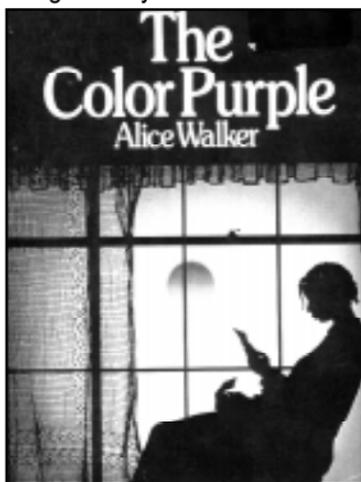


ENTERTAINMENT



image from yahoomovies.com



images from psx.ign.com



image from ps2.ign.com

Who's in it?	Plot	Place	Overall Rating (1=low, 4=high)
<p>Movie: Miss Congeniality Cast: Sandra Bullock, Benjamin Bratt, Candice Bergen, William Shatner, and Michael Caine. Rating: PG-13</p>	<p>In short, Miss Congeniality was a funny movie with an average plot. The same plot has been done many times in various ways, yet it always sells.</p>	<p>Still showing at a theater near you!!!</p>	<p>Two stars</p>

Eva Warren
Staff Reporter

Women love to see movies with a beautiful woman portraying the powerful person that they themselves would like to be, and Sandra Bullock epitomizes this identity in Miss Congeniality.

Gracie Hart (Bullock) is a female FBI agent who is completely devoted to her occupation. Men simply aren't a part of her life. She is proud to be "just one of the guys."

Gracie eats with her mouth open, never does her hair, and has no time for disgusting grooming objects, such as a hair brush or make-up.

Then the Miss United States Pageant is threatened by a terrorist known as "The Civilian," and Gracie is stuck with the undercover job. She has to live out her worst nightmare...being a GIRL.

Eric Matthews (Bratt) is a fellow agent and friend of Gracie's, who guides her through the self-dis-

covery process and encourages her to succeed. Inevitably, and predictably, a romantic story-line blossoms between Gracie and Eric, as the average plot would have it.

Despite the hardships of having to glide in heels, wear a tight skirt, brush her hair, and wear make-up, Gracie manages to "save the day" in the end and become even stronger and more self-confident.

Excluding some of the faltering jokes that were obviously placed in

the film for box-office insurance that people would laugh, Miss Congeniality did capture excellent comedy. I would recommend this movie to anyone, male or female. After all, this film is an action/comedy (even though there only a few action scenes throughout the film.) All women can take some lessons from Gracie Hart on self-empowerment, strength, and perseverance.

Who's in it?	Plot	Place	Overall Rating (1=low, 4=high)
<p>Book: <u>The Color Purple</u> Main characters: Cecile, who talks to God and Shug, a traveling singer.</p>	<p>In a series of letters, Cecile, a black woman, writes about her daily struggles with both racism and sexism. She first addresses these letters to God and later to her sister Nettie describing the horrors of living in a sexually abusive home.</p>	<p>At a book store/library near you</p>	<p>Two stars</p>

Tia Flowers
Staff Reporter

When considering books that empower women, the novel *The Color Purple* comes to mind. This controversial work won the Pulitzer Prize and the American Book Award.

What is most appalling when reading these letters is the sense that Cecile accepts what is happening to her and does not recognize her own abuse.

As the story progresses, Cecile meets different people who help her

see the unfairness of her situation. She finally realizes her self worth and learns to stand up to her abusive relationships.

When reading this book it is difficult not to question the credibility of its characters because they all have extreme personalities. Cecile represents the epitome of naivete and Shug, in contrast, has vast worldly knowledge.

The story is a social shocker and Walker does not hesitate to describe, in graphic detail, the reality of Cecile's condition. The story ends

on a high note when Cecile receives her empowerment and opens a pants making shop. How does she reach this state of empowerment? The author leads us to believe it is through her relationship with Shug, a singer who is having an affair with her husband. Cecile's relationship with Shug is, to say the least, questionable at times. The issue of homosexuality comes into play and it is the responsibility of the reader to accept the values of the characters if this empowerment is to be understood.

