

# Clever 'Addams Family Values' will make you laugh The first "Addams Family" movie left me cold. Maybe it had to do with warming up to new faces in the familiar roles of



familiar roles of TV's creepiest family. The jokes

JOHN MONAGHAN MONAGHAN seemed obvious and labored, astily exhumed and propped up

hastily exhumed and propped up for display.

None was more shocked than the producers when the movie became a smash hit. Imagine my surprise walking out of the Inevitable sequel, "Addam Family Values," convinced that it so no of the year's cleverest comedies.

Granted, you don't have to look back farther than last month's "Beverly Hillbillies" movie for the idiotic plot. Joan Cusack plays Debbic, the "Black Widow Killer" who marries billionaires then quickly bumps them off. Now she sets her sites on the ever-eligible Unde Fester (Christopher Lloyd).

She enters the family house as many to the latest Addams arrival, a mustachieed infant named Pubert. The older siblings, Wednesday and Pugsley (Christina Ricci and Jimmy Workman), concect bizarre ways to do the tot in, dropping off his head in aguillotine—all to no avail.

When the kids discover Debie's plans, the homicidal haus-

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frau ships them off to Camp Chippewa, a summer program for the privileged run by a pair of married camp counselors who have listened to way too many Debbie Boone records. Not surprisingly, the Addams children don't fit in at all.

The regular cast has grown into their roles well. As Morticia, Anjelica Huston is usually shot Dracula-style with an eerie light framing her piercing eyes. She has a delicious tango with Raul dulia's Gomez where their passionate steps literally set the dance floor shize.

Add to this some new arrivals, especially Joan Cuanck, whose loopy presence has spiced up a few turkeys ("Toys" and "Men Don't Leave") and made some good films even better ("Married to the Moh" and "Working Girl.") Here she succeeds at the impossible: stealing scenes from the extremely phaceents of the more stealing seems from the extremely phaceents and the same land from Things, sets the pace for this movie where gags fly non-step.

The funniest bits occur at The townsteals.

stop.

The funniest bits occur camp, where the perpetually gloomy Addams children are ban-ished to a tiny cabin and forced to



#### 'ADDAMS FAMILY YALLIES"

Released by: Paramount Pictures Staring: Anjelica Huston, Raul Julia, Christopher Lloyd, Joan Cusack, Christina Ricci, Jimmy Workman, and Carol

Directed by: Barry Sonnenfeld Produced by: Scott Rudin Written by: Paul Rudnick (based on the characters created by Charles Addams Rated: PG-13 (Some material may be inappropriate for young children.) Running time: 1 hour, 45









Exchanging vows: Cousin Itt (center) presides over a most undescribable wedding ceremony for Fester and Debbie in "Addams Family Values."

watch "The Little Mermaid" has provided more than mere while surrounded by posters of unicorns and kittens. When the group hug falls, the counselors screenade them on guitar with "Kumbnya." Production designer Ken Adam, still best known for his work on the James Bond series,

volved. Prepare to lough — a lot.

To leave a message for John
Monaghan, dial 935-2047, mailbox number 1866, on a louel-tonephone, fax him a note at 591-7229,
or write him in care of Entertainment, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schooleraft, Livonia
48150.

Top dog: Sky Walker is the winner of our contest. The caption was "Let's Play Ball."

# Playful pup wins contest

Our tails are wagging over the tremendous reader re-sponse we received for the "Dogs say the Darnedest Things," contest. Thanks to all who entered; we'll be returning your pictures this week.

Our winner is Sky Walker Stevens, a Welsh Corgi born on Inauguration Day, Jan. 15, 1993.

His picture was submitted by Kent Stevens, 7, of Farm-ington Hills. Kent won our grand prize package containing two youth-size sweat shirts and an assortment of "Look Who's Talking Now" memora-bills

As you might guess, Sky Walker loves to play ball. A natural herder, he also likes to chase and herd the geose who come into his backyard. Everyone in the family agrees he's a happy, playful dog, and unusual because he has a very long body, hig ears and no tail.

"Look Who's Talking Now," a TriStar Pictures release, is now playing at auburban movie famow playing at auburban movie famow, and can speak for themselves, so it's Rocks and Daphne, two talkative pooches, who contribute to the hillarious surmoil of the Ubracco household.





# Robin Williams stars in "Mrs. Doubtfire"

Daniel Hillard (Robin Williams), an out-of-work voiceover actor, is a man who wil do any-thing to be with his three chil-dren. Unfortunately, the things that his kids love about him—

We have no doubt that men can cook, so in the spirit of "Mrs. Doubtfire," we're offering oven mitts to the first 50 men who send us a recipe for their specialty.

We'll print the best ones in the Taste section on Dec. 13. So come

his wild sense of humor, his care-free view of life — are traits which prevent him from being the hus-band his wife Miranda (Sally Field) needs him to be. After 14 years of marriage she

Send us his special recipe

### PREVIEW

has asked for a divorce and has been granted temporary custody of the children, in spite of Dan-iel's emutional protests. So when Miranda advertises for a house-keeper, the clever but desperate Daniel, disguises himself as an elderly British woman, and gets the job in "Mrs. Doubtfire," open-ing Wednesday at metro Detroit movie theaters. The film also

stars Pierce Brosnan, as Stu, a former boyfriend and current elicnt of Miranda's; Harvey Frastein as Daniel's brother; and Rohert Prosky as Mr. Lundy, the boss who recognizes Daniel's true talent.

Twentieth Century Fox presents the Blue Wolf Production of Chris Columbus' Film "Mrs. Doubtfire," directed by Chris Columbus from a screenplay by Randi Mayem Singer and Leslie Dixon, based on "Alias Madame Doubtfire" by Anne Fine.





## "A BRILLIANT, HILARIOUS AND SENSITIVE COMEDY MASTERPIECE. ABSOLUTELY SENSATIONAL!"

Robin Williams is outrageous, hilarious, tender, touching and brilliant."

\*Chris Columbus zeroes in on Robin Williams' comedy style and scores a hit!"

"Mrs. Doubtlire" is an inspired mix of brilliant comedy and heart-tugging sentiment, the kind of movie vou'll want to laugh and cry through again and again.



the genius that is Robin Williams. He's never been better."

\*Funny! Funny! Funny! A comedic showcase for Robin Williams that displays his amazing talents."

MRS. Doubtfire

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