Knoxville returns to slapstick roots
By Vincent Civitillo
Features Editor

Let’s face it—the kind of humor presented in MTV’s Jackass is not an acquired taste. Audiences either fell in love with the show right away or never at all.

Such is the same with Jackass: The Movie, which is filled with the same type of humor, in the same format, with only an extended run-time and raunchier material differentiating it from the TV-sho.

It’s been about a year since Johnny Knoxville hung up his flame-retardant jacket and gorilla costume, airing the last episode of Jackass in an attempt to find a mainstream career in Hollywood. However, after only securing minor, unmemorable roles, Knoxville returns with Steve-O, Wee-Man and the rest of the Jackass crew to bring their lack of common sense to the big screen.

For those not familiar with the gang’s antics, insane skateboarders get together and perform random acts of self-inflicted pain. Skits from the movie include fun with live alligators, fire-breathing, bong-throwing, thought-into-and coming out of people’s rear ends and guys getting beaten up by very angry women.

Again, those who disliked the show will find themselves filing out of the theater sometime around the point where one of the guys accidentally defecates himself. However, Jackass fans, or slapstick humor fans in general, will find many of the skits genuinely funny.

The film’s highlights include a scene where heavyweight boxer “Butterbean” decimates Knoxville in a department store brawl, a cameo by Tony Hawk, bowling with Wee-Man and all of Bam Margera’s acts of torture against his father.

Jackass: The Movie’s only real problem is its format. Organized as a series of skits, there is no plot, which means that the film’s conclusion comes by surprise right in the middle of the action, and humor, leaving those enjoying them themselves clamoring for more.

Designed as an edgier, 80-minute version of the MTV television show, fans will find that Jackass: The Movie is exactly what they have been asking for since the show went off the air.

On the other hand, those who don’t see the humor in someone getting unexpectedly kicked in the crotch will likely find the film to be too disgusting to enjoy.

Jersey Devil film falls short of horror genre standards
By David Maccar
Opinion Editor

There are a few standards that make a great horror movie: suspense, good acting, a plausible and interesting plot, a scary monster, and (debatably) realistic special effects. Sadly, 13th Child, Legend of the Jersey Devil meets none of those standards.

Going into a film like this one feels optimistic, especially for those from South Jersey. Ten minutes into the film, a nasty feeling begins creeping up your spine that this is not going to be another Alien vs. another Blair Witch Project.

The traditional story of the Jersey Devil being the 13th child of the Lied family is completely abandoned by this film in favor another backstory about the spirit of a Leni Lenape shaman, who was his mother’s 13th child, who was persecuted and executed by the British and sent his spirit to haunt the Pine Barrens.

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Luedeke performs on Rider’s SNL stage
By David Maccar
Opinion Editor

Last Saturday night the Fine Arts studio theater became NBC studios for an evening when the drama fraternity, Alpha Pi Omega put on their version of Saturday Night Live (SNL) with host Bart Luedeke, President of Rider University. The performance was a fundraising event for much-needed renovations to the studio theater, which is the classroom setting for much of the work done in Rider’s theater program.

The performance was done in traditional SNL format with a house band playing music between sketches. Many aspects of life at Rider were cleverly satirized, especially the bumbling escapades of security which were depicted in several COPS-esque skits. The writing of the sketches, which was done by the performers, was just as good, if not better, than much of the current writing on SNL.

Just seeing Luedeke in a version of SNL’s famous Celebrity Jeopardy skit along with an average Rider student and two Security officers was well worth the $5 admission price. Not to mention the wonderful sketch where Luedeke interviewed candidates for his job which included impersonations of Ms. Anne (Anne Keith from Daly’s), Dean Anthony Campbell, President of Rider University. The performance was done in traditional SNL format with a house band playing music between sketches. Many aspects of life at Rider were cleverly satirized, especially the bumbling escapades of security which were depicted in several COPS-esque skits. The writing of the sketches, which was done by the performers, was just as good, if not better, than much of the current writing on SNL.

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