Iron Monkey better second time around

By Chuki Heji

MPAA Rating: PG-13
Studio: Touchstone
Director: Yuen Woo-Ping
Running Time: 89 min.
Rating: ★★★★★

Last year, Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon took Hollywood by storm. As we all know, the film charmed critics and smashed all sorts of box office records. But Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon did something else as well. It proved that America was willing to sit down and watch a motion picture that was subtitled.

Perhaps this is what prompted the release of Iron Monkey. The year was 1993 when it first graced the silver screen. Since then it had lived only in video stores and in the hearts of ardent kung-fu fans. But this time around, Iron Monkey has finally made it to the big screen. The film is directed by Mr. Wu-Ping, who is as famous for his martial arts as he is for his graceful choreography marks an unmistakable style. His talents adorn movies like The Matrix and Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon. So, needless to say, the guy is a genius when it comes to fighting scenes.

But you’ve got it all wrong if you think this is Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon. The sequel. Sure, some similarities are inevitable. You still have your high-flying martial artists performing all sorts of daring stunts. This is new to the band, as they have had eight number-one rock hits in the past seven years. The Atlanta-based group is comprised of lead singer and guitarist Ed Roland, guitarist Dean Roland, lead guitarist Ross Childress, bassist Will Turpin, and drummer Shane Evans. Collective Soul made their debut in 1994 with “Hints Allega-Mer Shane Evans. Collective Soul made a disease that has succumbed and inflamed. After several months of battling, CorkyRomano and all of their known associates, are under surveillance, the Romansos are left with only one option. That is, to bring in the least qualified man for the job, Corky.

What follows is a series of intended jokes that are either lukewarm or just plain pitiful. This includes running gags about Corky’s brothers that are more offensive than funny. You've got bad special effects, midget bouncers, and painfully inept comedians. But this doesn’t help much over the course of the entire movie. In fact, things only get worse as Corky progresses. And it culminates in an ending that seems to sum up all of the preceding foolishness in a few moments. It’s just plain pitiful. but this doesn’t help much over the course of the entire movie. In fact, things only get worse as Corky progresses. And it culminates in an ending that seems to sum up all of the preceding foolishness in a few moments. It’s just plain pitiful. but this doesn’t help much over the course of the entire movie. In fact, things only get worse as Corky progresses. And it culminates in an ending that seems to sum up all of the preceding foolishness in a few moments. It’s just plain pitiful.
Stopping off at the Netherworld? Nice knowing you!

By Alan Back  
Senior Staff Writer

Drive out to the suburbs and you never know what you might find in the shopping centers. Wicker furniture, stereo equipment, the walking dead, dranged space creatures…wait a minute, what kind of wacko is running this place? The kind that built the Netherworld Haunted House, of course. Now in its fifth year overall and its third at the Georgia Antique and Design Center, the event packs enough twisted surprises to keep visitors off balance from first step to last.

Netherworld opened on September 14, running on weekends until the end of the month and then going to a nightly schedule through October 31. Starting up so early may seem like overkill to some, but co-creator Billy Messina sees things differently. “For some reason, everybody wants to come to a haunted house the weekend before Halloween…But they should spread it out.”

Billy Messina  
Netherworld Co-Creator

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Messina explained, “If it was a guest list, we could get on the phone and say ‘we’re sorry, we’re not going to be able to make it’—but there were 3,000 of them. You send out 200 [passes] to the United Way, where do those go? I don’t know, probably. So I couldn’t close up.”

“The guests enjoyed themselves thoroughly, he added, and business has stayed strong in the weeks since the strikes. Good thing, too. October would be a little less colorful without these crazies scaring the spit out of anyone brave enough to buy a ticket.

Netherworld is located at the Georgia Antique and Design Center (6624 Dawson Blvd., Norcross). Call (404) 608-2484 or visit www.fearworld.com for more information.
“A lot of folk music, roots-based music, has a similar energy to it. It’s something that speaks to people.”