This book is not meant to be light reading. It deals with serious issues in a real, graphic manner. At times, it is unnecessarily detailed and intentionally makes its audience uneasy.

If you appreciate books that discuss difficult issues, *The Color Purple* might be a good selection (just be advised it's somewhat disturbing). If a clean plot is a requirement for your taste, avoid this violent "violet" novel and stick to the safe classics (i.e. Dr. Seuss).

Who's in it?	Plot	Place	Overall Rating (1=low, 4=high)
<p>Squaresoft has done it again. With the release of Final Fantasy 9 on Nov. 14, 2000, Square continues their consistent mixture of superb graphics, wonderful music, and excellent gameplay.</p>	<p>Not your basic "rescue the damsel in distress" scenario.</p>	<p>Any store that sells Playstation games.</p>	<p>Three stars</p>

Irene Flores
Editor in Chief

The most noticeable aspect of FF9 is the graphics. The character design was once again done by the talented Yoshitaka Amano (the character designer for FF5 and FF6) and there is a noticeable difference in

the look of FF9 from its predecessor, FF8. Unlike the realistic models of FF8, the character design has a returned to a more "sprite-ish" appearance. The characters still move about in a 3D environment, but instead of all the party members showing up on the world map, the only

visible character is the "point" man in the group. The rest of the party only shows up during battles.

Sad as I am to admit it, I didn't await the release of FF9 with as much anticipation as its predecessor. Sure, the graphics are awesome, but there's something missing with

the loss of the realistic character modeling. That, however, is personal preference. Besides my qualms with the character design, the game is an excellent catch and another worthy addition to the Final Fantasy series.

Who's in it?	Plot	Place	Overall Rating (1=low, 4=high)
<p>EA Sports Big have come to our rescue with SSX, or snowboard supercross.</p>	<p>SSX has many appealing traits; for example, a very easy to learn control system. Quite literally I picked up the controller, ran a warm-up run, and was soon carvin' with the best of them.</p>	<p>Any place that sells PS2 games.</p>	<p>Four stars</p>

Chris Loe
Staff Reporter

Okay, allow me to be frank. Lately it's seemed that the recent snowboarding games have just plain sucked. Don't worry, I'm not forgetting about Cool Boarders and 1080°. They both deserve praise, but many cheap clones soon followed. As a result, gamers have been itchin' for a good snowboarding game.

Which brings me to the tracks themselves. These downhill wonders are incredible. Not only are they fantastically detailed, they give ample opportunity to catch some air. They include little details like the

slices in the snow from your board to big details like a fully traversable out-of-bounds area.

SSX has 4 modes: Race, Showoff, Freeride, and Warm-up. In race mode, you are competing with up to 8 other racers for the first place position while still pulling some sick moves on the way. Showoff is where you perform tricks for points, which in turn gets you medals and unlocks tracks, tricks and extra gear for your boarder.

There are 8 boarders total, but in the beginning you can only select

four of them. The others are special and require to be unlocked. The riders are incredibly detailed, with a fully articulated face, selectable clothing and boards, and their own catch phrases.

The graphics are incredible. When you misjudge your speed's relativity to the ground (in other words, miss) and eat snow, you can see the cloud of powder fly out from underneath you. Every detail of the landscape can be seen (and crashed into) with crystal clarity. You actually see Kaori's pigtails whip about when she pulls a switch 360 Experi-

mental. The graphics are so life-like that you can't help but cringe when you go for that Backside Front flip Flying Squirrel and land on your neck.

The sound is superb. The announcer constantly taunts and encourages you at the same time, the tunes fit the game well, and the boarder's one-liners add a nice touch.

This game is the first must-own for the PS2. Even if you aren't a fan of the snow board genre (hey, I wasn't), you will enjoy this game. I give it 4 stars out of 4.

