I tangled in a web of irony linked to their past. But it's problem is that it tries to spoof too many things and it causes the movie to lose a lot of its cohesion. Armund Assante does a good job in this movie, given what he has to work with. The rest of the actors all middle in a pool of boring mediocrity. Should you have the misfortune to actually see this movie, then I'd suggest ignoring the main characters and looking trying to find the ice cream scooper hidden in the picture. Sort of like a Where's Waldo book. —Patrick Mahoney. 

**★ ★ ★ Fearless**

Director Peter Weir (Witness, Dead Poets Society) does a masterful job of capturing the audience in this story about the survivor of a plane crash. All the performances are superb, but Jeff Bridges (as Max, the survivor) turns in a remarkable performance as a man who has been reborn as the master of his fate. Max believes that he has already passed through death and has become invincible. Isabella Rosselini and Rosie Perez also star. Despite a few lapses of emotional restraint, Weir directs Rossellini and Rosie Perez also star. Despite a few lapses of emotional restraint, Weir directs

**★ ★ ★ Malice**

A clever, but underdeveloped plot dooms Malice to mediocrity. The movie centers around an egocentric, young doctor with a God complex (Alex Baldwin). The doctor saves the life of a college student who is raped, then he rents a room from one of the college's deans (Bill Pullman) and his wife (Nicole Kidman). But what starts out as a thriller about a killer on a college campus, ends up as a confusing story with a plot line that has more twists than a bag of pretzels. Kidman and Baldwin act well, but Pullman is both dull and boring. Malice also suffers from the Hollywood syndrome of unnecessary violence and pointless sex. Neither help the plot any, and often they are completely out of character. As a thriller, this movie fails miserably. As a mystery, it fails too. I don't think anyone can be expected to come close to figuring this movie out. —PM. Showcase Cleveland Circle

**★ ★ ★ The Three Musketeers**

Wit and charm abound in The Three Musketeers. The star-studded cast, including Charlie Sheen as the cynical Richelieu, Richenda Stratton, Chris O'Donnell, Oliver Platt, Tim Curry, and Rebecca De Mornay, bring excitement, action and humor to the screen. The story is set in France, and begins with D'Artagnan (O'Donnell) setting out for Paris to become a musketeer, as his father had been. Upon arrival he finds that the musketeers have disbanded by Cardinal Richelieu (Curry) who seeks to steal the throne from the king. D'Artagnan stumbles upon the last three musketeers (Shen, Sutherland, and Platt), the four of them uncover Richelieu's treacherous plot, and seek to stop him. The movie was filmed in Austria, which lends the film a sense of realism and history. The most enjoyable part of this movie was the balance between comedy, action, and plot. The film was funny, but most of the humor came from casual wry one-liners. I enjoyed the sword-fighting scenes throughout the movie. They were well choreographed and exciting to watch. On the whole I found The Three Musketeers very entertaining, so much so that I plan to see it again. —PM. Loews Copley Place.

**★ ★ ★ Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas**

The animation of this film is incredible, as are the characters, though sadly this level of excellence is not matched in the writing or the music. Set in a land where each holiday has its own world, Nightmare gives the account of Jack Skellington, the leader of Halloween-town. Tired of exporting Halloween each year to the "real" world, Jack decides instead to bring Christmas to everyone. His plan includes kidnapping "Santa Claus" so that he himself may deliver all the toys made for him by the ghosts and goblins of the "real" world. Unfortunately, his good intentions do not translate into a successful Christmas. The most striking feature of the film is the impeccable animation. The movements of the extremely detailed Skellington are impressively smooth as he dances across the screen. Tim Burton's characters are what make this film truly entertaining, from the ebullient Skellington to the nasty Oogie-Boogie (who wants to eat Santa Claus). The music is delightful, the plot lacks interesting twists, and the songs lack originality. Despite the flaws, this remains a fun film overall. —IMA. Loews Harvard Square

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