MOVIES

Freeman returns in sequel

BY JAY M. GROSSMAN
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■ Easily one of the most gifted actors on the big screen today, Freeman reprises a role he originally played in the 1997 thriller 'Kiss The Girls,' another Patterson novel.

A criminal detective gets caught in a web of intrigue while hunting down a daring kidnapper in *Along Came a Spider*, a psychological thriller based on a novel by suspense writer James Patterson.

Morgan Freeman plays Dr. Alex Cross, a Washington, D.C., investigator and best-selling author on profiling serial killers, who's lured out of retirement when a senator's daughter is kidnapped from a posh private school.

A piece of evidence is placed in his mailbox by the kidnapper, who wants Cross to chronicle the abduction and compare it to the 1932 kidnapping of the Charles Lindbergh baby, dubbed by many as the "Crime of the Century."

Easily one of the most gifted actors on the big screen today, Freeman reprises a role he originally played in the 1997 thriller *Kiss The Girls*, another Patterson novel that landed in Hollywood.

"Cross is a well-trained, well-educated writer as well as a policeman," Freeman said about his role. "But, his particular strength is he's a mind hunter. It's fun to play because it's more cerebral than active."

In *Along Came a Spider*, you'll want to arrive at the theater on time as the movie begins with a bang when Cross loses his partner in the opening sequence during a sting operation that goes terribly wrong. It's a scene you won't want to miss.

The movie takes several plot twists, some of which don't make any sense at all. Nevertheless, see if you can follow along and guess the real villain before the final climax.

The strength in *Along Came a Spider* comes from Freeman's performance. Whether playing a hit man in *Nurse Betty* or the President of the United States in *Deep Impact*, Freeman always fits into his characters like a comfortable suit. The man could film a commercial for used car batteries and convince you to buy one. He's that good.

I give the movie two and a half boxes of popcorn out of five.

On the run: *Morgan Freeman returns as Dr. Alex Cross in "Along Came a Spider" the sequel to 1997's thriller "Kiss The Girls."*

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC

GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

National Amusements Showcase Cinemas

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HEARTBREAKER (PG13)
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ENEMY AT THE GATES (R)
EXIT WOUNDS (R)
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HEARTBREAKERS (PG13)
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NP BLOW (R)
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SOMEONE LIKE YOU (PG13)
SPY KIDS (PG)
TOMCATS (R)
SEE SPOT RUN (PG)
THE BROTHERS (R)
THE HEARTBREAKERS (PG13)
ENEMY AT THE GATES (R)
EXIT WOUNDS (R)
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NP BLOW (R)
NP POKEMON 3 (G)
SOMEONE LIKE YOU (PG13)
TOMCATS (R)
SPY KIDS (PG)
THE BROTHERS (R)
HEARTBREAKERS (PG13)
SEE SPOT RUN (PG)
ENEMY AT THE GATES (R)
TRAFFIC (R)
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NP ALONG CAME A SPIDER (R)
NP BLOW (LB)
NP POKEMON 3 (G)
NP JUST VISITING (PG13)
NP MOMENTO (NR)
NP SPY KIDS (PG)
SOMEONE LIKE YOU (PG13)
BROTHERS (R)
HEARTBREAKERS (PG13)
EXIT WOUNDS (R)
ENEMY AT THE GATES (R)
TRAFFIC (R)
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SPY KIDS (PG)
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SOMEONE LIKE YOU (PG13)
TOMCATS (R)
HEARTBREAKERS (PG13)
MEMENTO (R)
EXIT WOUNDS (R)
ENEMY AT THE GATES (R)
TRAFFIC (R)

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Birmingham Theatre
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NP BLOW (R)
JUST VISITING (PG13)
TOMCATS (R)
SOMEONE LIKE YOU (PG13)
SPY KIDS (PG)
HEARTBREAKERS (PG13)
ENEMY AT THE GATES (R)
EXIT WOUNDS (R)
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BLOW (R)
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HANNIBAL (R)

POKEMON 3 (G)
MISS CONGENIALITY (PG13)

SPY KIDS (PG)
GET OVER IT (PG13)

