

MOVIES

# "Mission: Impossible" offers booms, bangs, and brains

Your mission, should you choose to accept it: try to figure out what the heck is going on during the opening scenes of "Mission: Impossible." This much-anticipated entry in the summer movie sweepstakes has such a thrilling climax that you may forget how confusing and stupid the rest of it really is.



JOHN MONAGHAN

That much is true of the original "Mission: Impossible" television series. My memories of the show involved skinny agents in suits, guys like Martin Landau and Peter Graves pulling off complex missions with lots of little gadgets and an emphasis on brain over brawn.

The movie "Mission: Impossible" plays it both ways. It wants that geekiness, with an emphasis on computer searches and suspenseful downloads. It also wants summer movie thrills, with monster explosions and impossible stunts backed by that now-famous theme song.

Pam Cruise, who also co-produced, plays Ethan Hunt, a super-secret agent who finds himself sole survivor of a mission gone wrong. His higher-up think that because Ethan is alive he must be the one who has been leaking information. He spends the rest of the movie in search of the computer disc that will clear his name.

Jon Voigt, head of the operation, appears to die during that aborted mission. If you've seen



Adventure thriller: Agent Ethan Hunt (Tom Cruise) goes to extraordinary lengths to get information in "Mission Impossible."

even one episode of "Mission: Impossible," you know that the dead don't stay that way for long. The movie is directed by Brian

DePalma, who made his name by ripping off Hitchcock in movies like "Obsession" and "Dressed to Kill." To his credit he delivers some exciting sus-

pense sequences, including one where Ethan hangs upside down in a booby-trapped computer vault. A drop of sweat or a raised degree of body temperature will trip the alarm.

And while he keeps the movie slightly off-kilter with the crazy angles, much of it is dull and overly confusing, especially for a brain-dead summer audience. Blame this on screenwriters David Koepp and Robert Towne, the latter who has never been able to capture the magic that was "Chinatown." Cruise, meanwhile, never convinces you that he's that smart, so much so that you think he must have had a stunt double to type on the computers that fast. A hunky leading man is the biggest departure from the show, whose characters (especially when Leonard Nimoy joined the cast) were so smart they were almost automatons.

The straight-faced reverence to the old show is both refreshing and a bit of a drag. Usually exercises like this include cameos by old cast members and little in-jokes for fans, but the only person who seems to be having a good time is composer Danny Elfman, who delivers a funked-up version of the theme song for the closing credits.

Then there's that climax, which, without giving too much away, involves a bullet train, a helicopter and a long tunnel. It's probably the most heart-pumping ten minutes you'll spend at the movies this year, so deliciously over-the-top it makes the latest James Bond movie look almost plausible.

Though it will obviously do well in its opening weekend,

"Mission: Impossible" may ultimately fail in its prime directive. It doesn't stand a chance of stealing the thunder away from that already out-of-control summer blockbuster called "Twister."

John Monaghan welcomes your calls and comments. To leave him a voice mail message, dial (313) 953-2047 on a toll-free phone, mailbox 1866.

## A GALE-FORCE MOVIE!

IT WILL BLOW AUDIENCES RIGHT OUT OF THE THEATRE!  
The special effects are spectacular!

# TWISTER

"A HEART-POUNGING trip into the thrill zone!"  
—*Chicago Tribune*, 4/25/96

"You've never seen anything like it before! TRULY AMAZING!"  
—*Patricia Richardson*, FOX-TV

NOW SHOWING		AMC ABBEY 8	AMC OLD ORCHARD
AMC REC AIR	AMC LAUREL PARK	AMC BEACON EAST	AMC BEACON WEST
AMC SOUTHFIELD CITY	AMC STERLING CTR	AMC BIRMINGHAM 8	AMC BIRMINGHAM 9
BIRMINGHAM THE ATRE	GCC CANTON CINEMA	GCC INDIAN TOWN CENTER	GCC INDIAN TOWN CENTER
QUO VADIS	RENAISSANCE	SHOWCASE HARBOR	SHOWCASE HARBOR
SHOWCASE HARBOR	SHOWCASE	STAR GRATIOT	STAR LINCOLN PARK
STAR GRATIOT	STAR LINCOLN PARK	STAR ROCHESTER	STAR ROCHESTER
STAR TAYLOR	FORD WYOMING		

## "ALEC BALDWIN & TERI HATCHER SIZZLE!"

—*Billboard*, WESTWOOD ONE RADIO

Husling the wrong woman can be a deadly choice

# ALEC BALDWIN

# HEAVEN'S PRISONERS

AMC ABBEY 8	AMC AMERICANA HWY 10	AMC WONDERLAND
AMC WOODS 6	QUO VADIS	SHOWCASE HARBOR
SHOWCASE HARBOR	SHOWCASE HARBOR	SHOWCASE HARBOR
STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MILE	STAR LINCOLN PARK 8	STAR ROCHESTER HILLS
STAR TAYLOR	STAR TAYLOR	STAR TAYLOR

NO PASSES OR COUPONS ACCEPTED

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Scheduled to open Friday, May 24

**"THE HESSEMAN ON THE ROOF"**  
Epic adventure set in 1832, based on the classic French novel by Jean Giono, about an officer and a woman who together face an unrelenting epidemic that, like war, reveals both the weaknesses and strengths of mankind. Stars Juliette Binoche and Oliver Martinez.

**"COLD COMFORT FARM"**  
Main Art exclusive. Comic story set in 1930s England about a sophisticated young woman who suddenly finds herself orphaned and with no future. Stars Kate Beckinsale, Sheila Burrell, Ian McKellen

**"SPY HUNT"**  
A comedy about a secret agent who is lured back into active service to save the world from his old nemesis. Stars Leslie Nielsen, Nicolette Sheridan, Andy Griffith, Charles Durning.

