



'Look Who's Talking Now' in comedy

PREVIEW

They're back. The happy family that was first launched into the movie-going public's heart with "Look Who's Talking" returns with the third installment in the series, "Look Who's Talking Now," opening Friday at metropolitan Detroit movie theaters.

Mollie (Kirstie Alley) and James (John Travolta) first found each other when little Mikey (David Gallagher) was born. As an infant, Bruce Willis supplied Mikey's voice and then Roseanne Arnold came along to supply the voice of his little sister, Julie (Tahitha Lupten).

Now the kids are talking for themselves but the dogs are getting a little restless.

The Tri-Star Pictures release is directed by Tom Rowley, who co-wrote the screenplay with his wife, Leslie Dixon.

In "Look Who's Talking Now," James has found success as the private pilot for Samantha D'Bonne (Lysette Anthony), the

glamorous president of a cosmetics firm. While he's juggling around the world, however, Mollie is juggling the role of Mommy with her new position as an elf for a department store Santa.

It's not a good situation, especially when James and Samantha simultaneously leave two canines in her home.

Rocks (DeVito) is a street-smart but house-dumb mutt that James rescued from the pound. Daphne (Keaton) is a pampered poodle belonging to Samantha and who is less than thrilled about living with the Utriccios.

The pooches share their opinions about each other eagerly snapping barks and putdowns.

The family bond is tested in this latest installment as Mikey tries to come to grips with the idea that maybe his parents haven't been telling him the truth about Santa, and Mollie is recovering from the blow that left her without a job and doubting her

Dogs speak up for contest

"Dogs say the darnest things." You know it and I know it, dogs have a way of letting us know what they want and how they're feeling. Send us a picture of your dog, with a caption of what your dog is saying to enter our "Dogs say the darnest things contest."

The first 28 entries will receive a large youth size sweat shirt from the movie "Look Who's Talking Now." The grand prize winner will receive a package with two youth size sweat shirts and an assortment of "Look Who's Talking Now," memorabilia.

To enter, send a snapshot of your dog, with a caption to: Keely Wygonik, Taste/Entertainment Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers Inc., 38251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. For more information, call 953-2105.

If you would like your photograph returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Deadline for entries is Monday, Nov. 15.

makes a cameo appearance in a dream sequence. Basketball star Charles Barkley also makes an appearance as himself.

The two dogs were selected from among 100-plus animals, according to Ropelowski.

"We were looking for the Spencer Tracy-Katharine Hepburn



Contest: Get out your family dog pictures to enter in our "Dogs Say the Darnest Things," contest. Rocks, a mutt with a voice like Danny DeVito, and Daphne, a well-bred poodle who sounds just like Diane Keaton, are an unlikely couple in "Look Who's Talking Now," a TriStar Pictures release.

chemistry," he said. "Dogs and kids are supposedly the bane of filmmakers, but I've found wonderful luck. John and Kirstie love animals and kids, and that lent to a spontaneous looseness on the set that set everyone at ease."

"I kept silly with the kids," Travolta said. "Because that's the

wavelength they're on. They want to have fun, and if you keep it fun then you keep it light. As soon as you start getting serious, forget it."

The two youngsters tapped for the film have been performing since an early age, but this will be their big movie debut.

Characters soar emotionally after crash in 'Fearless'

FILM CLIPS

"FEARLESS"

Revised by: Warner Bros. Starring: Jeff Bridges, Isabella Rossellini, Rosie Perez, John Turturro and Tom Hulce Directed by: Peter Weir Produced by: Paula Weinstein and Mark Rosenberg Written by: Rafael Yglesias, based on his novel Rated: R (Restricted. Under 18 requires an accompanying parent or guardian) Running time: 2 hours, 4 minutes Rating (out of a possible four):

Key: Don't miss (D) (D) (D) (D) Strongly recommended (D) (D) (D) (D) Worth a look (D) (D) (D) (D) Wait for video (D) (D) (D) (D)

PREVIEW

He trudges calmly, almost placidly, through the maze of a corridor, cradling an infant in his arms. It's not until he reaches a clearing that we realize that he is one of the survivors of a catastrophic plane crash.