Someewhere over the rainbow

Cast List



Finian McLonergan- Efren Ramirez
 Sharon McLonergan- Lara Schmeiser
 Susan Mahoney- Valerie Lambdin
 Woody Mahoney- Matt Miller
 Og- Roddy Kennedy
 Senator Rawkins- Chris Schwenk
 Buzz Collins- Michael Spencer
 Sunny- Ronnie Miranda
 Sheriff- Travis Gordon
 Deputy- Ryan Cain
 Melindy- Becca Bough
 Sharecroppers: Rob Crew, Brian McNease, LaTia Willis, Clea Miller
 Geologists- Vic Thompson, Daniel Pierce
 Henry- Jonathan Jenkins
 Diana- Rebecca Berten
 Honey Lou- Jasmine Reed
 Mr. Shears- Jeff Prebble
 Mr. Robust- David Marasek
 Gospellers- Jon Hortsman, Terrence Jackson, Will Butler
 Six Girls- Caroline Berg, Janie Robertson, Tiana Long, Kristen McCummins, Lani Zobel, Christina McIntosh
 Chorus:
 Adam Harleman, Alyssa Powell, Alvin Gordan, Becca Bough, Brandon Powell, Brian Mantavo, Brian McNease, Brianna Timmons, Caroline Berg, Christina McIntosh
 Clea Miller, Danny Gross, David Elliot, David Scott, Elizabeth Kierstead, Janae Timmons, Janessa Willis, Janie Robertson, Jasmine Reed, Jason Jenkins, Jesse Webb, Jonathan Jenkins
 Josh Robertson, Kristen McCummins, Lani Zobel, Laurie Shane, Lindsay Hunt, Rebecca Berten, Rob Crew, Ryan Cain, Ryan Hanneman, Sean Fierro, Stacey Domingues, LaTia Willis, Tiana Long, Kory Robertson, Timmy Berg

Pit Orchestra



1st Flute/Piccolo- Michael-Lyn Mcride
 2nd Flute- Sarah Reiner
 1st Clarinet- Ambika Badarayan
 2nd Clarinet- Heather Kelly
 1st Violin- Katherine Morgan
 2nd Violin- Jaquelyn Milne
 1st Trumpet- Nathan Owen
 2nd Trumpet- Nicholas Arnold
 Trombone- Jennie Darling
 French Horn- Jenna Camacho
 Drums- Travis Kendall
 Piano- Stephen Monkemier
 Synthesizer- Sherylin Monkemier
Chris Ladwig - Director
Greg Stoll - Advisor



Photo by Greg Hyatt

Musical blends light-hearted adventure with an underlying message of racial tolerance for all

• Come see Finian's Rainbow tonight in the Little Theatre at 7:30 p.m. **Sharon Gross**

Copy Editor

Finian's Rainbow, starring Efren Ramirez as the charming title character, and daughter Sharon McLonergan (Lara Schmeiser), features a talented cast as they sing and dance their way through a delightful adventure of magic in fairyland.

Immigrating to America from Glocamora, Ireland, Finian and Sharon hastily travel through the United States in an attempt to escape a leprechaun, from whom Finian stole a crock of gold. Upon entering Rainbow Valley, the McLonergans encounter Woody Mahoney (Matt Miller) and sister, Silent Susan (Valerie Lambdin), along with their extended family, consisting of white and black sharecroppers.

Finian and Woody together pay the greedy sheriff (Travis Gordon) the balance due on Rainbow Valley for them to use the land, infuriating the corrupt and bigoted Senator Rawkins, played convincingly by Chris Schwenk.

Unbeknownst to Finian, Og, the leprechaun from whom Finian stole the crock, portrayed outstandingly by Roddy Kennedy, has followed the McLonergans to Rainbow Valley. Without the crock in Ireland, the Magicland is losing its luster, and Og is turning mortal. Og spots the beautiful Sharon, who is also home-

sick and singing songs of Ireland, and falls instantly in love.

Meanwhile, Susan the Silent is busy dancing her feet off by means of communication, in order to inform the tobacco picking sharecroppers of the happenings of the valley. A young, black tobacco picker, played by John Jenkins, is the only one who understands her dance language, and is quick to inform the others of her urgent news.