**"WELLBORN IV: BLOODLINE"**  
Returns to selected area theaters. From the mind of Clive Barker comes a terrifying new chapter in the chilling series he introduced almost a decade ago.

Scheduled to open Friday, May 31

**"THE ARRIVAL"**  
A NASA astronomer finds himself at the center of a far-reaching conspiracy when he receives a transmission originating in deep space. A science fiction thriller starring Charlie Sheen, Ron Silver and Lindsay Crouse.

**"THE ROCK"**  
Sean Connery, Nicolas Cage and Ed Harris star in this action film about a military hero who takes a group of tourists hostage on Alcatraz.

**"THE PHANTOM"**  
Billy Zane and Treat Williams star, based on the popular comic strip as the Phantom's crime fighting mantle is handed down to the latest heir in 1930s New York City.

Scheduled to open Friday, June 14

**"CABLE GUY"**  
When an unsuspecting cable subscriber accepts the offer a few free movie channels from an overeager installer, he has no idea of what he's just invited into his life. Comedy stars Jim Carrey, Matthew

**"EDDIE"**  
Comedy about an NBA fan who wins a chance to coach the New York Knicks for one half, only to have it lead to a permanent position. Stars Whoopi Goldberg, Frank Langella, Dennis Farina, John Salley, Lisa Ann Walter.

**"DRAGONHEART"**  
A fantasy adventure set in the 10th Cen-

tury about a unique alliance between a man of honor and a creature of legend.

Scheduled to open Friday, June 7

**"ERASE"**  
He's an elite federal marshal who "erases" the past of jeopardized witnesses to safely relocate them. Now, he's alone and must protect a moving target who stands to uncover a conspiracy that could shift the balance of power in the world forever. Stars Arnold Schwarzenegger, James Caan, Vanessa Williams, James Coburn and Robert Pasorelli.

Scheduled to open Friday, June 28

**"STOP TEASE"**  
A drama about a woman who's lost her job and daughter in a child custody battle. To get the money to appeal, she takes a job as a dancer at a Miami strip club. Stars Demi Moore.

Scheduled to open Friday, June 14

**"DRAGONHEART"**  
A fantasy adventure set in the 10th Cen-

tury about a unique alliance between a man of honor and a creature of legend.

Scheduled to open Friday, June 7

**"ERASE"**  
He's an elite federal marshal who "erases" the past of jeopardized witnesses to safely relocate them. Now, he's alone and must protect a moving target who stands to uncover a conspiracy that could shift the balance of power in the world forever. Stars Arnold Schwarzenegger, James Caan, Vanessa Williams, James Coburn and Robert Pasorelli.

Scheduled to open Friday, June 28

**"STOP TEASE"**  
A drama about a woman who's lost her job and daughter in a child custody battle. To get the money to appeal, she takes a job as a dancer at a Miami strip club. Stars Demi Moore.

Scheduled to open Friday, June 14

**"DRAGONHEART"**  
A fantasy adventure set in the 10th Cen-

# EXPECT THE IMPOSSIBLE!

# TOM CRUISE

# MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE

# MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE

www.missionimpossible.com

STARTS WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

AMC BEL AIR 10	AMC EASTLAND 5	AMC LAUREL PARK
AMC MAPLE 3	AMC SOUTHFIELD CITY	AMC WOODS 6
BIRMINGHAM 8	GCC CANTON	RENAISSANCE 4
SHOWCASE HARBOR	STAR JOHN R AT 14 MILE	STAR JOHN R AT 14 MILE
SHOWCASE HARBOR	STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MILE	STAR LINCOLN PARK 8
STAR LINCOLN PARK 8	STAR ROCHESTER HILLS	STAR TAYLOR
FAIRLANE	STAR LAKESIDE	STAR TAYLOR
WEST RIVER	FORD WYOMING	FORD WYOMING

NO PASSES OR COUPONS ACCEPTED

# "CRITICS WHO HAVEN'T EVEN SEEN IT AGREE: It's a movie from start to finish!"

# "THREE THUMBS UP! WAY UP!"

—*B. L. BRADY, RUMORS RADIO*

"Leslie Nielsen gives his best performance since his last movie!"  
—*IC PEOPLE, SNEAKY PEEKS*

"It's pure celluloid!"  
—*HOME ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY*

"An instant classic... just add water!"  
—*AMC SNEAK OUTDOORS MAGAZINE*

# LESLIE NIELSEN

# SPY HARD

STARTS FRIDAY, MAY 24

AMC ABBEY 8	AMC AMERICANA HWY 10	AMC WONDERLAND
AMC WOODS 6	QUO VADIS	SHOWCASE HARBOR
SHOWCASE HARBOR	SHOWCASE HARBOR	SHOWCASE HARBOR
STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MILE	STAR LINCOLN PARK 8	STAR ROCHESTER HILLS
STAR TAYLOR	STAR TAYLOR	STAR TAYLOR

NO PASSES OR COUPONS ACCEPTED

# The Official Woodward Dream Cruise '96

Become an Official Member of the Woodward Dream Cruise...!

Your \$25.00 annual membership includes:

- Membership Card
- 1996 official Dream Cruise™ T-shirt
- Annual newsletter & schedule of all 1996 official Woodward Dream Cruise™ activities!

Send \$25.00 along with the completed form below to: Woodward Dream Cruise, Inc., P.O. Box 7056, Huntington Woods, MI 48070.

APPLY EARLY! The first 500 applicants will receive a commemorative 1996 Woodward Dream Cruise™ T-shirt! Deadline to apply is July 1, 1996. Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

1996 Woodward Dream Cruise Member

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. # \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone# \_\_\_\_\_ T-shirt size S M L XL XXL XXXL (circle one)