

GOING TO THE MOVIES



'The Mighty Ducks' return in hilarious sequel

PREVIEW

When a clumsy crew of lame losers were transformed into a mighty flock of lucky Ducks by pee wee hockey coach Gordon Bombay (Emilio Estevez) in the 1992 hit "The Mighty Ducks," the once hapless amateur athletes who couldn't skate or score, won the championship and Gordon was drafted to play for a professional team. But after an injury sidelines his career, the aggressive lawyer-turned coach now finds himself spending his days sharpening other peoples' blades at the local sports shop. With little hope of reclaiming past glory, Gordon is facing a frosty future.

However, when he is recruited to coach Team USA at the Junior Goodwill Games in Los Angeles, Gordon is reluctantly drawn back to the rink he has come to resent. He reunites his mighty misfits to train in California, but the Ducks are quickly derailed and distracted by the West Coast lifestyle and the lure of earning big bucks with product endorsements.

With their heads in the clouds, these "under-ducks," are skating on slippery ice, and the world championship is an impossible goal unless Gordon can turn his once plucky players back into a lean, mean dream team, and keep all of his Ducks flying in the right

direction, in Walt Disney Pictures' live-action comedy sequel, "D2 The Mighty Ducks" opening Friday at metro Detroit movie theaters.

The film is directed by Sam Weisman, from a screenplay written by Steven Brill, based on characters created by Steven Brill. The producers are Jordan Kerner and Jon Avnet. Buena Vista Pictures distributes.

In creating the story, characters and sports milieu for the original Walt Disney Pictures film "The Mighty Ducks," screenwriter/co-producer Steven Brill drew upon events in his youth that made a lasting impression on him.

"When I was 8 years old I was on a pee wee softball team and I had no idea how to play the game," Brill remembers. "We had a really mean coach and we lost every game that year. It was by accident that the same thing kept happening year after year with other organized teams I played on. So I based the story on what was like to be a kid, playing sports with mean coaches."

After the success of "The Mighty Ducks," it was inevitable that Disney would begin working on a sequel to the 1992 hit. But where the original movie was about regional sports and a town



MIRELA PERIN

Exciting sequel: Coach Gordon Bombay (Emilio Estevez, top row, second from left) reluctantly agrees to help his old team in their bid for the Junior Goodwill Games in the sequel to Walt Disney Pictures' box office hit "The Mighty Ducks."

divided by the Ducks and Hawks teams, the filmmakers wanted to take the new story to a global level.

"We wanted to make America the symbol for the Ducks and vice-versa, so we included the entire spectrum of races and ethnicities all playing on one team with one purpose in mind. After a few problems they unite. This is very much about a team of disparate parts becoming strong together," said Brill.

"D2 The Mighty Ducks," picks up where the original story left off. The Ducks hockey team and their coach, Gordon Bombay has gone on to pursue his dream of playing in the minor leagues.

Gordon finds himself back in Minnesota when an injury ends his skating career. His hopes are revived when he is approached by Tibbles (Michael Tucker), an official sponsor of Team USA. Gordon agrees to coach hockey for the Junior Goodwill Games.

Reuniting his Ducks, Gordon adds the best young players from around the country. But a funny thing happens on the way to international competition. Denied by the omission of Rodeo Drive and Malibu, the young players and their coach are soon caught up in the glamorous LA lifestyle, and the lure of profits to be had from commercial endorsements. They are "ducks in Babylon," as Estevez describes them. And despite the best efforts of the team's

teacher Michele (Kathryn Erbe) to keep them from straying from their roots, the Ducks must ultimately find their own way back.

"D2 The Mighty Ducks," is rated PG (Parental Guidance Suggested). Some material may not be suitable for children.

