

# MOVIES

## Rodriguez cleverly reinvents kid-friendly spy flick

By Malcolm Ritter  
Associated Press Writer

Robert Rodriguez, 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 comedy 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-crayon crayons and "electroshock bubble gum."

Some of the special effects won't win any technical awards for realism - Rodriguez did them all himself, without a visual-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-spy parents who have just been captured by bad guys. Carmen and Juni (excellently portrayed by 12-year-old Alexa Vega and 8-year-old Daryl Sabara) set out to rescue Mom and Dad (Carla Gugino and Antonio Banderas).

That means invading the fantastic castle of TV kiddie-show host Fegan Floop (Alan Cumming as a slightly more mature version of Pee-wee Herman) Floop and his evil henchman Minion (Tony Shalhoub) are creating an army of powerful robots who look like darling children.

Everything works out fine, of course. And the audience gets to

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 gore-fests include *Desperado*, *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 probably 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."

### THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC

## GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

<p><b>National Amusements Showcase Cinemas</b></p> <p><b>Shoreline</b> Wendland 1.8 6000 Wayne Rd. One S.W. 3. of Warren Rd. 313-725-1060 Bargain Movies Daily + All Shows 12-6 pm Continuous Shows Daily Late Shows Wed Thurs, Fri, Sat NP DEVICES NO PASS</p> <p>NP TOMCATS (C) NP SPY KIDS (PG) NP HEARTBREAKERS (PG13) NP THE BRIDGES (R) NP THE MERICAN (R) ENEMY AT THE GATES (R) EXIT WOUNDS (R) 15 MINUTES (C) GLADIATOR (R) SEE SPOT RUN (PG) RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT! (G) HANNIBAL (R) CHOCOLAT (PG13) CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON (PG13) THE CASTAWAY (PG13)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p><b>Star Southfield</b> 12 1/2 Mile between Woodland and Northwestern, Off I-96 248-333-STAR No one under 6 admitted for PG13 &amp; rated films after 6 pm</p> <p>FOR DOWNTOWN AND PLEASANT RICHARDS 115 MONROE (C) NP SPY KIDS (PG) NP SOMEONE LIKE YOU (PG13) NP TOMCATS (C) NP HEARTBREAKERS (PG13) NP THE BRIDGES (R) NP SPY KIDS (PG) NP HEARTBREAKERS (PG13) NP THE MERICAN (R) ENEMY AT THE GATES (R) EXIT WOUNDS (R) 15 MINUTES (C) GLADIATOR (R) SEE SPOT RUN (PG) RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT! (G) HANNIBAL (R) CHOCOLAT (PG13) TRAFFIC (R)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p><b>AMC Uptown 20</b> 7345 4th Avenue 734-542-9999</p> <p>CALL THEATRE FOR DATES AND TIMES</p> <p>\$1.00 Ford 11:30 213-561-7200 3:10 to 6 pm Also 6 pm, 11:30 Ample Parking - 1st/2nd Floor Free Red On Drums &amp; Popcorn Please Call Theatre for Showtimes</p> <p>11:00 DALLAMONT (C) 11:00 THE BRIDGES (R) THE WEDDING PLANNER (PG13) MISS CONCOMITATE (PG13)</p> <p><b>Ford Wyndham Drive-In Theatre</b> Bloomington (313) 846-6910 Children Under 12 are Free Electric In-Seat Features</p> <p>ALWAYS TWO BIG PICTURES TOGETHER</p> <p><b>THE BRIDGES (R)</b> THE WEDDING PLANNER (PG13)</p> <p><b>EXIT WOUNDS (R)</b> VALENTINE (C) TOMCATS (C) VERTICAL LIMIT (PG13) DOWN TO EARTH (PG13) HANNIBAL (R) SAY IT DON'T SAY IT (PG13) DIRTY, DIRTY DEER (PG13)</p> <p>MOVIES START AT 10:30</p>	<p><b>Waterford Cinema 16</b> 7501 Highland Rd. S.E. corner 14-59 &amp; Williams Lake Rd. 248-996-7700</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>24 Hour Movie Line (248) 666-7700 NO V.I.P. SEATS</p> <p>UNITED ARTISTS THEATRES Bargain Movies Daily for all shows starting before 6:30 pm Some showtimes subject to change No V.I.P. Seating accepted</p> <p>United