Hopkins returns as Hannibal Lecter to make ‘Red Dragon’ his own

By Vincent Civitillo

Features Editor

To understand the origin of evil, one must go back to the beginning.

In this case, the beginning of a story that has been developing since 1991 with Jonathan Demme’s The Silence of the Lambs, a film which introduced audiences to Anthony Hopkins’ fascinatingly-averse character, Dr. Hannibal Lecter.

Now, as the last act has been told, director Brett Ratner (Rush Hour) has gone back to rekindle the first chapter in a six (the almost forgotten 1986 thriller Manhunter) in his remake Red Dragon, which captures the essence of the original while strengthening the role of Lecter to complete the trilogy.

The story follows Will Graham (Eight Club) in his remake Manhunter, the FBI agent who is able to twist his thinking and psychologically become a criminal in order to appease fans and better tie the film in with the rest of the series.

One particularly enjoyable Lecter scene, added to the screenplay for this release, was the film’s introduction, which shows the circumstances behind Lecter’s capture by Graham, only slightly alluded to by Clarice Starling in Hannibal.

This addition is key in that it gives a beginning to Lecter’s story that was missing before in a trilogy that began with the second and third acts.

Sir Anthony Hopkins returns to surprise us with Dr. Hannibal “the cannibal” Lecter for the second time since Silence. The actor shines in Red Dragon in a way that brings the spotlight to him. While the character was only secondary in Manhunter, Hopkins has a flair about him and through his voice and intellect, brings Lecter alive.

The film, which was undoubtedly made in order to provide a version of Dragons with Hopkins in the role, benefits from his presence and succeeds in not allowing its plot to resemble that of Silence, another interview Lecter to catch the villain more, too slowly.

It is called A Nice Day for a Chianni — Ralph Fiennes (left), Anthony Hopkins (above) and Edward Norton (right) star in Red Dragon.

Rider hosts emotional Holocaust exhibit

By Lacey Korevich

Staff Writer

A heart-wrenching exhibit is on display in the Student Center Art Gallery. It is called Viss for Life: The Righteous Diplomat and was created in honor of the men and women who risked their lives to save Jewish people from the horrific events of the Holocaust.

Most know of the 6 million lives that were taken in the Holocaust, but many do not know the stories of those who were saved.

Freshman Amanda Popps works in the Art Gallery and saw the exhibit for herself.

“It shows the other side of the story because it shows people who knew that what the Nazis were doing was wrong,” she said. “It think that the exhibit gave people hope and showed them that there were actually good people that didn’t just sit back and watch.”

In addition, whereas before Graham retired as a prequel/remake worth watching for fans of suspense thrillers, whether they have seen the other two films or not. And with an ending that leads perfectly into the next act, the film is ready to scare, all over again.

The Will Graham character was not transferred over as nicely. In the original, Graham’s ability to become the serial killer was a psychological nightmarish few that left him on the brink of insanity, which explained his returning character. However, in Red Dragon, Graham retired as a result of his near-death encounter with Lecter and the inner-struggle is treated as more of a special skill that he happens to be able to do because he is really good at his job.

In addition, whereas before Graham was a tough anti-hero type, he has now been replaced for this generation of audiences by Norton’s lankier, fear-filled persona.

Dragos is suspenseful in a way that his predecessors are not because of its two antagonists. Fiennes makes a strong villain in serial killer Francis Dolarhyde, who develops a second personality, the “great red dragon.” An Dolarhyde attempts to break out of his human shell and become a dragon god, he manipulates his female victims in a way that generates genuinely disquieting images. However, at the same time, Dolarhyde is shown in conflict as what is left of his “human side” begins to fall in love and rear his emotions and his “special work.”

One area in which the film becomes slightly confusing is in portrayal of the 1980s. For a movie which is supposed to take place somewhere in the approximate time span of 1983-1990, Red Dragon is shot to look modern.

Granted, the 1980s culture-oversweep with its synthesizer music, techno colors and word-hate-it’s what makes Manhunter quiver and at times laughable to watch now, but a better effort could have been made by Rater to show that the events of the story took place two decades ago.

In a time where moviegoers have come to get an uneasy feeling from prequels, Red Dragon proves to be a prequel/make worth watching for fans of suspense thrillers, whether they have seen the other two films or not. And with an ending that leads perfectly into the next act, the film is ready to scare, all over again.

A TRIBUTE TO HEROES — Members of the community take time out to visit the Student Center Art Gallery’s latest exhibit, which is filled with pictures and visas of the courageous few of the Holocaust who risked death to save Jewish people from the Nazis.

Within the exhibit are original pieces of the diplomats and the stories of how they contributed to the rescue of nearly a quarter of a million Jewish people. There is also a video shown and several information packets available.

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