THE BROTHERS (R)
FINDING FORRESTER (PG13)

ENEMY AT THE GATES (R)
ALONG CAME A SPIDER (R)

EXIT WOUNDS (R)
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THE GIFT (R)
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MISS CONGENIALITY (PG13)
WHAT WOMEN WANT (PG13)
THE WEDDING PLANNER (PG13)
EMPEROR'S NEW GROOVE (G)
CATERWAY (PG13)
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UNBREAKABLE (PG13)
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SWEET NOVEMBER (PG13)
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SAVING SILVERMAN (PG13)

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COMING ATTRACTIONS

Scheduled to open Friday, April 20

THE DISH
Set in 1969, the story tells of a small group of scientists in Australia who are brought together by a NASA representative sent to coordinate the broadcast of the Apollo XI moonwalk through the use of their receiver dish. Stars Sam Neil, Tom Long, Kevin Harrington and Patrick Warburton.

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 settling down, and he knows he is expected to follow suit sooner or later. Frank's indecision comes to a head when he meets Ruby, whose optimism and fresh approach to life and its problems slowly yet dramatically affect him. Stars Alden Gillen, Kate Ashford, Dean Lennox Kelly, Rupert Proctor, Tobias Menzies, Samantha Pewers and Deanna Smiles.

CROCODILE DUNDEE IN L.A.
The story follows the adventure of Mick "Crocodile Dundee", who leaves Australia with his partner, Sue, and their young son and moves to Los Angeles, where Sue has been temporarily 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. Starring Linda Kozlowski, Aida Turturro, Jonathan Banks, and Paul Hogan as Crocodile Dundee.

FREDDY GOT FINGERED
This story tells of a guy in his late 20s who infuriates his father by refusing to move out of the house and get a job, provoking an all-out war between the two. Starring Tom Green, Rip Torn, Anthony Michael Hall, Julie Hagerty and Stephen Tobolowsky.

Scheduled to open Friday, April 27

AMORES PERROS
Set in Mexico, the story centers on a fatal auto accident and the three lives that crash into one another, revealing the dark side of human nature. Stars Emilio Echevarria, Gael Garcia Bernal and Goya Toledo.

DRIVEN
A high-tech action drama set in the dangerous, exhilarating world of open-wheel racing. *Driven* centers on the lives and careers of four drivers chasing the ultimate adrenaline rush. Stars Sylvester Stallone, Burt Reynolds, Gina Gershon and Cristian de la Fuente.

ONE NIGHT AT MCCOOL'S
The action revolves around three men who separately recount the story of a woman who ruined their lives during the course of one night. Meanwhile, a dead body at McCool's bar irrevocably ties them together. Staring Matt Dillon, Liv Tyler, Michael Douglas, Paul Reiser, John Goodman and Andrew Silverstein.

TOWN AND COUNTRY
Life, love, friendship, and the sometimes blistering nature of marital bliss provide the basis for this romantic comedy featuring Warren Beatty as Porter Stoddard, a well-known New York architect who is at a crossroads with is wife, Ellie. Disillusioned with his marriage, Porter dallies with a number of women before realizing that it's Ellie he truly loves. Featuring Goldie Hawn, Garry Shandling, Andie McDowell, and Charlton Heston.

Scheduled to open Friday, May 4

EUREKA
A crazed killer, apparently without motive, hijacks a city bus in southwest Japan. In the ensuing carnage only three people survive the driver, a schoolgirl and her older brother. After a long period away, the three are reunited again only to be accused of murder by the police. Stars Koji Yakusho, Aoi Miyazaki, Masaru Miyazaki, Yohichiroh Saitoh, Sayuri Kokusho, Ken Mitsuishi and Go Riju.

THE MUMMY RETURNS
The remains of Imhotep and Anck-su-Numam are brought back to London for a museum. This story takes place 10 years later, and centers around the 9-year-old son of Fraser and Weisz' characters. Well, this time around the villain isn't Imhotep, but Anck-su-Numam and she's after the boy because she believes he's the key to the reincarnation of the Egyptian God, Isis. Stars Brendan Fraser, Rachel Weisz, Patricia Velazquez, Oded Fehr and John Hannah.

