

MOVIE REVIEW

Don't bother to see Eddie Murphy's new 'adventure'

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The Adventures of Pluto Nash is everything you'd expect of a movie that's sat on the shelf for more than a year, then wasn't screened for critics before it finally did come out. It's boring. It's flat. It's ugly. Worst of all for a comedy, it's not even remotely funny. But it isn't so abominable that Warner Bros. needed to withhold it from us prior to opening day. Not showing us a movie like *Pluto Nash*, starring Eddie Murphy as a nightclub owner on the moon in 2097, makes us wonder what's wrong with it, and provokes stories like the one in *USA Today*, which cataloged Murphy's uneven film choices in recent years. All this attention could have been avoided, however, just by letting us see the stupid thing. If you plan to see *The Adventures of Pluto Nash*, and using the word "adventures" in

the title was wishful thinking on the filmmakers' part, there are some basic things you should know. It's a massive waste of talent—actors who surely had better things to do with their time, including Peter Boyle, Illeana Douglas, Luis Guzman, Joe Pantoliano, Pam Grier, John Cleese and Burt Young. Comedian Jay Mohr's in it, too, as an accordion-playing, kill-wielding lounge singer who performs at a dive bar on the moon, but watching Mohr do his famous Christopher Walken impersonation for an hour and a half would have been more entertaining. There is, however, one very funny cameo by Alec Baldwin, in which he pokes fun at his run-ins with the paparazzi. To laugh out loud, just once, is incredibly refreshing, but it's not worth the price of admission. *Pluto Nash* also looks surprisingly muddled, considering it was shot by Oliver Wood, a cin-

ematographer with more than three decades of experience on films including *Face/Off* and this year's *The Bourne Identity*. Everything is blanketed in a gray, foggy haze and yuck, it takes place on the moon, but it didn't have to be dreary. Director Ron Underwood (*City Slickers*) doesn't get much out of the sight gags, either, because they're not terribly inspired. Among them: ■ \$10,000 bills with Hillary Rodham Clinton's face on them. ■ A video phone that was innovative back when *The Jetsons* debuted in 1962. ■ A human-looking robot dressed as a French maid who repeatedly drops her feather duster and bends over slowly to pick it up. ■ A cryogenically preserved Chihuahua that thaws when placed in a microwave oven. And then there's the plot

(which isn't really important because it functions solely to set up the lame sight gags): A mob boss pressures Pluto to sell his nightclub because he wants to buy it and turn it into a casino. Pluto outsmarts him with the help of Dina (Rosario Dawson), a beautiful singer he's just hired, and his robot bodyguard, Bruno (Handy Quaid). The movie is reminiscent of another one that Neil Cuthbert wrote: 1999's *Mystery Men*, about a ragtag band of superheroes. It also had a big, talented cast (Ben Stiller, Janeane Garofalo, William H. Macy, Eddie Izzard, Greg Kinnear and Geoffrey Rush) who were all dressed up with nowhere to go. *Pluto Nash* has nowhere to go but the video store, after the briefest of runs in theaters. *The Adventures of Pluto Nash*, a Warner Bros. release, is rated PG-13 for violence, sexual humor and language. Running time: 91 minutes. One and a half stars (out of four).

ENTERTAINMENT HIGHLIGHTS

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Here are this week's entertainment highlights: ■ In 1968, John Lennon's wife, Cynthia, filed for divorce, a day shy of their sixth anniversary. By this time, Lennon was seeing Yoko Ono, whom he married in 1969. ■ In 1968, Who drummer Keith Moon drove a Lincoln into the Holiday Inn swimming pool in Flint, Mich., to cap off his birthday. ■ In 1969, Frank Zappa disbanded the Mothers of Invention. He said he was "tired of playing for people who clap for all the wrong reasons." ■ In 1972, Grace Slick was sprayed with mace and Paul Kantner was slammed to the floor by police following a chaotic show by Jefferson Airplane in Akron, Ohio. ■ In 1977, Elvis Presley was buried at a Memphis cemetery, with about 50,000 people gathered outside. His body was moved to the grounds of Graceland after burglars tried to break into the original mausoleum.

■ In 1989, actor Kenneth Branagh married actress Emma Thompson. They split up six years later. ■ Also in 1990, singer Sinead O'Connor banned "The Star-Spangled Banner" from her show in New Jersey. Some radio stations, in turn, refused to play O'Connor's music. ■ In 1995, actor Larry Hagman had surgery to replace his liver. He had advanced cirrhosis, which he blamed on years of heavy drinking. ■ In 1996, singer David Byrne sued to prevent the rest of Talking Heads from touring as The Heads. The lawsuit was settled out of court. ■ In 2000, actresses Ellen DeGeneres and Anne Heche announced they were breaking up. Just hours later, Heche was hospitalized after she wandered disoriented into a stranger's home in Fresno County, Calif. ■ Also in 2000, 51 million people tuned in to watch the final episode of "Survivor," during which Richard Hatch was named the million-dollar winner.