Artists Theatre East Side 3948 2 Blocks West of Middlebelt 248-788-6572</p> <p>SOMEONE LIKE YOU (PG13) NP TOMCATS (C) NP NP HEARTBREAKERS (PG13) NP NP THE BRIDGES (R) NP NP HEARTBREAKERS (PG13) NP EXIT WOUNDS (R) NP DOWN TO EARTH (PG13) NP HANNIBAL (R) NP D BROTHER WHERE ART THOU? (PG13) CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON (PG13) NP TRAFFIC (R) NP</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p><b>Star Pktn-3</b> 41 E. 3RD 32205 Open H. Road 248-583-2070</p> <p>No one under 6 admitted for PG13 &amp; rated films after 6 pm</p> <p>NP SOMEONE LIKE YOU (PG13) NP TOMCATS (C) NP SPY KIDS (PG) NP HEARTBREAKERS (PG13) NP THE BRIDGES (R) NP SPY KIDS (PG) NP HEARTBREAKERS (PG13) NP THE MERICAN (R) ENEMY AT THE GATES (R) EXIT WOUNDS (R) 15 MINUTES (C) GLADIATOR (R) SEE SPOT RUN (PG) RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT! (G) HANNIBAL (R) CHOCOLAT (PG13) CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON (PG13) TRAFFIC (R) THE EMPEROR'S NEW GIROVE (C)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p><b>Star Pktn-3</b> 41 E. 3RD 32205 Open H. Road 248-583-2070</p> <p>No one under 6 admitted for PG13 &amp; rated films after 6 pm</p> <p>NP SOMEONE LIKE YOU (PG13) NP TOMCATS (C) NP SPY KIDS (PG) NP HEARTBREAKERS (PG13) NP THE BRIDGES (R) NP SPY KIDS (PG) NP HEARTBREAKERS (PG13) NP THE MERICAN (R) ENEMY AT THE GATES (R) EXIT WOUNDS (R) 15 MINUTES (C) GLADIATOR (R) SEE SPOT RUN (PG) RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT! (G) HANNIBAL (R) CHOCOLAT (PG13) CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON (PG13) TRAFFIC (R) THE EMPEROR'S NEW GIROVE (C)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p><b>Star Pktn-3</b> 41 E. 3RD 32205 Open H. Road 248-583-2070</p> <p>No one under 6 admitted for PG13 &amp; rated films after 6 pm</p> <p>NP SOMEONE LIKE YOU (PG13) NP TOMCATS (C) NP SPY KIDS (PG) NP HEARTBREAKERS (PG13) NP THE BRIDGES (R) NP SPY KIDS (PG) NP HEARTBREAKERS (PG13) NP THE MERICAN (R) ENEMY AT THE GATES (R) EXIT WOUNDS (R) 15 MINUTES (C) GLADIATOR (R) SEE SPOT RUN (PG) RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT! (G) HANNIBAL (R) CHOCOLAT (PG13) CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON (PG13) TRAFFIC (R) THE EMPEROR'S NEW GIROVE (C)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p><b>Star Pktn-3</b> 41 E. 3RD 32205 Open H. Road 248-583-2070</p> <p>No one under 6 admitted for PG13 &amp; rated films after 6 pm</p> <p>NP SOMEONE LIKE YOU (PG13) NP TOMCATS (C) NP SPY KIDS (PG) NP HEARTBREAKERS (PG13) NP THE BRIDGES (R) NP SPY KIDS (PG) NP HEARTBREAKERS (PG13) NP THE MERICAN (R) ENEMY AT THE GATES (R) EXIT WOUNDS (R) 15 MINUTES (C) GLADIATOR (R) SEE SPOT RUN (PG) RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT! (G) HANNIBAL (R) CHOCOLAT (PG13) CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON (PG13) TRAFFIC (R) THE EMPEROR'S NEW GIROVE (C)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>
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### COMING ATTRACTIONS

**Scheduled to open Friday, April 6**

**ALONG CAME A SPIDER**  
Detective/Psychologist Alex Cross gets involved in a kidnapping investigation of two children, abducted from a private school. In this prequel to *Kiss the Girls*, Cross teams with a female secret service agent and links the kidnapper to a streak of murders in the city. Stars Morgan Freeman, Michael Wincott, Penelope Ann Miller and Monica Potter.

**TEXAS RANGERS**  
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 subplots include a love triangle between two of the young rangers and a girl, and the romance between one of their leaders and an elderly woman as they struggle to turn for the worse. Stars James Van Der Beek, Dylan McDermott and Ashton Kutcher.

