

Arts & Entertainment

Summer's Biggest Hits

A look at finales, crazy love, and social tensions

By Ryan Silvola
A & E Editor

This past summer the most popular movies that I thought that I had to see were: *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1*; *The Help*; *Crazy, Stupid, Love.*; *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides*; and *The Hangover: Part II*.

1. *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2.*

It was, as all of the promos said, the epic conclusion to the entire series. The film starts right from where Part 1 ends, and the action continues throughout the 130 minutes of the movie.

All of the major battle scenes are acted out and edited so well that it makes people who aren't traditional fans want to see the movie. While hardcore fans will notice some changes compared to the book,

such as Arianna's death not being mentioned, director David Yates did a great job in his interpretation of the final conclusion.

2. *The Help.*

Although the film is set during the civil rights movement, *The Help* seems to combine the perfect amount of modern drama and comedy.

The film takes place in Mississippi during the civil rights movement of the 1960s. Eugenia 'Skeeter' Phelan, played by Emma Stone, is an aspiring writer who wants to write a story on the challenges that African American maids have to go through with their white families that they work for.

The film may seem like a historical flick focusing on civil rights, but it's really the heartfelt story of Abileen Clark,

played by Viola Davis, with tons of comic relieve by Minny Jackson, played by Octavia Spencer. If movie goers want a feel good movie with a lot of laughs, *The Help* is still in theaters.

3. *Crazy, Stupid, Love.*

Movie goers will have no choice but to laugh at all of the awkward relationships that are in the film and all of the surprising twists that go along with it.

The film is about a father, Steve Carell, whose wife, Julianne Moore, is asking for a divorce and runs into player Ryan Gosling, who is going to teach him how to start dating again.

While there is a very basic plot, the relationships of all the characters make this film the best comedy of the summer.

4. *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides.*

Director Rob Marshall squeezed out yet another addition to the series, but without former costars Orlando Bloom and Keira Knightley, the fourth installment of *Pirates* didn't live up to the first three's glory.

The film still stars Jack Sparrow, played by Johnny Depp, but in this installment Sparrow is looking for the mystical fountain of youth. The only other returning cast member was Geoffrey Rush, who plays Barbossa, who is also in search of the fountain of youth.

While some new elements were added to the movie, like the famous Captain Blackbeard played by Ian McShane and mermaids, the tides weren't really all that

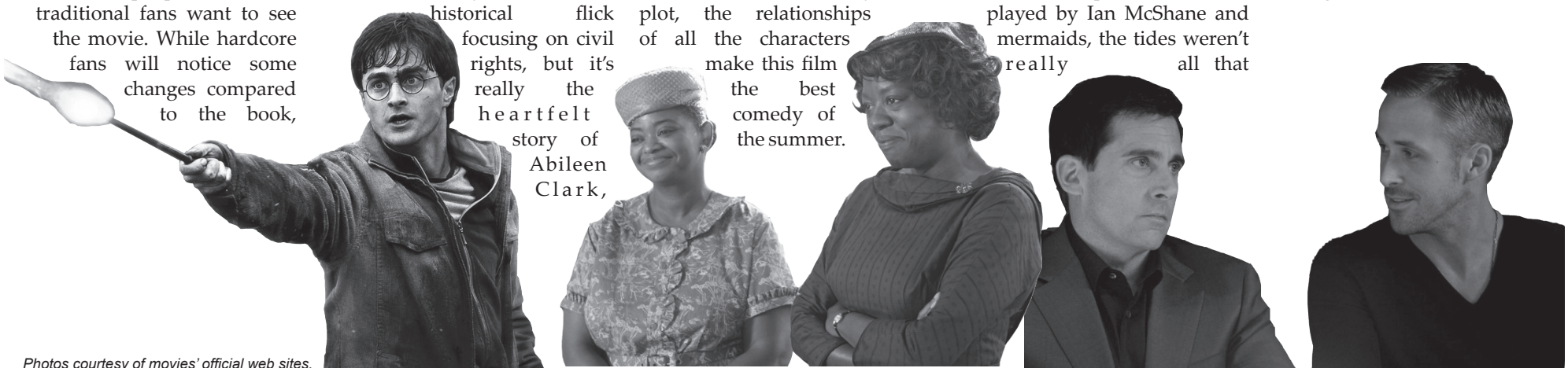
stranger than any of the other films in the series, which makes this one a total let down.