Gregory Grene
The Prodigals

American bassist Andrew Harkin spent some time in Dublin while he was growing up, Grene explained. In addition, singer/guitarist Ray Kelly is a native of County Clare, and drummer Brian Tracey was born in New York and raised on the traditional Irish music his parents knew intimately. However, they rebelled by listening to nearly everything else they could find (and collecting some 2,500 CDs in the process).

Confused? Good. It gets better.

A decade ago, after Grene had been placed with original singer Sean McCabe, Kelly was the last to sign on, completing the current lineup and replacing original singer Sean McCabe. They do still travel to Ireland, but this country has become their center of operations. “As much as we’re an Irish band, we’re a New York band. We’re based there, and we’re an Irish band, we’re a New York band,” he said, “as much as we’re an Irish band, we’re a New York band.”

More than a few bands who try to update the old ways run into flak from purists—but not the Prodigals, according to Grene. Their goal, he said, is to respect tradition with our boundaries themselves as tightly as that there’s no room to explore new variations.

He recalled, “We’ve had a couple of really nice, lovely reviews from Irish Music magazine, which is probably about the most traditionally-oriented publication there is. They were commenting on the sort of energy and attack that we have.”

See Prodigals, page 29
Onward and Crossword

**Enemy at the Gaits**

1. Turner’s wife
2. Spoken
3. As of yet
4. Word with money or ammo
5. Sample, on a keyboard
6. Use, as resources
7. No-stress getaway site
8. Full of acerbity (3 wds)
9. ‘High’ prefix
10. Objective
11. Lassie, for one
12. Regret
13. Perspective (abbr)
14. “Silly me.”
15. “Marco!” response
16. Naughty lil’ thing
17. Superman’s foe
18. Approval rating technique (2 wds)
19. “Cats” poet (abbr)
20. Speedy sight
21. Rock outcropping
22. Words
23. A.D.I.D.A.S. group
24. Oboe piece
25. ‘High’ prefix
26. ‘High’ prefix
27. Signifies
28. Meat/veggie ‘wich type
29. Unaccompanied
30. Onward and Crossword
31. 100% real. There is no script, just footage and narration. The crew is not made of actors, these are ordinary young men and women who are aboard the journey for their own personal reasons yet share with each other a collective desire to uncover the purpose of their generation.
32. Further still, a haphazard encounter with the cast and crew of MTV’s Road Rules leads to the addition of Road Rule’s assistant cinematographer, Kathleen Kelly to the Journey crew.
33. This Journey worth taking
34. Dave meet Paige O’Brien, an enthusiastic young woman who empathizes with Eric’s quest and leaves her day job to help him finish it. Further still, a haphazard encounter with the cast and crew of MTV’s Road Rules leads to the addition of Road Rule’s assistant cinematographer, Kathleen Kelly to the Journey crew.
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100. The Journey
It seems as if the camera was left on all the time. A lot of random scenes get into the screenplay but manage to be delightfully relevant and refreshing, making fresh’s good theme for this piece of filmmaking. The Journey is a long overdue soul stimulator that is sure to inspire audiences.

The film runs through tonight, but only at the AMC Phipps Plaza 14 theater in Buckhead.

We spent the following three hours together roaming around the scene and just hanging out and being kids instead of being preoccupied with our inconvenience.

In the beginning, God created the Player and the Game. And he saw that they were both not necessarily good, but they would do. The Player and the Game existed within a dark and inevitably perpetual symbiotic state. The Player would exist on account of the Game and likewise, the Game would go on only as far as there were Players willing to participate. And God saw that it would do.

And then, of course, God created some animals, there was a flooding problem, Moses one-upped the Egyptians, etc. someone wrote some Psalms and some Proverbs, King Solomon wrote 126 verses on how to be an effective Player, etc., Ezekiel saw the wheel, the son of God is born to a non-Player, he performs some miracles and some people think he’s just a dangerous new type of player and they crucify him, etc., etc., and then Armageddon will come and put an end to the Game forever. And I know Michael rowed the boat ashore somewhere in there, but I can’t remember exactly when. But anyway, The End.