**Scheduled to open Wednesday, April 11**

**Scheduled to open Friday, April 13**

**BRIDGET JONES' DIARY**  
Bridget Jones' Diary, 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. Despite her efforts to get her act together, she finds herself caught between two men - one who's too good to be true and a man who's so wrong he could be right. Stars Renée Zellweger, Hugh Grant and Colin Firth.

**Scheduled to open Friday, April 20**

**THE LOW DOWN**  
Frank is in his late 20s, and he becomes restless as he realizes that his life purely revolves around friends and work. He is aware of a need to move his life into another gear, but while he knows something must change, he is not sure what or how. Some of his friends are setting a turn for the worse. Stars James Van Der Beek, Dylan McDermott and Ashton Kutcher.

**Scheduled to open Wednesday, April 11**

**THE DAY I BECAME A WOMAN**  
A moving tale of three generations of Iranian women a girl, a young housewife and an elderly woman as they struggle with societal expectations. The film focuses on the lives of the Iranian women who are confined to their homes due to long lasting traditions upheld by their overprotective husbands and fathers. They are forced to forego emotional attachments in order to win individual independence. Stars Fatemeh Cheraghi Aghar, Shahban Tahouti and Afsar Seighal.

**Scheduled to open Wednesday, April 11**

**JOBIE AND THE PUSYGATS**  
Josie, Melody and Val are more interested in creating their own home-grown rock chic fashions and singing their own kind of music than following the latest trends. When they're suddenly discovered by a band manager, Josie and the Pusygats are on their way to the top. Based on the popular Archie Comic. Stars Rachael Leigh Cook, Tara Reid and Rosario Dawson.

**AMERICAN OUTLAWS**  
*Story centers on legendary Western outlaw Jesse James and his gang, wanted by the law but revered by the public.* Stars Colin Farrell and Scott Caan.

### MUSIC NEWS

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

By Stephanie Angelyn Casola  
Staff Writer  
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DJs Terrence Parker and Don Q set the sounds atop the 18th floor of the Detroit's Coleman A. Young Municipal Building last week as organizers unveiled plans for the second Detroit Electronic Music Festival.

A free event that swept through Hart Plaza for three days last Memorial weekend, bringing in 1.5 million people from around the world, the EDMF grows stronger this year.

Executive director Carol Marvin of Pop Culture Media, artistic director Carl Craig of Pinet E Communications, and the Detroit Recreation Department, may just top the immense success of last year's festival offering more than 70 artists on four distinct stages, from noon to midnight, Saturday-Monday, May 26-28.

For Marvin, a Plymouth resident, the success is a dream realized. At the recent conference she noted a specific memory - a 18-year-old boy came up to thank her for giving him a reason to finally be proud of where he lived," she 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 see Detroit. In 2001, the event may go even further.



Dream realized: Carl Craig always dreamed of DJing in a spot like this - Detroit's Hart Plaza facing the Renaissance Center. 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 event.

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

Carl Craig, a founder of the genre and internationally renowned DJ in his own right, unveiled his schedule of artists for this year's festival. It includes: Alton Miller, Aetechur, Ayrs, Binroy Star, Carl Cox, Christian Vogel, Common Factor, Dark River Collective, De La Soul, Deily, Delano Smith, Derrick May, DJ B "Len" D, DJ Digital, DJ Genesis, DJXDJ, Doc Martin, Don Q, Dwell, Francisco Mora's Outerzone Band, Funk D'Void, Glib-R, Glenn Underground, Halon, i-Cube, iBex, Innercity, Jay Denham, Jazzanova, Jim Masters, John Acquaviva, John Briggs, Keith Worthly, Kelli Hahn, Kevin Rowland, Kilkmann, Kirk DeGlorio, Kid Koola, Kiz Clayton, Kooky Scientist, Laughing Gas, Laurent Garnier, Luv, Legal Alien, LTV Bukem, Maerk, Mark D'Clive Lowe, Mark Forina, Michael Geiger, Mitch Wolcott, Mix Master Mike (Beastie Boys), Norm Talley, Norman Jay, Boii, Oliver, Paul Kolaric, Optic Nerse, P'Tash, Patrick Russell, Perspectar, Quarter Cage, Random Noise, Generation, Rick Whitlax, Sault, Williams, Slam, Strand, Sudden.

Suburban Knight, Tadd Mulliner, Terrence Parker, Tittontton, Todd Sines, Tortoise, and Tronx.

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

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,