

ENTERTAINMENT

The Medallion is like '02's The Tuxedo

by ANTHONY BREZNICAN
Associated Press

Jackie Chan plays an ordinary guy who gets super fighting powers and battles evildoers in The Tuxedo ... no, WAIT! ... I mean The Medallion. The Tuxedo was last year's Jackie Chan movie in which he played an ordinary guy who gets super fighting powers and battles evildoers. The Medallion is the new one — or, I should say, "new" one.

Those who have never seen Chan climb a brick wall, slide through some iron bars and chase people around like he was one of those infected monkeys from 28 Days Later will marvel at his energy in The Medallion.

The movie is full of chases for the sake of chases, but has nothing that actually makes you gasp at his daring or cleverness — except for the credit outtakes, in which we see him fall off a stone ledge and land on some extras posing as tourists (wonder if they thought that clip was funny.)

Most admirers of Chan's spectacular history as an action-stunt star will mourn the formulaic mess he has mired himself in.

The Hong Kong star is still weak with the English language so other actors have to pick up the wisecrack slack, like Chris Tucker in the Rush Hour movies and Owen Wilson in Shanghai Noon and Shanghai Knights.

Here the comic relief is Lee Evans, the British comic who played the faux-handicapped professor in There's Something



AP photo

Jackie Chan stars as Inspector Eddie Yang in the Tristar Pictures action comedy The Medallion.

About Mary. Evans tries hard — too hard, at times — but has nothing but lame gay jokes and bug-eyed double takes to work with.

Chan's storied fight scenes are routine here, while his co-stars (including Claire Forlani) try to explain the story to each other, such as it is.

A sinister man named Snakehead (Julian Sands) wants to capture a young boy who, with the aid of an ancient talisman can bring people back to life and give them superhuman abilities.

There is some muddled chatter about how the boy needs both halves of the medallion to do the trick, even though he revives Snakehead with only one half. Snakehead, by the way, has kidnapped the boy and committed suicide in front of him. Why the boy doesn't leave him dead is one of the movie's great mysteries.

After Chan is killed and revived, he discovers that he can absorb gunshots, stabbings and other abuses, and still survive. The wounds heal themselves (and, interestingly, the accompanying rips in his clothing) with a milky light.

Everyone is shocked by this miraculous phenomenon, but not a single person thinks to ask: "So, uh, what's it like to die and come back to life?"

Such questions would have made an interesting and funny element to this story, but director Gordon Chan lacks the will or imagination to ask or answer them.

1 1/2 stars out of four.

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U.S. parents group assails CSI as TV's worst show

NEW YORK (AP) — Television's most popular program, CSI: Crime Scene Investigation, is also its least family-friendly, a TV watchdog group said.

The Parents Television Council criticized the CBS drama, carried in Canada by CTV, for stories about cannibalism, S&M sex clubs and snuff films.

What's worse is that CBS occasionally reruns the show at the 8 p.m. hour when more children are likely to be watching, said Melissa Caldwell, re-

search director for the 800,000-member organization that monitors sex and violence on TV. The group released its annual list of the best and worst prime-time shows.

The Thursday night drama usually tops the Nielsen Media Research weekly prime-time ratings and has already been responsible for one spinoff series, CSI: Miami.

As forensics investigators, the lead CSI characters might be expected to bear witness to some seedy situations. But Caldwell said, "There are ways you

can deal with these issues without having to be as graphic."

A CBS spokesman didn't immediately return a call for comment.

The organization saluted CBS's Touched By an Angel, which ended its nine-year run last spring, as TV best show.

"Every episode emphasized the power of goodness over evil, the need to strengthen familial relationships, the importance of individual responsibility and an encouragement to maintain faith in God," the PTC said.

Plastic surgery made Jamie Lee Curtis look and feel worse

NEW YORK (AP) — Plastic surgery isn't necessarily the answer for women who want to change their looks, says Jamie Lee Curtis.

The actress, who most recently starred in a remake of Freaky Friday, won't say specifically what surgery she's had, but says, "I did all of

it in attempting to stave off (aging)."

