## Rodriguez cleverly reinvents kid-friendly spy flick

BY MALCOLM RITTER ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Robert Hodriguez, a filmmaker best known for violent, grown-ups-only fare, now scores big in a very different genre: His Spy Kids is a delightful, clever come-dy for kids and grown-ups, a pleasing blend of silliness and

thrills.

It manages to spoof spy movies and capture their excitement, featuring cloak-and-dagger inventions like metal-cutting crayons and electroshock bublegum.

Some of the special offects won't win any technical awards for realism - Rodriguez did them all himself, without a visual effects supervisor - but even that desert really detract from a

effects supervisor - but even that doesn't really detract from a

fast-moving and absorbing story.

It's the tale of two kids, Carmen and Juni Cortez, who discover that their ordinary-seeming parents are really retired super-spices who have just been captured by bad guys. Carmen and Juni (excellently portrayed by 12-year-old Alexa Vega and year-old Daryl Sobarn) set out or secue Mom and Dad Goath Carden and Juni (excellently portrayed by 12-year-old Alexa Vega and Solaton Control of the Cortes of the Solaton Control of the Cortes of the C

enjoy such visual treats as the castle guards who are literally all thumbs -inspired by a drawing that writer-director Rodriguez did at age 12. This film marks a major departure for the Rodriguez, now 32 and an icon in the indie film world for making 1992's El Mariachi for \$7,000. His other bloody gorefests include Desperado, From Dusk Till Dawn and The Faculty.

From Dusk Till Dawn and The Faculty.

Spy Kids is rated PG for its action sequences, which might be too intense for very young children. Adolescents will proba-bly roll their eyes when the movie turns preachy about the importance of family, but that's a small price to pay for seeing a story this good.



All in the family: (Back, left to right) Carla Gugino, Antonio Banderas, (front, left to right) Daryl Sabara and Alexa Vega star in Robert Rodriguez' "Spy Kids."

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#### COMING ATTRACTIONS

Scheduled to open Friday, April 6

ALONG CAME A SPIGEZ 
Detactive/Psychologist Alox Cross gets involved in a kidnepoling investigation of two children, abdoucted from a private school. In this prequel to Kiss the Girls, Cross teams with a fermile secret service sgent and links the kidnepper to a streak of murdars in the city. Stars Morgan Freeman, Michael Wincott, Penelopa Am Mileira and Monica Potter.

Stow
Story centers on George Jung, an American from Massachusetts who became
drug ford Pablo Escobar's partner in
cocaine trades. Stors Johany Depp. e Cruz, Ray Liotta and Rache

UNIST VISITING
In this English version of the 1993
French comedy Les Visiteurs, Jean Rano
and Christian Clurker reprise their roles
as a nobleman and a squite who are
accidentally transported to modern
times. Also stors Christins Applegate
and Matt Rose.

THE DAY I BECAME A WOMAN THE DAY I BECAME A WOMAN

A moving tale of three generations of iranian women a girl, a young housewife and an eldorly woman as they struggle with societal expectations. The film focuses on the lives of the iranian women who are confined to their homes women who are confined to their homes due to long Issing traditions upheld by their overprotective husbands and fathers. They are forced to forego emotional attachments in order to wirn individual independence. Stars Fatemen Cheragh Akhar, Shabnam Toloul and Azireh Sedighi. POLEMON 3: THE MOVIE
Animated sequel to "Pokemon the
Movie 2000," continues the adventure
of ace trainer Ash Ketchum, Pikschu
and friends as they discover the realm
of the mysterious Unknown Pokemon
who have the power to turn human
thoughts and emotions into reality,
Pokemon fans will meet dozens of new
characters, including the legenday
Entel and the addressive Pickle

TEXAS RANGERS TEXAS FANGERS
In the frontiers of Texas following the
Civil War, a group of mostly young wild
men form a new justice agency, the
Texas Rangers, to clean up the wild and
dangerous territories. Some of the subdangerous territories. Some of the sub-plots include a love triangle between two of the young rangers and a girl, and the romance between one of their load-ers and a Mexican woman which takes a turn for the worse. Stars James Van Der Beek, Dytan McDermott and Ashton Kutcher.

Scheduled to open Wednesday, April 11

JOSIE AND THE PUSSYCATS JOSIE AND THE PUSSYCATS
Josie, Molody and Vol are more interested in creating their own home-grown rocker chic fashions and singing their own kind of music than following the letest strends. When they're suddenly discoverned by a band manager, Josie and the Pussycats are on their way to the 
top, Based on the popular Archie Comic, 
Stars Ricchael Leigh Cook, Tars Reid 
and Rosario Demano.