The idea doesn't seem to click with the man either, who flugs a cub to drive him to the nearest hotel. He checks in without calling his wife, showers, then lays down for a nap before FBI agents come pounding on the door.

One man's painful recovery from severe trauma is the basis of "Fearless," starring the ever-watchable Jeff Bridges. The well-scripted drama is now showing at the Star John R in Madison Heights, and will open at additional theaters Friday.

When it comes to emotional and heartfelt drama, "Fearless" is pretty exciting stuff. The man, Max Klein, believes that because

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he cheated death on the plane, he can do it again. He walks out into traffic as beeping cars whoosh by him. He dances high above the street atop a tall building ledge.

The immortality complex doesn't wear well with his family. Wife Laura, played by Isabella Rossellini, has infinite patience with his immortality complex and his withdrawal from her both physically and emotionally. She even tries to understand his often brutal honesty, including his expressed love for a fellow plane crash survivor (Rosie Perez).

Some have speculated that the heavily symbolic "Fearless" is actually a metaphor for midlife crisis. Take away the plane crash and replace it with a traumatic birthday or anniversary and a man like Max might not the same way.

The performances here at top-notch, and not just from Bridges, an actor who chooses his roles as deftly as anyone in Hollywood. Rosie Perez, usually identified by

an acid tongue and grating voice, has her most mature role to date as Carla, a devoutly religious young woman trying to come to grips with why her son was taken away from her.

Max, feeling it his duty to save her, takes Carla out to a shopping mall and urges her to buy gifts for the dead child. He, meanwhile, buys a fancy tool set, trying to lose ends with the father he lost through a freak accident when Max was only 13.

Seems like this shouldn't work in "Fearless," but they do, thanks in great part to director Peter Weir, who sets exactly the right tone. After a string of interesting and commercial films like "Witness" and "Green Card," Weir has finally gone back to the character-motivated drama that made his early Australian films ("The Last Wave," "Picnic at Hanging Rock") so exciting.

Events leading up to the crash are deftly handled in Max and Carla's recurring flashbacks. Max's business partner trying to call home one last time only to find an answering machine, Carla

struggling with her child's seat belt, and Max walking over to a little boy sitting alone in the hopes of comforting him. The actual crash is shown in an astoundingly vivid montage.

Scripted by Rafael Yglesias from his own book, "Fearless" isn't always the tightest, especially when it comes to minor characters. John Turturro doesn't have a whole lot to do as the airline psychologist assigned to help Max and Carla overcome their trauma. You also get the feeling that more footage existed between Max and that little boy he was instrumental in saving. Perhaps it's just as well.

One of the greatest strengths of "Fearless" is its dead-on depiction of the legal feeling frenzy that results from an accident such as this. "I know, I'm horrible," says Max's sharp shyster lawyer (an almost unrecognizable Tom Hulce) before outlining a strategy that will get them more money.

Hollywood movies always seem hypocritical when dealing with the topic of greed and avarice. "Fearless" works because it doesn't oversell the message. It's the kind of movie whose real meaning seeps in slowly, sometimes years after you've seen it.

Upcoming movies full of action, suspense

Action, suspense, comedy... there's something for everyone in the movies. Here's a list of what's in the wings.

Opening Friday, Nov. 5, "Ghost in the Machine." A techno-thriller about a woman being stalked by a serial killer who has

"Flesh and Bone" — A drama about a traveling vendor who falls for a woman, then realizes she is the sole survivor of a family his father murdered when he was a child.

Opening Friday, Nov. 12, "Equinox" — The story of identical twins, separated at birth 30 years earlier, and their individual struggles to survive in the city of Empire.

"GREAT. A REMARKABLE FILM."

An adventurous, provocative film, compellingly directed by Peter Weir. Jeff Bridges is one of the best of American actors.

JEFF BRIDGES

FEARLESS

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