The result: "It made me look worse and feel worse. What they say works doesn't," Curtis says in the Sept. 1 issue of People magazine, in which stars including Roseanne Barr, Sharon Osbourne and Dolly Parton discuss

the work they've had done.

To help women accept their shapes, Curtis posed in her underwear last year in More magazine without make-up or retouching.

"I wanted to say to women, 'Hello! I look like this. Relax, we all look like this.' I'm 44 and weigh 150."

Dad-son conflicts kick-start new bike-builder show

by JEFF WILSON

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Building \$200,000 motorcycle masterpieces is the hook to lure viewers to American Chopper, but it's the father-son bickering that kick-starts the Discovery Channel's reality show.

Each week, Paul Teutul Sr. and son Paul Jr. fire up torches and grinders to begin work on their latest creation, which they design either for show or private clients. Weeks of drafting a plan, painting, chrome-plating and assembly are crammed into one or two hour-long episodes.

But the real tension of the show, which premieres Tuesday, Sept. 2, revolves around the verbal jousting and name-calling between anal-retentive Paul Sr., and son Paulie, the shop's creative whiz.

The tattooed Teutul — his bulging arms swinging from broad shoulders poking out of a tank top — doesn't hesitate to spew rapid-fire insults such as "Knucklehead!" and or a sarcastic "Picasso!" when his son leaves a mess or misses a deadline.

The 54-year-old father with the grey, walrus moustache is an obsessive clean freak: "I just don't get it. What's so hard about keeping things organized?"

He's also the boss: "And don't forget who writes the cheques around here."

Paulie, 28, manages to take the ridicule in stride, explaining that creating a work of art takes vision, concentration and time. Pausing to consider leftover tools and debris would stunt the process.

"Be a professional," Teutul barks.

It's a wonder they don't start throwing punches.

"I've gone off on him off-camera, too," Teutul said from his New York shop. "I don't hold back. But I blow up for about 15 minutes, then it's over. We get along a lot more than you think."

Clark Bunting, general manager of the Discovery Channel, said: "I would argue the centre of the show is the father-son relationship, and they also happen to build bikes."

Jay Leno, who's got an Orange County Choppers bike in the works and is a big fan of American Chopper, said the Teutuls are really loving.

"In an hour of the show, they may get on each other's case for three minutes. But then you have another 57 minutes left, so no more (confrontations) than anyone else," the Tonight show host said.

Harrison Ford star guest at next month's Deauville film festival

DEAUVILLE, France (AP) — Harrison Ford will be the star guest at next month's Deauville film festival, and director Roman Polanski will preside over the jury.

Ford, 61, will promote his latest movie, Hollywood Homicide, an action comedy directed by Ron Shelton, organizers said. The 29th edition of the festival, which honours American film, will run Sept. 5-14.

John Cusack, Edward Burns, Charlize Theron, Ridley Scott and Jessica Lange are among other stars expected to walk down the red carpet. Organizers plan to introduce a new documentary competition this year. Oliver Stone's Persona Non Grata, about Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, and The Agronomist by Jonathan Demme, about a Haitian journalist and human rights activist, are in the running.

Ten films will compete for the prestigious Jury Prize, while another 15 will be shown out of competition, including American Wedding, Woody Allen's Anything Else and Hollywood Homicide.



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Doris Meredith works as the Lab Co-ordinator for FMC of Canada Ltd. at the company's hydrogen peroxide plant in Prince George.

The 2002 Award recognized the unique contribution she made to the company's production process. She worked on development of four new applications of Near Infrared Technology. The result is that the plant now has the capability to perform continuous monitoring of four variables in the process. Significantly, her applications have enhanced the safety of the plant. This analysis tool has also cut down the time needed to do lab testing. Over the past year, she has concentrated on increasing product quality by performing trials and conducting extensive lab analysis.

Respected for her technical skills and scientific expertise, Doris is committed to enhancing her skills and invests time in learning about her field. Currently, she continues to work towards earning the Bachelor of Technology Management designation through BCIT's distance education program.

In celebration of her success, Today's Woman Awards in 2002 proudly acknowledged Doris Meredith for Innovation Or Achievement In Science Or Technology.

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