AMERICAN OUTLAWS

Scheduled to open Friday, April 13

BRIDGET JONES' DURTY
Bridget (Renee Zellweger), 32 , decides
It's time to take control of her life and
start keeping a diary, Now, the most
provocative, erotic and hysterical book,
on her bedside table is the one she's
writing. Despitch her efforts to get her
ect together, she finds herself caught between two men – one who's too goo to be true and a man who's so wrong t could be right. Stars Rence Zellweger. Hugh Grant and Colin Firth.

Scheduled to open Friday, April 20 Scheduled to open Friday, April 20
THE LOW DOWN
Frank is in his tate 20s, and he becomesresities as he realizes that his life purely revolves around riferds and work. He
is aware of a need to move his life into
another goar, but while he knows something must change, he is not sure what
or how. Some of his friends are settling
down, and he knows he is expected to
follow suit sooner or later. Frank's Indeclain comes to a head when he meets
Ruby, whose optimism and fresh
approach to life and its problems slowly Ruby, whose optimism and fream approach to life and its problems slowly yet dramatically affect him. Stars Alden Gillen, Kate Ashford, Doan Lennox Kolly, Ruport Protor, Tobias Menzies, Saman-tha Powers and Deanna Smiles.

CROCODILE DUNDEE IN LA. The story follows the advanture of Mick 
"Crocodile Dundee", who with his partner, Sue, and their young son and moves to Los Angeles, where Sue has been 
assigned to head the L.A. bureau newspaper after the bureau chief dies under suspicious circumstances. Mayhem ensues when Mick gets accidentally caught up in Sue's investigation.

### MUSIC NEWS

### Focus Detroit Electronic Music Fest plans pulsate beyond the city

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA

DJ's Terrence Parker and Don Q set the sounds atop the 13th floor of the Detroit's Coleman A. Young Municipal Building last week as organizers unveiled plans for the second Detroit Electronic Music Festival.

Electronic Music Fostival.

A free ovent that swept through Hart Plaza for three days last Memorial weekend, bringing in 1.5 million people from uround the world, the DEMF grows stronger this year. Executive director Carol Marvin of Pop Culture Media, artistic director Carl Carig of Planet Communications, and the Detroit Recreation Department, any just top the immense success of last year's festival offering more than 70 artists on four distinct stages, from noon unidnight, Saturday-Monday, May 26-28.

For Marvin, a Plymouth resi-

May 26-28.

For Marvin, a Plymouth resident, the success is a dream realized. At the recent conference she noted a specific memory – a 16-year-old boy came up to thank her for giving him a reason to finally be proud of where he lived, a her recalled. There is no doubt the festival has broken boundaries, brought diverse masses of people together to dance and celebrate, and has changed the way people so Detroit. In 2001, the event may go even further.

New this year. Detroit's CPOP

go even further.

New this year, Detroit's CPOP
Gallery will host a launch party
Friday, May 25. CPOP's Jamie
Latendresse, a Dearbora resident, serves as graphic arts
director for the festival. He and
official festival photographer Joe



Dream realized: Carl Craig always dreamed of DJing in a spot like this - Detroit's Hart Plaza fac-- Detroit's Hart Plaza fac-ing the Renaissance Cen-ter. Though he again decided to again stay away from the turntables for the second Detroit Electronic Music Festival, the artistic director reveals his latest line-up and looks forward to another amazing 3-day

Vaughn, of Royal Oak, co-created the festival's signature poster. Ford Focus has signed on as a primary sponsor for the event, now the Focus Detroit Electronic Music Festival. The partnership seemed obvious to Bob Fesmire,

Focus marketing manager, who noted the company's involves ment with the music, and young buyer's market. We've been featuring the music of Juan Atking in our ads since last November. He said. We will continue to be involved with electronic music.

in our ads since last November, be said. We will continue to be involved with electronic music."

Carl Craig, a founder of the genre and internationally-renowned Di in his own right; unveiled his schedule of artistic to this scarl's festival. It is includes: Alton Miller, Autechrei, Ayro, Binary Star, Carl Cox, Dark River Collective, De Lord, Christian Vogel, Common Factor, Dark River Collective, De John Starl, Donard River Collective, De John Martin, Don Q, Dwele, Francisco, Hall, D. Genesia, D. M.D. John Martin, Don Q, Dwele, Francisco, Hall, D. Genesia, D. M.D. John Martin, Don Q, Dwele, Francisco, Hall, D. Gonerald, Funk, D'Oid, Gilb-R, Glenn Underground, Halon, I. Cube, Ibox, Innercity, Jay Denham, Jazzon Land, Funk, D'Oid, Gilb-R, Glenn Underground, John Briggs, Keit Konlan, Kirk DeGiorgio, Kid Konla, Kirk DeGiorgio, Kid Konla,

"There is no other festival like this in the world," said the well-travelled Carl Craig.