SIDEWALKS OF NEW YORK
Billed as a romantic comedy, the story centers on interwoven love stories set in New York. Featured among the ensemble are Edward Burns, Heather Graham, Stanley Tucci, Brittany Murphy, Rosario Dawson and David Krumholtz.

CENTER OF THE WORLD
Shot on digital video, the story tells of a young computer wizard whose immersion in the digital world has left him unaccustomed to normal social interaction. When he persuades a beautiful stripper to spend three days with him in Las Vegas, their arrangement becomes a journey into the dark secrets of their sexuality. Featured players include Peter Sarsgaard, Molly Parker and Carla Gugino.

Scheduled to open Friday, May 11

ABOUT ADAM
Lucy Owen is a torch singer in a hip Dublin cafe whose had countless love affairs, none of which have ever come close to grand passion. Enter Adam, her seemingly perfect man. Lucy's world begins to change. But is there more about Adam than the Owens family knows? Stars Kate Hudson, Stuart Townsend and Francis O'Connor. Scheduled to open May 18

ANGEL EYES
After meeting under extraordinary life-and-death circumstances, a Chicago police officer and lost soul named Catch fall in love. While uncovering the truth about Catch, she is forced to deal with the secrets of her own past. Stars Jennifer Lopez, Jim Caviezel, Sonia Braga, Terrence Howard, Jeremy Sisto, Monet Mazur, Victor Argo and Shirley Knight.

Coming this Summer

SWORDFISH
Gabriel Shear, a charismatic and dangerous CIA operative fed up with American bureaucracy, uses a sexy associate, Ginger, to coerce a computer hacker, just released from prison, to steal $9 billion from a DEA slush fund. Stars John Travolta, Hugh Jackman, Halle Berry, Don Cheadle, Vinnie Jones and Sam Shepherd.

MUSIC NEWS

He's still money, baby

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER
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Decades before the film *Swingers* coined the phrase 'money' to mean all things hot, one Eddie Mahoney took it as his surname and burned up the Top 40 charts.

The singer and songwriter that held '80s radio hostage with hits like *Take Me Home Tonight*, *Two Tickets to Paradise* and *Shakin*, Eddie Money still manages to rock the Motor City on a regular basis. It looks like he'll keep coming around as long as he's welcomed.

This week that raspy growl can be heard 5-9 a.m. on 94.7 FM, WCSX Radio in Southfield, as Eddie Money guest hosts the *Classic Rock Morning Show* while Jim Johnson and Lynne Woodison are on vacation.

"JJ and Lynne, I do a lot of radio with them, I have for a long time," said Money, during a brief visit at the station Tuesday morning. "A lot of the people at the station go back to WRIF."

He rattles off names and references like a true Detroiter, though he lives with his wife and five children in Los Angeles. While he'll openly profess he's a fan of the Red Wings, the MC5, The Grand Prix, and his guitarist, Tommy Girvin, is from Dearborn – the true connection Money has to this area are his fans.

Eddie Money

"Detroit has always been great to me," he said. "I'm really big in Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Ohio – out here in the Midwest – where it's Bob Seger and rock n' roll."

While his radio gig is fleeting, it's a sure sign of spring when Money comes around. He's been the official opener at DTE Energy Music Theatre, formerly Pine Knob Music Theatre, in Independence Township since 1992, according to Palace Sports and Entertainment's Jeff Corey. Though in 1995, he performed in July.

"Most years he has been the first show, other years – due to various tours' schedules – we have had to add a show or two before his. In those cases we still say he is our 'official' opening show," said Corey. "As of now, his May 27 show is the first show scheduled for the 2001 DTE Energy Music Theatre season."

What keeps Eddie Money coming back?

"I think this town is the best in the U.S. and I know that because I live in L.A.," said Money, with a laugh.

See Eddie Money, with openers Burning Candles, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, May 27 at DTE Energy Music Theatre in Independence Township. Tickets are $12.50-$20.50. Call (248) 645-6666 or see www.palacenet.com.