

Take the kids!

But adults should not expect to be impressed with plot of "Hoodwinked." See Page C4



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Your guide to music, movies, festivals, the arts and anything else that's cool

SECTION C

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Flicks return to grisly roots

Horror movies torture to watch for audiences with weak stomachs

By CHRISTY LEMIRE
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK

Today's horror movies are more likely to be dripping with blood than irony, with films like the "Saw" series and last week's "Hostel" representing a return to their bloody, low-budget '70s beginnings.

While the "Scream" trilogy grossed hundreds of millions of dollars in the late 1990s with characters who winked at the camera in playful mockery of the genre's conventions, horror flicks like Eli Roth's "Hostel" will show you a character whose eye is dangling from its socket after a long afternoon of torture.



The "Scream" flicks made audiences laugh. Today's horror flicks are more sadistic and gory.

"Self-referential, ironic humor ran its course," said Roth, a 33-year-old writer-director who grew up loving the graphic slasher movies of the 1970s and '80s.

"Kevin Williamson did it brilliantly," he said, referring to the writer of the original "Scream." "That was the gimmick. Even Kevin Williamson got tired of that."

"I think scary movies are back," Roth said. "People clearly don't want to see a horror movie to laugh."

Lions Gate Films apparently thinks so, too, having released several grisly horror movies in the past few years: Rob Zombie's "House of 1,000 Corpses" and its sequel, "The Devil's Rejects," about a family of redneck serial killers; "Saw" and "Saw II," about a kidnapper who torments his victims with elaborate mind games; and now "Hostel," which follows a trio of guys on a vacation that descends into brutal, bloody sadism.

While they're not exactly critical favorites — the first "Saw" received only 45 percent positive reviews on the Rotten Tomatoes Web site, with "Saw II" earning just 35 percent positive reviews — these movies can be enormously profitable.

"Saw" had a \$1 million budget and grossed \$55 million-plus; the sequel cost \$4 million and grossed nearly \$87 million.

"Our economic model is much different than the studios," Lions

(SEE HORROR, PAGE C4)

Paintings beg to be touched



Work by artist Jason Zickler will be exhibited in Indianapolis beginning Jan. 27. Pieces will have a red-and-black theme similar to the hanging piece at far left.



Center Grove grad impacts art world through textures

By ANNETTE JONES
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Hands-on painting takes a new meaning in the art of Jason Zickler. The Center Grove High School graduate's paintings are touchable.

A solo show of Zickler's art will open Jan. 27 at 4 Star Gallery on Massachusetts Avenue in Indianapolis. It runs through April 1. A reception is scheduled from 5 to 9 p.m. at the opening.

The "red and black" show will feature multimedia, textured works all in shades of the two colors.

Work by Zickler, 30, has generated interest in the Indianapolis art community and nationwide. Private collectors and corporations have purchased his paintings.

His large-scale, contemporary pieces have been part of group shows at Indianapolis galleries for more than a year.

"His shows do very well," said Shawn Miller, who owns 4 Star Gallery.

"He's a very prolific artist," Miller said. "He spends a lot of time honing his craft."

Zickler coated pieces for the upcoming show with a gel so they can be touched without damaging the paint. Visiting a gallery should not always be a passive experience, he said.

(SEE ART, PAGE C5)



STAFF PHOTOS BY SCOTT ROBERSON/sroberson@thejournalnet.com
Texture is a theme in Jason Zickler's art work. Fabric and layers of paint create defined ridges.

IF YOU GO

Touch

What: A solo show of paintings by Jason Zickler, a Center Grove graduate

Where: 4 Star Gallery, 653 Massachusetts Ave., Indianapolis

When: Opens with a reception from 5 to 9 p.m. Jan. 27 and ends April 1. Regular hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by appointment on Saturdays. Call 636-6382.

Admission: Free
Of note: Downtown Indianapolis art galleries are open from 5 to 9 p.m. the first Friday of each month.

Queen plays opposite of sassy diva in 'Holiday'

Latifah saves movie while her character saves the day

By CHRISTY LEMIRE
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Queen Latifah stars in "Last Holiday" as a meek woman who comes into her own only when she learns she has three weeks to live.

These three words — Queen Latifah stars — are crucial to the film's tolerability.

Unabashedly feel-good, the film from director Wayne Wang ("The Joy Luck Club," "Maid in Manhattan") turns ridiculous toward the end but manages to avoid being completely maudlin thanks to Latifah.

She's more effective in her early scenes as a shy cookware saleswoman at a New Orleans department store.

This is a real departure for the actress who's best known for sassy, swaggering roles in "Chicago" (which earned her an Oscar nomination), "Beauty Shop" and "Bringing Down the House," so it's a lovely surprise to see her bring beauty and sad grace to a character who's shy and insecure.

Based on the 1950 movie of the same name starring Alec Guinness, this comedy-drama hybrid finds Latifah's Georgia Byrd living a



When Georgia Byrd (Queen Latifah), a shy, churchgoing woman, is diagnosed with a fatal illness, she throws caution to the wind and embarks on a dream holiday vacation to a grand resort in Europe. Her friend, Sean (LL Cool J, right) tries to find out what happened to her in "Last Holiday."

quiet, solitary life with dreams of becoming a chef and marrying the co-worker with whom she's secretly smitten (LL Cool J).

One day, after she hits her head, a C-T scan reveals she has a virus that will kill her within weeks.

Realizing she must seize the opportunity to experience everything she's been afraid to do, Georgia takes all her money out of the bank, cashes in bonds and flies to a luxurious Europ-

ean hotel to meet her idol, a legendary chef.

People at the hotel mistake Georgia for someone wealthy, powerful and eminently alive. They're drawn to her, and in their midst she blossoms, which is a joy to watch.

She also manages to solve their problems and forces them to confront their mistakes.

It's a concept that on its face is off-putting, but again, this is Latifah. She's likable enough to make just about anything work.

DJ won't hear stern words from government regulators

By ERIN CARLSON
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK

He took pot shots at free radio, the Federal Communications Commission, even TV personality Pat O'Brien. Howard Stern debuted on satellite radio Monday, stirring up trouble and talking dirty.

But this time, he won't get beeped.

"I don't compete on terrestrial radio anymore," said Stern, who is finally free of government decency laws on Sirius Satellite Radio Inc. "It's so over."

The media maverick began his new radio show by putting to rest rumors — in true satellite style — that he got married to his longtime girlfriend, model Beth Ostrosky.

"I am not married. It's a nice feeling that we get along great. We're very happy, and I don't want to (blank) it up," Stern said.

Stern has promised everything

from stripper poles to live sex on his new show. But he used only a moderate amount of swearing and said his show was more about ideas, not the f-word. Cursing, he said, would be part of the natural progression of speech.

"I feel this is a culmination of dreams for me," Stern said in an on-air news conference. "The only limit is our mind."

At the time his October 2004 deal with Sirius was announced, the company said it could be worth up to \$500 million over five years to headline two Sirius channels.

Stern broadcast his final FM radio show Dec. 16 as thousands of fans gathered outside his New York City studio.

At the start of the show Monday, Stern dished up some phone sex with Playboy bunny Heidi Cortez, who has her own phone-sex nighttime show lined up on Sirius.

Even before his first day on the job, the shock jock recruited listeners for the \$13-per-month service: The Sirius audience expanded from 600,000 at the time the switch was announced to more than 3.3 million subscribers, Stern said Monday.



STERN