5. *The Hangover: Part II.*

Yet another sequel to not live up to expectations. While the film did have some hilarious moments, the film was essentially the same story as the first, but instead of the setting being in Las Vegas it was in Thailand.

The main idea behind *The Hangover* is that there are three guys, played by Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms, and Zach Galifianakis, that get drugged and end up in a hotel room missing another member of their group.

Maybe that's the problem, that the only part of the either of the films that is different is the setting.



Photos courtesy of movies' official web sites.

Cinderella rendition comes to Lakes

By Mallory Lindstrom
Opinions Editor

The Drama Department ushers to the Lakes stage a new take on the classic story of Cinderella to the Lakes stage in early November.

The cast of 34 actors and actresses has been working hard to make this play a success.

Auditions were held earlier in the month. More than 60 students auditioned, making drama teacher Bridget Banas' job of casting very difficult. In the end, senior Hayley Sherwood received the lead role as Ashgirl.

Sophomore Alexa Cherry and junior Emilee Jung were cast as the stepsisters, Ruth and Judith. And senior Jake Meeks was chosen to play Prince Amir.

"I was overjoyed when I found out I was cast as Ashgirl," Sherwood said. "I have always been in love with fairytales and now to be performing in one is really exciting. It is really an honor to be cast as the lead. I couldn't be happier."

The play is basically the classic story of Cinderella with a

dark twist.

Ashgirl's father is missing, leaving her to live with her ruthless stepmother and stepsisters, Ruth and Judith. Ashgirl plans to relieve herself of her sadness by focusing all of her efforts on winning over the prince; however, the Seven Deadly Sins and the power of Sadness, played by Senior Katie Clements, seek to crush all her hope.

The plot explores the fear and self-doubt everyone struggles with and modernizes the classic idea of fairytales.

At the end of the 2010-2011 school year, the School Board decided to cut the Drama Department's third show.

The Drama Department is handling business as usual despite this being their only play, apart from the musical *Chicago*.

Because the cast is so large, many students have the opportunity to have a role or work backstage.

Banas had a difficult decision as to which show she would choose for her actors.

"I chose this play because I

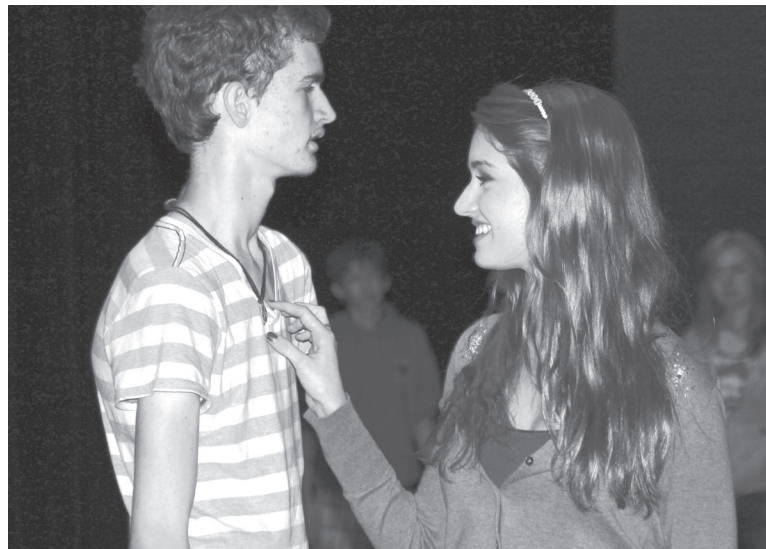


Photo by Erin Kelly

Jessica Sherwin, right, seduces Caleb York during a rehearsal. Sherwin plays Lust, one of the seven deadly sins, in the fall play *The Ash Girl*, and York is her helpless victim.

thought it was a very interesting take on Cinderella and has great roles for [actors]," Banas said.

Overall, *The Ash Girl* is expected to be a huge success. The fall play will hit the stage Nov. 3, 4, and 5.

"The Drama Department welcomes all to come out and see it," Banas said.

Come in and bring your appetite!

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