

MOVIES

# 'Analyze This' so funny it would be a crime to miss it

BY JON KATZ  
SPECIAL WRITER

You say you wanna sink into your movie seat and be intellectually challenged? You wanna meditate on life and love and how bad that popcorn butter is for you? You wanna lose yourself in the Elizabethan era of those Shakespearean Oscar contenders? Well "FUHGETABOUTIT!"

"Analyze This" will keep you too busy laughing and mimicking Robert De Niro's mad speak to engage in such lofty pursuits. Perhaps the ultimate tribute one can give a comedy is that even the straight lines are punch lines. This is such a comedy.

De Niro, perhaps our greatest

contemporary film actor, was understandably concerned about playing what is essentially a parody of the very character he's turned into a franchise. Fortunately, he decided that "the time had come for me to poke a little fun at myself." He's awfully funny, and, hopefully, Joe Pesci's not around to grill us on what we mean by "funny."

Billy Crystal is a perfect joke-mate for De Niro; he's head-exited at setting up and reacting to the gag while letting his partner fill in the funny middle. It works when he knows his place ("Throw Momma From the Train") and doesn't work when he tries to wear the hoggy pants himself ("On Saturday Night").

In "Analyze This," De Niro is

Paul Vitti, capo (boss) of one of New York's mob families, who as a child witnessed his gangster father being slain. With a big meeting coming up to decide who will be capo de capo, Vitti suffers a series of panic attacks. He cries while watching a life insurance commercial; he can't get it on with his mistress; hey, he can't even whack a stooge. Confronted to his huge henchman Jelly (Joseph Viterelli), he wonders whether he might need a head doctor-a shrink.

"This is like one of those psychic ESPN things," says the Runyonesque Jelly, who was in an auto collision with psychiatrist Ben Sobol (wrist!) just the night before. The doc is not thrilled about taking on a new

patient with such a high - and wanted - profile ("When I got into family therapy this is not the family I had in mind"). This particular patient, however, doesn't take no - or even maybe - for an answer.

So Ben finds himself on-call 24/7. No matter that he's in the middle of his marriage ceremony to Lisa Kudrow; when the boss cries, you come. It's not so easy, he finds, to treat a goofball. When Ben suggests that Vitti might have an Oedipal complex, his patient is a bit defensive ("I don't wanna hear no more filth about my mother").

Crystal soars in the final scene when he must assume the role of Vitti's "con-sig-il-li-ari," presenting himself to the other bosses as "Benny the Groin, Tubby the Tubo, Elmer the Fudd." Certainly he had an uncredited hand in the writing of this bit, as well as the dream sequence that salutes the first "Godfather" movie (Crystal had previously recognized "Godfather II" in "City



PHILLY CALDWORNER BACK

Comedy: Paul Vitti (Robert De Niro), Dr. Ben Sobol (Billy Crystal, center) and Laura MacNamara (Lisa Kudrow) in "Analyze This."

Slickers II"). "Analyze This" is not, however, an "Airplane" style burlesque, the kind that Leslie Nielsen attempted in "Mafia." It doesn't put a twist on the genre; rather, the film pulls it into another dimension: our Director Harold Ramis ("Groundhog Day") is the ideal maestro for just this kind

of comedy. His pacing and editing are masterful, although at least four shots with a visible boom mic slipped into the final print.

Don't sweat it, then; you won't need to brush up your Shakespeare. A little review of "Guys and Dolls" and you're made in the shade, pally.

## GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

<p><b>National Amusements Showcases Cinemas</b></p> <p><b>Showcases</b> Aspen Hills 1.14 7150 Aspen Rd. Between University &amp; Walton Blvd 248-373-2660</p> <p>Bargain Matinee Daily All Shows 12:00 &amp; 4:00 pm Continuous Show Daily Late Show Wed. Thurs. Fri. &amp; Sat.</p> <p>NP DENOTES NO PASS NP ANALYZE THIS (R) NP CRUEL INTENTIONS (R) NP 200 CIGARETTES (R) NP THE OTHER SISTER (PG-13) NP SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (R) NP SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (R) OCTOBER SKY (PG) MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE (PG-13) PATRICK (R) BLAST FROM THE PAST (PG-13) MY FAVORITE MARTIAN (PG) THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (PG)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p><b>Showcases Debonair 1.8</b> Michigan &amp; Telegraph 313-561-3440</p> <p>Bargain Matinee Daily All Shows 12:00 &amp; 4:00 pm Continuous Show Daily Late Show Fri. &amp; Sat. &amp; Sun.</p> <p>NP DENOTES NO PASS NP ANALYZE THIS (R) NP CRUEL INTENTIONS (R) NP 200 CIGARETTES (R) NP THE OTHER SISTER (PG-13) MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE (PG-13) PATRICK (R) BLAST FROM THE PAST (PG-13) MY FAVORITE MARTIAN (PG)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p><b>Showcases Pontiac 1.5</b> Telegraph &amp; Lake Rd. N. Side of Telegraph 810-330-0241</p> <p>Bargain Matinee Daily All Shows 12:00 &amp; 4:00 pm Continuous Show Daily</p> <p>NP DENOTES NO PASS NP ANALYZE THIS (R) NP CRUEL INTENTIONS (R) NP 200 CIGARETTES (R) NP THE OTHER SISTER (PG-13) PATRICK (R) BLAST FROM THE PAST (PG-13) MY FAVORITE MARTIAN (PG)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p><b>Showcases Pontiac 6.12</b> 2455 Telegraph Rd. East side of Telegraph 810-334-4777</p> <p>Bargain Matinee Daily All Shows 12:00 &amp; 4:00 pm Continuous Show Daily Late Show Fri. &amp; Sat.</p> <p>NP DENOTES NO PASS NP ANALYZE THIS (R) NP CRUEL INTENTIONS (R) NP 200 CIGARETTES (R) NP THE OTHER SISTER (PG-13) PATRICK (R) BLAST FROM THE PAST (PG-13) MY FAVORITE MARTIAN (PG)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p><b>Star Theatres</b> The World's Best Theatres Bargain Matinee Daily 14:00 All Shows Starting before 6:00 pm Now accepting Visa &amp; MasterCard NP Denotes No Pass Engagement</p> <p><b>Star John R. 14 Mile</b> 32285 John R. Road 248-585-2676</p> <p>No one under 6 admitted for PG-13 &amp; R rated films after 6 pm</p> <p>NP &amp; R (M) NP LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (PG-13) NP MY FAVORITE MARTIAN (PG) NP GODS AND MONSTERS (R) NP PATRICK (R) NP SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (R) NP A SIMPLE PLAN (R) NP THE THIN RED LINE (R) NP CIVIL ACTION (PG-13) NP PATCH ADAMS (PG-13) NP SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (R) NP THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (PG) NP YOU'VE GOT MAIL (PG)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p><b>Star Rochester Hills</b> 200 S. City Circle 810-330-0241</p> <p>Bargain Matinee Daily All Shows 12:00 &amp; 4:00 pm Continuous Show Daily Late Show Fri. &amp; Sat.</p> <p>NP DENOTES NO PASS NP ANALYZE THIS (R) NP CRUEL INTENTIONS (R) NP 200 CIGARETTES (R) NP THE OTHER SISTER (PG-13) PATRICK (R) BLAST FROM THE PAST (PG-13) MY FAVORITE MARTIAN (PG)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p><b>Star West 9 Mile</b> 2 Block West of Middlebelt 248-748-6372</p> <p>No one under 6 admitted for PG-13 &amp; R rated films after 6 pm</p> <p>NP &amp; R (M) NP LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (PG-13) NP MY FAVORITE MARTIAN (PG) NP GODS AND MONSTERS (R) NP PATRICK (R) NP SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (R) NP A