG 3).

Violence: few times – mild (man knocked down by runner, police restrain people, boy fights another boy defending a girl)

Sexual Intercourse: once – implied (man and woman enter apartment and next morning are under covers with some flesh exposed).

Nudity: once – mild (man and woman begin to disrobe slightly exposing man’s rear for a moment).

Near Nudity: few times – moderate (woman walks around house wearing underwear, man and woman under covers with flesh exposed).

Homosexual Conduct: none.

Sexually Suggestive Dialog/Action: several times – moderate (man asks grandson if he is sexually active with a woman, man makes suggestive gesture with tongue, boy makes reference to his genitalia, boys look at pornography and discuss sex, boy models female breasts from clay, man and woman kiss and begin to disrobe but are interrupted).

Drug Abuse: few times – moderate (man smokes marijuana, repeated use of alcohol by several characters).

Other: repeated references to Judaism, Passover, yarmulke and God; man nearly commits adultery but is interrupted and overcome by guilt; portrayal of family communication problems and commitment; portrayal of aging and death; portrayal of the growing and selling of marijuana.

Running Time: 109 minutes.

Intended Audience: adults.

Matrix Reloaded (R)

Entertainment +4
Acceptability -3



Warner Brothers

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Spectacular special effects capture nearly every scene in this Warner Brothers Sci-Fi thriller. The movie sequels the first film simply known as the *Matrix*. Sometime in the future, mankind creates artificial intelligence (AI) in machines. The AI machines procreate, producing a race of intelligent robotic beings. The machines and humans wage war against each other. When the machines gain the upper hand, they enslave the human race. This is where the story begins. A small group of humans have broken free of the Matrix, a form of mind induced slavery. One of the humans, Neo (Keanu Reeves), has the ability to shape the Matrix in ways that the machines cannot. Morpheus (Laurence Fishburne), Trinity (Carrie-Anne Moss), and Neo strive to free the rest of the human race. They flee from the machines barely keeping a step ahead. The battles continue toward a final showdown, which could seal the fate of humanity. This is the middle movie of what will be a three-part saga. The final *Matrix* movie is due out in November of this year.

The amazing thing about the *Matrix*

DEFINITIONS

- Few = 1 - 4 times
- Several = 5 - 9 times
- Many = 10+ times

Mild Crude Language = Hell and damn only

Moderate Crude Language = All other crude language (bastard, ass, s.o.b., etc.)

Obscene Language = Crude or slang words referring to genitals, sexual intercourse, and excretion (S - and F - words, e.g.)

Regular Profanity = Taking Lord's name in vain (irreverent use of the names: God (G), Jesus (J), Christ (C), G-damn (GD))

Exclamatory Profanity = Use of Lord's name as an exclamation (Oh, God! My God! Good Lord!)

Nudity = Completely uncovered genitals, buttocks or female breasts.

RATING SYSTEM

ENTERTAINMENT

(estimated box office appeal)

- +4 Excellent
- +3 1/2 Very Good
- +3 Good
- +2 1/2 Moderately Good
- +2 Fairly Good
- +1 1/2 Fair
- +1 Not Entertaining

ACCEPTABILITY

Acceptable:

- +4 No questionable elements
- +3 Slightly questionable
- +2 Moderately questionable
- +1 Very questionable

Films with objectionable elements:

- 4 Extremely objectionable
- 3 1/2 Severely objectionable
- 3 Very objectionable
- 2 1/2 Mostly objectionable
- 2 Significantly objectionable
- 1 1/2 Quite objectionable
- 1 Moderately objectionable
- 1/2 Slightly objectionable



movies continues to be its philosophic ideals. The last movie loosely paralleled the Biblical image of Jesus Christ. This movie takes up the argument of Causation or Free Will. The movie provides an excellent starting point about the nature of Human Existence. Most people have questions about faith and life, but rarely talk about them. This movie offers a forum for these discussions. The human characters center their lives on helping others. They possess a common bond when working toward a common goal. The characters have different opinions on how to achieve their goals, but respect one other as they work through their differences. *Matrix Reloaded* contains the following negative aspects. The hero of the movie sleeps with his girlfriend. The machines possess the bodies of humans. The person whom all the humans trust appears to betray their faith. The action sequences contain numerous hand-to-hand combats. There are more aggressive acts per second than a professional boxing match. The *Matrix Reloaded* shoots itself in the foot with graphic violence and inappropriate sexual scenes. [Preview Reviewer: Blaine Butcher; Distributor: Warner Bros.]