UPCOMING MOVIES

- There's something for everyone at the movies. Here's a list of what's in the wings:
- Opening Friday, March 25:**
- "The Hudsucker Proxy" — Satirical comedy about big business. Follows the fortunes of Norville Barnes (Tim Robbins), a naive, good-natured young man who comes to New York to make his fortune, and within days, finds himself at the top of the corporate ladder at Hudsucker Industries. Also stars Jennifer Jason Leigh and Paul Newman.
 - Opening Wednesday, March 30:**
 - "Four Weddings And A Funeral" — A stylish romantic comedy set exclusively at four weddings and a funeral, is a tale of 8 friends and 2 people who belong together but insist on staying apart. Stars Andie MacDowell, Hugh Grant, Kristin Scott Thomas, and Simon Callow.
 - "Thumbelina" — Animated feature based on the beloved Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale about a tiny girl "no bigger than your thumb," and her adventures as she follows her heart.
 - "Major League II" — The six-champion Cleveland Indians are headed for a fast paced finish again thanks to their off season maneuvers, and they must prove once more that they have what it takes, as they are coached by their former catcher, Jake Taylor. Stars Charlie Sheen, Tom Berenger,
- Corbin Bernsen and Randy Quaid.
- "Jimmy Hollywood" — Street-smart comedy about a would-be actor who takes a vigilante philosophy after a series of robberies, creating the role of a lifetime.
 - Opening Friday, April 1:**
 - "House of the Spirits" — Saga of the powerful Trueta family, followed over the course of three generations. Stars Anney Lennox, Meryl Streep, Glenn Close and Winona Ryder. Based on best-selling novel of the same name.
 - "Clifford" — Martin Short stars as a mischievous 10-year-old boy who has many misadventures while in the care of his bachelor uncle.
 - Opening Friday, April 8:**
 - "Threesome" — Two guys and a girl, college roommates through an administrative error, find their relationship evolving into a complex triangle in this contemporary comedy.
 - Opening Friday, April 15**
 - "Cops and Robbers" — The lives of the average suburban Robberson family are changed when a no-nonsense veteran cop moves in to stake out the house next door. Comedy starring Chevy Chase.
 - Opening Friday, April 22**
 - "Brainscan" — Teenage boy faces a living nightmare when his playing of an interactive fantasy game might in fact be responsible for real murders.

Join staff on deadline at 'The Paper'

AP — Near the end of Ron Howard's "The Paper," opening Friday at metro Detroit movie theaters, an overwrought city commissioner jumps the columnist who's been skewering him with relentless exposes on parking enforcement, points a gun at the reporter and asks why he's being hounded.

Because, the looming columnist, Dan McDougal (Randy Quaid), says with cool abandon, the commissioner works for the city and it's "your turn."

It's that type of deadpan cynicism that helps make "The Paper" a high-voltage joy ride of journalistic fun. But woven into the laughter are some telling moments that mirror a few truths about the Fourth Estate.

Directing from a well-crafted screenplay by David and Stephen Koepp, Howard storms through 24 hours at the New York Sun, a scruffy daily that thrives on when-burn headlines with slanders (exclamation points).

It's an especially critical day for Henry Hackett (Michael Keaton), the Sun's metro editor, who's down to the wire over a story that could free two young men wrong-

fully charged with murder and also has a job interview with the highly respected Sentinel ("We cover the world").

Adding more dynamics to Henry's day-wife Mary (Marisa Tomei) is about to give birth to their first child, his managing editor, Alicia (Glenn Close), wants him dead, and the paper's editor Bernie White (Robert Duvall) is having thoughts of mortality as he learns of a cancerous prostate.

Hey, no biggie. It's just a typical day in the life of a reporter.

Hackett might work for a tabloid, but he has journalistic ethics. It's important to get it first and get it right, but more importantly — get it right.

Two white out-of-town businessmen are murdered, with a racial slur painted across their car to make it look like a crime of hate. Two young black men who are on the street at the time are arrested.

Wham. Alicia wants their arrest and pictures on the front page.

Bam. The headline: "Gotcha!" Henry learns the Sentinel has information that the murdered men were involved in a banking

scandal and the arrested kids are innocent. But Alicia won't budge. The minutes tick away as the paper's deadline arrives. The incompetent police beat reporter has nothing, and McDougal doesn't seem to be getting anywhere with the feds. But Mary, a former reporter who's dying to get back into the game, gets the 411 from an old Justice Department source.

There's only one missing ingredient and Henry has to get that one himself.

Howard keeps a brisk pace. The audience races through deadline pressure with Henry, and watches the creation of a breaking news story.

And yes, you do get to hear the almost mythic "Stop the presses!" But Howard packs a few surprises with that one.

The filmmakers went to the New York Daily News and New York Post to research a big city tabloid, and learned well. Howard does indeed capture the frenzy and the passions, the pranks, the paranoia, the jealousies, the cre-

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THE MIGHTY DUCKS ARE BACK!

EMILIO ESTEVEZ

D2 THE MIGHTY DUCKS

FLORIDA VISIT