SIMPLE PLAN (R) NP THE THIN RED LINE (R) NP CIVIL ACTION (PG-13) NP PATCH ADAMS (PG-13) NP SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (R) NP THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (PG) NP YOU'VE GOT MAIL (PG)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p><b>United Artists Theatres</b> Bargain Matinee Daily, for all shows starting before 6:00 PM Some day advance tickets available NP - No 1218 tickets accepted</p> <p><b>United Artists Oakland</b> Inside Oakland Mall 248-988-0706</p> <p>A CIVIL ACTION (PG-13) 200 CIGARETTES (R) STEP AHEAD (PG) OFFICE SPACE (R) HEARTY AND JACKIE (R)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p><b>United Artists</b> West 9 Mile 2 Block West of Middlebelt 248-748-6372</p> <p>ANALYZE THIS (R) NP CRUEL INTENTIONS (R) NP 200 CIGARETTES (R) NP THE OTHER SISTER (PG-13) PATRICK (R) BLAST FROM THE PAST (PG-13) MY FAVORITE MARTIAN (PG) THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (PG) NP SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (R) NP PATRICK (R)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p><b>Waterford Cinema II</b> 7501 Highland Rd. S.E. corner 14 Mile &amp; Williams Lake 248-666-7900</p> <p>24 Hour Movie Line CALL 774-543-9999</p> <p>NP CRUEL INTENTIONS (R) NP ANALYZE THIS (R) NP 200 CIGARETTES (R) NP THE OTHER SISTER (PG-13) PATRICK (R) BLAST FROM THE PAST (PG-13) MY FAVORITE MARTIAN (PG) THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (PG) NP SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (R) NP PATRICK (R)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p><b>See &amp; Mastercard Accepted</b></p> <p><b>United Artists Commerce Township 1.4</b> Located Adjacent to Home Depot Just North of the Intersection of 14 Mile &amp; Highway Rd. 248-968-5801</p> <p>All Shows 11:50 except show after 6 p.m. - All Show 11:50 7:15 every Tuesday Would you like to see First Movie? Then become a "FREECOT" MEMBER! COME IN AND FIND OUT HOW Box Office opens at 4:00 pm Monday - Friday only</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p><b>Terrace Cinema</b> 30400 Plymouth Rd. 313-261-3330</p> <p>All shows 11:50 except show after 6 p.m. - All Show 11:50 7:15 every Tuesday Would you like to see First Movie? Then become a "FREECOT" MEMBER! COME IN AND FIND OUT HOW Box Office opens at 4:00 pm Monday - Friday only</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p><b>Main Art Theatre II</b> Main &amp; 14 Mile Loyal Oak (248) 542-0180</p> <p>ELIZABETH (R) AFFLICTION (R) HEARTY AND JACKIE (R) ANOTHER DAY IN PARADISE (R)</p> <p>NO ONE UNDER 18 ADMITTED</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES Children Under 6 Not Admitted</p> <p><b>Maple Art Cinema III</b> 4115 N. Maple West Side of Telegraph Bloomfield Hills 248-835-5000 DISCOUNTED SHOWS!</p> <p>WALKING RED DEVIL (PG) CENTRAL STATION (R) LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (PG-13)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p><b>Orford 3 Cinemas, L.L.C.</b> Downtown Detroit Lovers Ln. (42-20) (248) 626-7100 Fax (248) 626-1300 DETROIT'S LOWEST FIRST RUN PRICES INCLUDING THIRST THINGS 11:00-4:30 PM</p> <p>MY FAVORITE MARTIAN (PG) CRUEL INTENTIONS (R) SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (R) ELIZABETH (R)</p> <p>1 FREE 46 OZ. POPCORN WITH THIS AD. EXP. 12/22/99 ALL SHOWS AND TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE</p> <p>CALL THEATER AT (248) 626-7100 VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.ogc.com</p> <p>CALL THEATER FOR LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p><b>Star Trek Intuition (PG)</b> AT FIRST SIGHT (PG-13) MIGHTY JOE YOUNG (PG) THE ROGUES MOVIE (PG) WATERBOY (PG-13)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>
--	---