SUMMARY: *Matrix Reloaded*

Crude language: Few (2) times - mild (1), severe (1)

Obscene language: Many (15) times – F-word (2), S-word (13)

Profanity: Few (3) times- Exclamatory G (1), G-D(2)

Violence: Many times- Severe (numerous shootings, hand to hand fighting, multiple corpses, gun wounds, exploding cars, many deaths, people attempt to run over others with vehicle, bombs,)

Sexual Intercourse: once

Nudity: Several: (Man's buttocks, woman's back, woman and man shown together having sex uncovered)

Homosexual Conduct: None

Sexually Suggestive Dialogue/

Action: Few times (men talk about woman who use to be with them, couple talk about getting together, wife accuses husband of being kissed in the groin by another woman, man is excited about spending night with his wife)

Drug Abuse: Mild- alcohol & tobacco used in moderation

Other: (Machines take over human bodies, machines have ability to turn humans into machines, vampires and werewolves try to kill people, people stick metal rod into their heads to join virtual reality world, man worshipped by others as a god,)

Running Time: About 140 minutes

Intended Audience: Teens and Adults

Confidence (R)

Entertainment: +3

Acceptability: -3



Lions Gate

Confidence is a contemporary crime drama about con man Jake Vig (Edward Burns) and his cohorts who begin the movie by swindling thousands of dollars unknowingly from a member of the mob. After discovering what they've done, they go to the mob boss, King (Dustin Hoffman), to make amends and avoid being killed. To make them pay back what they took, King enlists them for a bigger swindling job — taking millions from a bank owner. Since the stakes are so high in this

more elaborate sting, Jake recruits a pickpocket named Lily (Rachel Weisz). Although it looks like they won't pull off the scam, Jake and the gang prove to be much smarter than they first appear. But federal agent Gunther Butan (Andy Garcia) is trailing Jake and the gang. The film offers action from the start along with many twists and turns. Dustin, Burns and Garcia each put in superb performances in this highly entertaining film.

But the entertainment value of *Confidence* is overshadowed by its negative acceptability rating for bad elements. The foul language, with an abundances of F-words and S-words, is particularly offensive. Violence is plentiful: a man gets shot in the head, another gets beat up, guns are pointed at people, death threats are made, and a man head butts another man. And the sexual content is high: women's breasts are shown, women wearing only g-strings and pasties dance sexually in a booth, sisters begin a sexual act on each other until they are stopped by King, man watches a porn flick while talking to another man, and a man and woman undress each other. Alcohol, cigarettes and prescription drugs are used in the movie. Preview cannot recommend *Confidence* due to its moral offensiveness.

[Preview reviewer: Lynn Nusser
Distributor: Lions Gate]

SUMMARY: Confidence

Crude Language: mild – few (2) times (hell, damn); moderate – many (12) times (ass, bitch).

Obscene Language: Many (180+) times – f-word 130+, S-word 40, words referring to genitals 10, words referring to excretion 8.

Profanity: regular – many (15) times (J, JC, GD, G); exclamatory – few (4) times (OMG, swear to G, C sake).

Nudity/Near Nudity: many times (man and woman undress each other,

women dance sexually wearing g-strings and pasties, man and woman shown in dirty movie, woman's breasts shown as she sits on top of man, woman wearing thong revealing most of her buttocks, sisters wearing bikinis).

Sexually Suggestive Dialogue/

Content: many times (remark made about using handcuffs on a man's wife, woman is propositioned for sex, woman eats strawberry in a provocative manner, sisters talk about doing sexual acts to each other, man watches dirty movie, women dance sexually, man puts his hand on woman's chest and comments about how much he likes it).

Homosexual Conduct: once (man comments that another man's rear end is cute).

Violence: many times (guys get beat up, man gets shot in head, man head butts another man, death threats made, guns pointed at people, men pretend to be shot in a couple of scenes using fake blood).

Drug Use: some (alcohol used in several scenes, cigarette smoking particularly by one woman, prescription drug use in one scene).

Other: man reads another man's palm, woman pick pockets man's wallet, gang steals money from mob and bank owner.

Running Time: 98 minutes.

Intended Audience: adults.

Manic (R)

Entertainment: +1/2
Acceptability: -3 1/2

Almost a documentary, this drama is a window into a juvenile psyche ward where teenagers are sent to regain mental health. Lyle (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) is there for nearly beating a classmate to

death and encounters other adolescents with a variety of illnesses. The patients share their problems and wounds. These young people feel that they have no choice but to respond to trouble in a highly destructive manner. Under the supervision of psychiatrist Dr. David Monroe (Don Cheadle), they interact with each other and look at the consequences of their behavior. Dr. Monroe directs them to begin taking responsibility for their own actions. Each of the characters has been severely hurt by a parent or guardian. Among them is Chad (Michael Bacall), a bipolar, self-mutilating teen. *Manic* captures the struggle that is involved in life change but offers no solution — only solace in accepting what cannot be changed. The movie ends with characters in various stages of recovery.

The film renders the difficulty for adolescents dealing with the evil that they have experienced from some adults. It also shows a bond of friendship built between the residents as they look at the reality of their own wounds. One character finds a positive outlet through painting. *Manic* subtly challenges the viewer to realize that each of us is responsible for properly reacting to difficult situations. Dr. Monroe has genuine compassion for the kids. But the dialog includes a large dose of obscene, sexually explicit language. Characters express countless threats to inflict physical and sexual violence upon each other. A couple of graphic fight sequences are unsettling. Teens smoke marijuana, and intercourse is implied. With its disturbing violence, raw vulgarity and some drug use, the title *Manic* is fitting for this film.

[Preview reviewer: Blaine Butcher; Distributor: IFC Films]

SUMMARY: Manic

Crude Language: many (22) times – mild 5, moderate 17.