BEST-SELLING AUDIO

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weekly charts for the nation's best-selling recorded music as they appear in next week's issue of *Billboard* magazine. Platinum signifies more than 1 million copies sold; Gold signifies more than 500,000 copies sold:

BILLBOARD HOT 100: TOP 20

Compiled from a national sample of sales reports collected, compiled and provided by SoundScan; radio playlists; and monitored radio by Broadcast Data Systems
1. "Dilemma," Nelly (feat. Kelly Rowland), Fo' Reel.
2. "Hot In Herre," Nelly, Fo' Reel.
3. "Complicated," Avril Lavigne, Arista.
4. "Just A Friend 2002," Mario, J.
5. "I Need A Girl (Part Two)," P. Diddy & Ginuwine (feat.

Loon, Mario Winans & Tammy Ruggieri), Bad Boy.
6. "Gangsta Lovin'," Eve (feat. Alicia Keys), Ruff Ryders.
7. "Down 4U," Irv Gotti Presents The INC. (feat. Ja Rule, Ashanti, Chazell Baltimore & Vita), Murder Inc.
8. "Just Like A Pill," Pink, Arista.
9. "Happy," Ashanti, Murder Inc.
10. "Nothin'," N.O.R.E. Def Jam.
11. "Heaven," DJ Sammy & Yanou (feat. Do), Robbins.
12. "Hero," Chad Kroeger (feat. Josey Scott), Columbia.
13. "Long Time Gone," Dixie Chicks, Monument.
14. "Cleanin' Out My Closet," Eminem, Web.
15. "No Such Thing," John Myer, Aware.
16. "A Thousand Miles," Vanessa Carlton, A&M.
17. "The Middle," Jimmy Eat World, DreamWorks.

18. "I'm Gonna Be Alright," Jennifer Lopez (feat. Nas), Epic.
19. "Move Bt," Ludacris (feat. Mystikal & Infamous 2.0), Disturbing Tha Peace.
20. "Without Me," Eminem, Web.

THE BILLBOARD 200 TOP ALBUMS: TOP 20

Compiled from a national sample of sales reports collected, compiled and provided by SoundScan
1. "The Rising," Bruce Springsteen, Columbia.
2. "Nellyville," Nelly, Fo' Reel. (Platinum - certified sales of 1 million units)
3. "The Eminem Show," Eminem, Web. (Platinum)
4. "The Fix," Scarface, Def Jam South.
5. "Now 10," Various Artists, Sony/Universal/EMI/Zomba/Epic.

6. "Thug Holiday," Trick Daddy, Slip-N-Slide.
7. "(Reanimation)," Linkin Park, Warner Bros.
8. "Unleashed," Toby Keith, DreamWorks (Nashville).
9. "Let Go," Avril Lavigne, Arista. (Platinum)
10. "Busted Stuff," Dave Matthews Band, RCA.
11. Soundtrack: "XXX," Universal.
12. "Layin' Da Smack Down," Project Pat, Hypnotize Minds.
13. "By The Way," Red Hot Chili Peppers, Warner Bros.
14. "Missundaztood," Pink, Arista. (Platinum)
15. "Come Away With Me," Norah Jones, Blue Note. (Gold)
16. "Ashanti," Ashanti, Murder Inc. (Platinum)
17. "All I Have," Amerie, Rise.
18. "Mario," Mario, J.
19. "Room For Squares," John Myer, Aware. (Platinum)
20. "Josh Groban," Josh

Groban, 143. (Platinum)

HOT ADULT CONTEMPORARY

Compiled from a national sample of airplay supplied by Broadcast Data Systems
1. "To Where You Are," Josh Groban, 143.
2. "Do It For Love," Daryl Hall John Oates, Arista.
3. "A New Day Has Come," Celine Dion, Epic.
4. "Superman (It's Not Easy)," Five For Fighting, Aware.
5. "Here I Am," Brann Adams, A&M.
6. "Hero," Enrique Iglesias, Interscope.
7. "A Thousand Miles," Vanessa Carlton, A&M.
8. "I Need You," Marc Anthony, Columbia.
9. "Bring On The Rain," Jo Dee Messina, Curb.
10. "Soak Up The Sun," Sheryl Crow, A&M.

MAINSTREAM ROCK TRACKS

Compiled from a national sample of airplay supplied by Broadcast Data Systems
1. "By The Way," Red Hot Chili Peppers, Warner Bros.
2. "Drift & Die," Puddle Of Mudd, Flawless.
3. "Aerials," System Of A Down, American.
4. "She Loves Me Not," Papa Roach, DreamWorks.
5. "Never Again," Nickelback, Roadrunner.
6. "I Stand Alone," Gosmack, Republic.
7. "Prayer," Disturbed, Reprise.
8. "Thoughtless," Korn, Immortal.
9. "Downfall," TRUSTcompany, Geffen.
10. "Get Away," Earshot, Warner Bros.
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