## 'Lock, Stock, Barrels,' tortuous film

BY VICTORIA DIAZ  
SPECIAL WRITER

Want to catch a movie that will make you feel really good? Then, by all means, don't miss "Lock, Stock, and Two Smoking Barrels." It's absolutely packed with uplifting stuff like a human torso, a hatchet murder, drug and porn kingpins. And it's just crawling with a kaleidoscopic collection of idiots who have little trouble outdoing each other when it comes to ineptitude.

If ever a movie came out of the carnage-is-comedy school of filmmaking, "Lock, Stock, and Two Smoking Barrels" is that movie.

"Lock, Stock, and Two Smoking Barrels" is a tortuous movie with a tortuous plot, although that doesn't mean it isn't anything slow-moving. Essentially, it tells the story of four close London pals who find themselves in big trouble and big debt after a fixed

card game. Eddie (Nick Moran), Tom (Jason Fletch), Bacon (Jason Statham), and Soop (Dexter Fletcher) have to find a way to repay porn king Hatchet Harry (P.H. Moriarty) or, within a week, handsome Eddie loses his fingers and then some.

While the quartet, none of whom are exactly geniuses, struggle mightily to come up with some idea of how to solve the problem, various matters keep gumming up the works - including marijuana, coke, Hatchet Harry's porn empire, and, especially, those two smoking barrels of the title.

As the movie slips along at a rather breathless pace, American audiences may find themselves actually hoping for subtitles. Although most of the characters certainly aren't swift, their East End vowels seem beyond comprehension at times.

To give credit where it's due, Ritchie, in his debut film, demonstrates that he definitely knows how to manipulate an audience, keeping movie-goers at seat's edge from start to nail-biting end. Production qualities are not just clever, they are stylish and highly imaginative. He's employed everything from split-screen shots to voice-overs to bits borrowed from other films to freeze frames (the card game) and its aftermath seem suggestive of a strange, painful dance) to consistently creative low lighting that makes this monstrous world and its people come disturbingly to life.

You might look at "Lock, Stock, and Two Smoking Barrels" as something loose and screwing out of the pages of Mad Magazine, turned loud, large, mean and nasty. It may be British, but it may not exactly be your cup of tea.

THE  
1999  
ACADEMY AWARD  
NOMINEES

THE  
Observer & Eccentric  
NEWSPAPERS

ACADEMY AWARDS BALLOT BOX

SEND IN YOUR BALLOTS AND ENTER TO WIN:  
AN ANNUAL MOVIE PASS TO AMC THEATRES

Rules: The person who has the most number of correct guesses will win an annual movie pass good for two people to any area AMC Theatre. In case of a tie, winner will be picked in a random drawing. You must be 21 and over to enter. Employees of the O&E, AMC theatres, Street Marketing are not eligible to win. Winner will be contacted by phone and announced in the paper on Thursday, March 25, 1999 in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

ENTRY FORM

<b>BEST PICTURE:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> ELIZABETH	<b>BEST ACTOR:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Roberto Benigni in LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL	<b>BEST ACTRESS:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Cate Blanchett in ELIZABETH	<b>BEST DIRECTOR:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Roberto Benigni in LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL
<input type="checkbox"/> LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL	<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Hanks in SAVING PRIVATE RYAN	<input type="checkbox"/> Fernanda Montenegro in CENTRAL STATION	<input type="checkbox"/> Steven Spielberg in SAVING PRIVATE RYAN
<input type="checkbox"/> SAVING PRIVATE RYAN	<input type="checkbox"/> Ian McKellen in GODS AND MONSTERS	<input type="checkbox"/> Gwyneth Paltrow in SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE	<input type="checkbox"/> John Madden in SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE
<input type="checkbox"/> SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE	<input type="checkbox"/> Nick Nolte in AFFLICTION	<input type="checkbox"/> Mary McCormack in ONE TRUE THING	<input type="checkbox"/> Terrence Malick in THE THIN RED LINE
<input type="checkbox"/> THE THIN RED LINE	<input type="checkbox"/> Edward Norton in AMERICAN HISTORY X	<input type="checkbox"/> Emily Watson in HILARY AND JACKIE	<input type="checkbox"/> Peter Wahl in THE TRUMAN SHOW

**BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS:**  
☐ Kathy Bates  
in PRIMARY COLORS  
☐ Brenda Blethyn  
in LITTLE VOICE  
☐ Judi Dench  
in SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE  
☐ Rachel Griffiths  
in HILARY AND JACKIE  
☐ Lynn Redgrave  
in GODS AND MONSTERS

**BEST ORIGINAL SONG:**  
☐ "I Don't Want to Miss a Thing"  
from ARMAGEDDON  
☐ "The Prayer"  
from QUEST FOR CAMELOT  
☐ "A Soft Place to Fall"  
from THE HORSE WHISPERER  
☐ "That'll Do"  
from BABE: PIG IN THE CITY  
☐ "When You Believe"  
from THE PRINCE OF EGYPT

Send or fax entries by 5 p.m. Monday, March 15, 1999  
To: Keely Wyonik, Entertainment Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers  
36251 Schoolcraft Rd. • Livonia, MI 48150 • Fax (734) 691-7279

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DAYTIME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_