Obscene Language: many (102) times – F-word 83, S-word 19.

Profanity: few (2) times – exclamatory 2 (GD).

Violence: many times – severe (hand-to-hand fighting, brutal throat cutting, teen bashing teen with a baseball bat, self-inflicted knife cuts, teen beating up teen).

Sexual Intercourse: once (implied).

Nudity: none.

Homosexual Conduct: once (stepdad molests stepson).

Sexually Suggestive Dialogue/ Action: many times (teens talk about sex, teenage girls talk about having sex, teenage boys make crude sexual comments).

Drug Abuse: several (cigarettes, marijuana).

Other: teenage girls are portrayed as victims, girl has continual nightmares of abuse, teens shown in various destructive behaviors, boy believes that being in a gang is cool, most of the characters are angry and/or depressed, teenage girl shown to make good decisions, abused teens care about other abuse victims, running from problems is shown to be futile, teens get into a frenzy and destroy room.

Running Time: 100 minutes.

Intended Audience: adults.

The Real Cancun (R)

Entertainment: -3
Acceptability: -4

With all of the reality shows on television, it was just a matter of time before Hollywood jumped on the bandwagon. *The Real Cancun* is the worst yet. It's the story, without the use of professional actors or writers, of 16 college kids chosen from around the



country to go to Cancun, Mexico, for spring break. Six camera crews followed the kids 24 hours a day this past March to capture 10 days of uncensored partying. It's reality TV including the rated-R, naughty happenings missing from television. The movie focuses on the relationships that are formed along with lots of drinking and sex. It is like watching a 90-minute Jerry Springer show without the scrambler that blocks the nudity. Parents, be warned: This is not a movie that you want your kids to see.

First, there's lots of bad language: F-words, S-words and the Lord's name used in vain in both the dialog and background music. Second, there's nudity with the main feature being women's breasts and men and women's buttocks. Third, sex scenes are abundant: girls kissing girls, girls grinding themselves against each other and guys, dirty dancing, and bedroom and shower scenes. Sex is the topic of discussion in nearly every scene. And fourth, alcohol use is constant, from beer guzzling to body shots taken from a bikini-clad girl's stomach; the only exception is when the kids are asleep. Sadly, one of the guys, named Alan, doesn't want to drink but is continuously pressured by the others until, by the end of the movie, he is enjoying tequila shots as much as the rest. Especially bothersome is the fact that the viewing audience clapped in approval when Alan took his first drink. *The Real Cancun* has no redeeming elements, so *Preview* cannot recommend it to anyone. [Preview reviewer: Lynn Nusser; Distributor: New Line Cinema]

SUMMARY: *The Real Cancun*

Crude Language: mild – few (4) times; moderate – many (13) times.

Obscene Language: many (100+) times; F-word 60+, S-word 20+, words for excretion 8, slang words for genitals and sexual intercourse 20+.

Profanity: regular – few (4) times (GD); exclamatory – many (15) times (OMG, OG, honest to G, swear to G).

Violence: none.

Nudity/Near Nudity: many times – guy in underwear, women's breasts uncovered in many scenes, women's breasts in wet t-shirts, bikini-clad girls, men and women's bare buttocks.

Homosexual Conduct: none.

Sexually Suggestive Dialogue/

Action: many times – kids discuss sex during interviews, guy continually ask girls if they want to make out and get naked, guy and girl share sexual looks while playing pool, wet t-shirt contest, girls sticks out tongue at guy in a sexually suggestive manner, unfaithfulness is discussed and explored, guy and girl have conversation about his penis, guy and girl have conversation about "giving head," guy asks another guy if he has any condoms, guys talk about sex in weight room, naked men contest, sexual sounds come from shower and from bedrooms, guys and girls shown having sex in the bedrooms, guys drinking alcohol off bikini-clad girls' stomachs, dirty dancing in hot tub, guy licking salt off girl's breast, girls and guys dirty dance in bar scenes, girls lie on top of each other and kiss and touch each other, guy fakes sex act on bed, girl dirty dances with musician. Drug Abuse: alcohol use is a part of most of the scenes, drunkenness is viewed as funny and acceptable, pressure is put on a guy to drink, smoking is shown but not often, guy dips snuff.

Other: guy urinates in a cup and pours it over a girl's leg that was stung by a jellyfish, horoscopes are discussed, guy tells someone to "give him a gun."

Running Time: 97 minutes.

Intended Audience: adults.

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Current Recommended Movies

Title	Rating	Issue
Country Bears	G	8/28/02
Gods & Generals	PG-13	2/26/03
Jonah, A VeggieTales Movie	G	10/23/02
Left Behind II: Tribulation Force	PG-13	10/23/02
Little Secrets	PG	9/27/02
Master of Disguise	PG	8/28/02
Piglet's Big Movie	G	3/26/03
Pinocchio	G	1/29/03
The Jungle Book 2	G	2/26/03
Spirited Away	PG	10/23/02
Spy Kids 2	PG	8/28/02
Stuart Little 2	PG	7/25/02
Tuck Everlasting	PG	9/27/02
What a Girl Wants	PG	4/30/03

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