

A QUESTEX PUBLICATION

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MAGAZINE

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MAY 11-17, 2008



Christina Ricci



James McAvoy

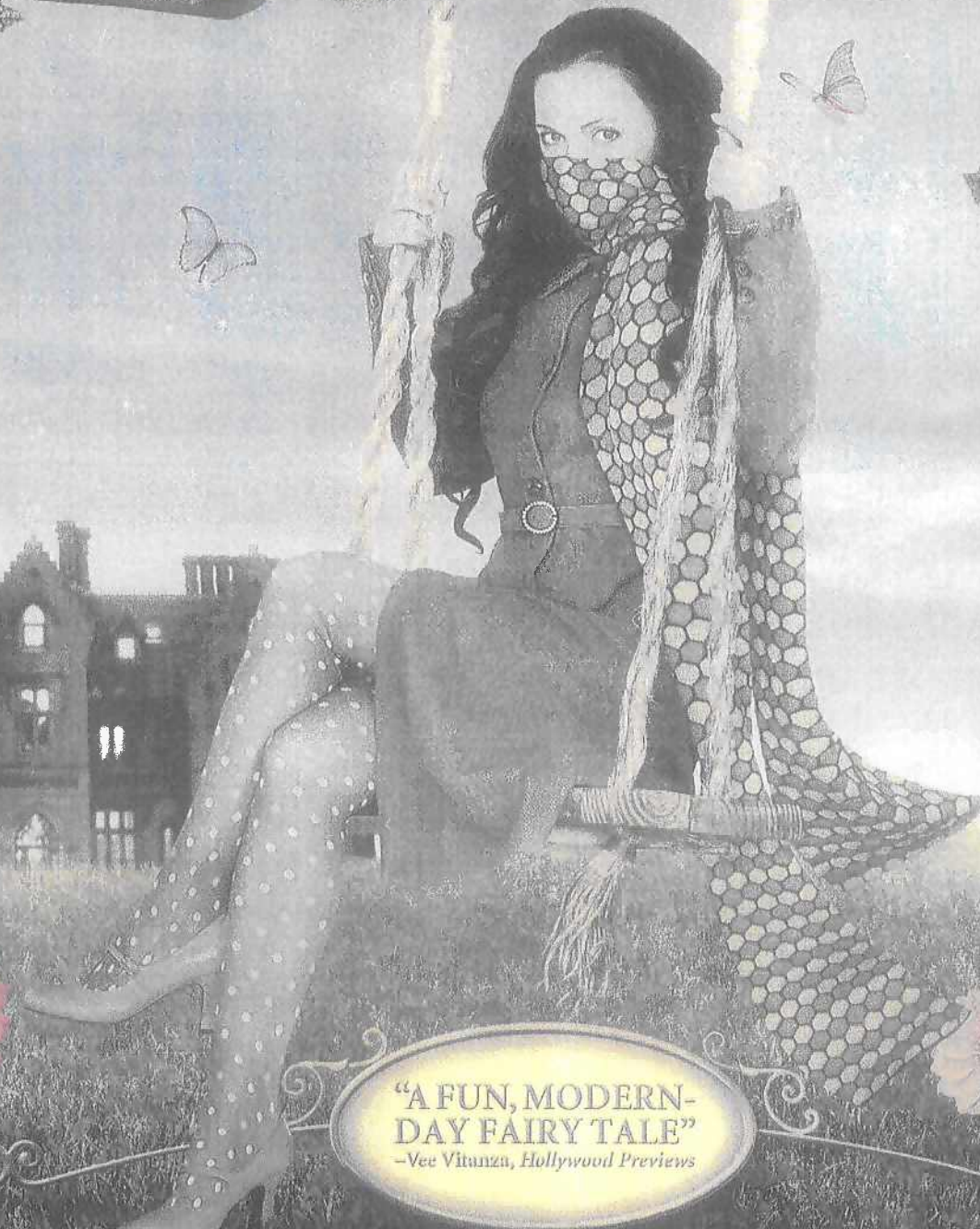


Catherine O'Hara



Reese Witherspoon

PENELOPE



"A FUN, MODERN-DAY FAIRY TALE"
-Vee Vitanza, *Hollywood Previews*



■ CRYSTAL RIVER

Street 5/13

Lifesize, Drama, \$19.98 DVD, NR.

Stars Emily Carpenter, Sean Patrick Flanery, Ted Manson.

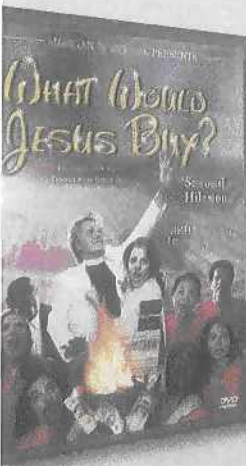
Faith isn't so easy to find when life doesn't go your way. In *Crystal River*, Emily Carpenter, who also co-wrote, stars as Davie, a woman who desperately wants children but recently suffered her fourth miscarriage. Unable to sleep, Davie begins spying on Clay (Flanery) the grandson of her elderly neighbor, Olin (Manson). Clay also has a past he hopes to leave behind.



Is there any doubt America is the world's No. 1 consumer of crap?

\$24.95 DVD,

In this deft and entertaining film, director Rob VanAlkemade and producer Morgan Spurlock set their sights on America's materialism and culture of credit cards. The film follows the adventures of performance artist Bill Talen, whose The Reverend Billy persona leads protests against capitalism run rampant. He primarily targets Disney, and the film takes a subtle jab by using the Disney font for its titles and on-screen text.



Apparently Disney does too good a job promoting its brand.

Reverend Billy kicks off the film by getting arrested after marching into a Disney Store and proclaiming Mickey Mouse to be

the Antichrist. Going to jail for his cause, we learn, is a force of habit for the Reverend Billy. He heads to malls and Wal-Marts and encourages people to save their money, all the while lamenting how the spirit of Christmas has been corrupted to equate love with gifts.

The film follows Billy and his Stop Shopping Gospel Choir as they take a cross-country road trip to preach their message, ending up in an impromptu parade down Disneyland's Main Street, which led to Billy's arrest.

VanAlkemade layers the film with clips of children demanding all the newest gadgets and toys, while their parents say they don't mind going broke to make their kids happy.

This all implies that these people could use some piety in their lives, or at least some value system to instill a sense of personal responsibility. Even if you don't agree with Billy's methods, it's hard to argue with that.

John Latchem

Clay and Davie eventually strike up a friendship that involves late-night excursions such as a midnight boat ride on the river. Her budding relationship with Clay further isolates Davie from her husband and threatens her reputation within the town.

Meanwhile, the town's minister and a new reverend join to convince Olin to allow himself to be baptized in his final days. The older spiritual leader preaches a rigid message of salvation that Davie seems ready to reject, struggling to find the good in her own life.

The movie takes some interesting twists, but don't expect anything flashy. This is a simple, quiet film about people struggling to find answers to the problems they face in life. Carpenter evokes sympathy in a very naturalistic performance, while Flanery makes it easy to believe she could fall for him. He's no stranger to playing the unassuming ladies man, after entering the public eye in the 1990s playing the young Indiana Jones on TV.

— John Latchem

Ana have been friends since kindergarten, so a new student at school is a big deal.

Jessie is assigned to sit next to



a minute to teach Terry, Ana and their classmates a lesson about acceptance. Nia and Jessie's father verbally teach the lesson, but Jessie actively demonstrates it. Rich McK-