As in all great musicals, romance falls upon two handsome and appealing characters, and, after many moonlight sonatas, Woody and Sharon are to be wed.

Staying true to the legend of the pot of gold, whenever a person is near, or in possession of the crock, a wish may be granted. Only three wishes are permitted, so, as Finian remains anxious to keep his fortune hidden, and Og desperately seeks his treasure, strange happenings begin to occur in Rainbow Valley, including the transformation of the prejudiced Senator Rawkins from white to black and talk of witchcraft.

A comedy of chance and hidden lessons, Finian's Rainbow is a fun way to spend the weekend with family and friends. Show times were Friday, February 23, and Saturday the 24, and March 2 and 3 at 7:30 pm. Tickets may be purchased at the door, and be sure to arrive early to ensure good seats.

What are ye lookin' at?: The cast of this year's musical strike a pose on the Little Theatre stage.

FAST facts

When Your last two chances to see the play are tonight, March 2 and tomorrow, March 3 at 7:30 p.m.

Admission Tickets are \$8 and will be sold at the door

Origin The play is based on a book by E.Y. Harburg and Fred Saily

Disasters On the play's opening night, the crucial rainbow never appeared, and the cast was left with nothing but a blue background to play off of.

Production Staff

SET DESIGN, BUILDERS, & PAINTERS
 Travis Gordon, Annick Job, Ryan Cain, Jonathan Jenkins, Efren Ramirez, Sophia Betz, Lara Schmeiser, David Elliott, Tiana Long, Josh Robertson, LaTia K. Willis,

Cindy Schwenk, Lindsay Hunt, Jimmy Eum, Clea Miller, Chris Schwenk
 LIGHT CREW
 Hiedi Reed, Patti White, Nancy Carrillo

MAKE UP CREW
 Lindsay Hunt, Christina, Morgan Powell, Tiffany Soxman
 STAGE CREW

Lili Rauh
 USHERS
 Sharon Gross, Andrea Thompson,

Loren Beck, Tara Webb, Jeff Bartley, Brad Smith, Matt Bernardy

Directed by Jane Carlton
 Assistant Director: Laura Jones
 Choreographer: Jason Samabet

Matt Facts

- played the piano since age three and has composed several original pieces
- has never earned anything lower than an A
- went to Honduras last summer to teach music theory in Spanish at the local Bible institute
- was MVP for the Cabrillo tennis team last year

CHS senior spotlight: The little genius that could

Heather Scott

Entertainment Editor

Incredibly devoted to his studies and music, Matt Monkemier has earned the reputation amongst his peers as "genius material."

Being the son of a pastor and a member of a musically talented family, Monkemier spends most of his free time in the church and playing the piano.

Monkemier started playing the piano when he was three when his grandfather, a music professor at a conservatory, taught him how to play.

"My mom plays the organ and my

dad sings, it was only natural that I should at least start learning piano, and I've never stopped," he said.

Monkemier said he played the cello for a couple of years but likes the piano the best.

The young genius isn't only focused on playing the piano; he has other hobbies like reading and says that right now he's devouring C.S. Lewis.

As far as Monkemier's grades go, he says he likes to learn and doesn't worry a whole lot about his grades and that a B would be very good for

him.

College decisions are a major part of a senior's life and like any other senior Monkemier has applied to a few colleges but doesn't know for sure where he's going. Some of his college choices are Wheaton College, Moody Bible Institute (both in Chicago, IL), Biola University and Stanford.

Although Monkemier isn't exactly sure what he wants to do for a career, he says that the idea of being a missionary excites him to no end.



"His thoughts on life are very interesting, they make you think 'what if.' He's cautious in what he does yet he's fun to be around. He's a great friend, student, and mentor. When we study he teaches me a lot," said Alicia Johnson, a close friend of Monkemier's.

Though often seen as serious, Monkemier still has a great sense of humor. When asked where he sees himself in ten years, his reply was "in a dirty apartment with a long-suffering wife, begging people to pay me for piano lessons so I can pay the gas bill."