

AT THE MOVIES

'Firewall'

Here's a surprise: In "Firewall," Harrison Ford plays a heroic husband who winds up saving his family from kidnappers.

The picture leans heavily on Ford's well established reliability but becomes increasingly less credible as it moves toward a predictable mano-a-mano finale.

Rated: PG-13. Violence, situations in which children are under threat

'The Pink Panther'

Steve Martin talks funny and carries a big shtick in this slapstick-heavy attempt to update the series made famous by Peter Sellers.

Martin's abilities as a physical comedian are put to good use as the bumbling Inspector Clouseau, but the movie is only intermittently funny.

Rated: PG

'The New World'

Terrence Malick skimps on storytelling and character development for this underdone tale of John Smith (Colin Farrell) and Pocahontas (Q'orianka Kilcher).

Great efforts have been made to create a 17th-century environment, but that only means viewers are more interested in the scenery than the characters.

Rated: PG-13. Battle sequences

'Nanny McPhee'

Emma Thompson stars as the snaggletoothed title character and also provides the witty, intelligent script.

The film is loaded with entertaining humor that manages to engage adults and children alike.

Rated: PG. Mild thematic elements, rude humor and brief language

Red hair resonates with host

Conan O'Brien meets Finnish president he endorsed for election

By MATTI HUHTANEN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELSINKI, Finland

Conan O'Brien finally met his match.

The "Late Night" jokester, who ran a mock ad campaign endorsing the re-election of Finnish President Tarja Halonen because of her strong resemblance to him, had a face-to-face meeting with her Tuesday at the presidential palace in Helsinki.

O'Brien handed the Nordic country's first female president a box of chocolates in the shape of a red heart as they posed for photographers before their 15-minute meeting.

Halonen gave him Finnish troll dolls to take home.

Last year, O'Brien caused a political stir when, based on their resemblance, he endorsed the 62-year-old Halonen for a second six-year term, which she won last month.

His mock ads not only backed Halonen but also attacked her opponents.

O'Brien, who had earlier jokingly demanded a six-hour audience, said he wasn't disappointed. "Someone like me knows he's lucky to get 15 minutes," O'Brien said.

"It's not every day I get to meet the president of a country," O'Brien said in a telephone interview.



Late-night talk show host Conan O'Brien, left, hands a Valentine's Day present to Finnish President Tarja Halonen at the presidential palace in Helsinki, Finland. O'Brien caused a political stir last year when he endorsed Halonen because she resembles him, using mock ad campaigns.

On his arrival Saturday, O'Brien quipped that he expected to be rewarded for endorsing Halonen with a Cabinet position as inspector of saunas, "mostly women's saunas," but the issue was not discussed in the meeting.

"I was hoping very much to get a Cabinet position because I very much need the money, but she has invited me to come and visit her with my family," O'Brien said.

On Saturday, some 2,000 fans waited hours in subfreezing temperatures to catch a glimpse of the quirky, self-deprecating TV host, whose show is unusually popular in this taciturn nation of 5 million on the northern fringe of Europe.

Finns are very aware of their image abroad, and when O'Brien

poked fun at the small country, he was overwhelmed by mail. Finns started appearing in the New York audience of his NBC show.

The program airs on a Finnish cable channel, with a few days delay, and every time he mentions Finland or Halonen, local media report it prominently.

The president's spokeswoman said Halonen had wanted to thank O'Brien for making Finland better known, and the two had agreed they "might, indeed, resemble each other."

O'Brien said his wife was not happy about his Valentine's Day meeting with the Finnish leader.

"She was so jealous, she said she would spend her Valentine's Day with President Bush," he quipped.

TAKE IT HOME ON DVD

'Saw II'

The sequel puts maniacal murderer Jigsaw (Tobin Bell) into the hands of police, who must race to discover the whereabouts of a house where the wacko has imprisoned people among devices of torture and death.

The DVD has a making-of featurette and segments on the ghoulish props filmmakers concocted.

'Zathura'

This sci-fi family adventure features bickering brothers (Josh Hutcherson and Jonah Bobo) who must learn to put their differences

aside to escape the perils they encounter when a dusty old board game sends them on a star trek.

The DVD has a nice range of background material about casting, creature creation and visual effects.

'Proof'

Need proof that Gwyneth Paltrow can act without Shakespeare to love? That Anthony Hopkins has plenty of tooth left in his acting bite? That Jake Gyllenhaal is more than just a cowboy-toy.

This film is about a woman living in fear that she has a mental illness. The DVD includes deleted footage.

FRANKLIN COLLEGE

Announcement
Non-credit course registration is open now for evening, daytime and weekend classes in a variety of subjects. To see the complete listing, go to www.franklincollege.edu and click on the "Continuing Studies" link at the bottom right of the page.

Saturday, February 18
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STAFF PHOTO BY ANNETTE JONES/ajones@thejournalnet.com
Jim Kemp works in the studio at his home in Greenwood. Kemp will sell his wares Feb. 25 at the Indiana Art Fair in Indianapolis.

• Quirky

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE C1)

oranges and reds that have made an impact on his work, Kemp says. His pieces have evolved from pastel teapots and vases to vessels bold in color and form.

"When I started, I used six to seven colors," he says. "Now I use 15 to 20 colors."

Kemp and other artists faced tough competition for admission in the Indiana Art Fair, said Chris Krock, the museum's coordinator for the event.

The reputation of the fair has grown, Krock says, and the number of artists submitting work increases as word-of-mouth accolades for the show multiply.

Jewelry from funky to fine, pottery, quilts, decorative and wearable fiber, hand-blown glass, paintings, metalwork, photography, sculpture and woodcrafts will be on display.

A preview party to benefit the museum will take place from 6 to 9 p.m. Feb. 24. Call 232-1637 for tickets.

Regular show admission is \$3 for Indiana State Museum members and \$10 for nonmembers and includes entrance to museum.

• Award

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE C1)

drama "Johnny Belinda," a homegrown Hollywood production, seemed to have the edge, only to lose to a British upstart, Laurence Olivier's "Hamlet."

• Three years later, the song-and-dance romance "An American in Paris" pulled off a best-picture stunner over dramatic heavyweights "A Place in the Sun" and "A Streetcar Named Desire."

• And one of Oscar's biggest underdogs, the Olympics tale "Chariots of Fire," ran off with best picture for 1981 over the historical drama "Reds" and the family story "On Golden Pond."

This time around, most signs point to "Brokeback Mountain" — Ang Lee's tale of two rugged Western men (Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal) in a doomed love affair — as the likely best-picture champ.

Since it debuted in December, "Brokeback Mountain" has swept through awards season, winning best drama at the Golden Globes, snagging honors from top critics groups and earning prizes from guilds representing directors, writers and producers.

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