Welcome ladies and gentlemen to this week’s Two Bits column. This week’s focus is on the spiritual maintenance of the healthy player in the face of a ruthless game. First, I’d like to lay down a few guidelines, commandments if you will. The world of the Player is fairly cut dry and only requires adhesion to three main guide lines.

1. Thou shalt not hate the Player
2. Thou shalt hate the Game
3. Love one another, but don’t necessarily expect a phone call the next day

I understand that the third commandment may sound harsh. However, let me relate to you a personal story that contains valuable lessons for those aspiring to morally up-right playerdom; when I was but a lad of 12, my parents took me on a road trip across the country to see the grand canyon. On the return trip a horrendous pile up traffic accident caused a road blockage which backed up highway traffic for miles to a motionless stand still. The southwestern sun was heat beating the stranded population to the point where staying in their cars was not an option. Everyone, including myself and family, was outside their vehicles, most bearing looks of frustration and exhaustion. Then I noticed, embedded in the crowd, a young girl, seeming to be approximately my age, noticing me in the same instant. As far as it could be at that age and in that situation, it was love at first sight. We spent the following three hours together roaming around the scene and just hanging out and being kids instead of being preoccupied with our inconvenience. We forged an incredible friendship that day which was remarkable all things considered. We didn’t suffer any inconvenience. Then I no- ticed, embedded in the crowd, a young girl, seeming to be approximately my age, noticing me in the same instant. As far as it could be at that age and in that situation, it was love at first sight. We spent the following three hours together roaming around the scene and just hanging out and being kids instead of being preoccupied with our inconvenience. We forged an incredible friendship that day which was remarkable all things considered. We didn’t suffer any inconvenience.

Q. Ok then, who is the Ultimate Player?
A. The Two Bits Man
Q. So who is God?
A. The Ultimate Player
Q. Wait, that’s ridiculous, wouldn’t that make the Two Bits man God by the identity property of classic logic?
A. Silence nerd! before I strike you down with lightning and may be through a few plagues upon your offspring while I’m at it and steal your girlfriend if I’m feeling frisky!!
Q. And what’s with the whole Q and A thing? Are you trying to be like Dave Barry or something?
A. No he’s trying to be like me!!
Q. Don’t you mean “No, Dave Barry is actually funny”? A. Does sound damnation sound good to you?
Q. Who are you arguing with, didn’t you come up with all these questions yourself?
A. This is your beloved Two Bits man thinking it’s probably about time to sign off. You can catch my third personality in next week’s edition of three bits... or two bits rather. Until then try saying this two or three times fast - “Two Two Bits Men battle about being pimps” and whenever you get caught up in traffic just remember, “everybody hurts.”
That energy had the brakes put on it—a rare thing indeed—after the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center. “On the following weekend, there were a lot of transportation problems and so on. But on top of that, the band didn’t feel like it was appropriate to go forward, just because of the hugeness of the tragedy that had just occurred.” They decided to stay off the road that weekend and pick up their tour the next week.

Of the last month’s events, there have given new meaning to “One True Cause,” featured on Dreaming. One of the Prodigals’ few songs with overt political tones, it makes its way that counts—through their music. And you might even learn something.

All we say is there’s one true way, and that way is our own,” Kelly sings in the chorus. When someone uses an airplane to redesign the city skyline, words like these take on a more menacing feel.

Still, the Prodigals have no plans to let one day of horror put them off their game or ruin their plans for returning to Atlanta at the end of the month. “The whole thing is just a joke. I mean, we love performing, and the thing of the performance is a celebration. We’re really, really looking forward to exploring that in Georgia. We have a brilliant memory of Atlanta; we just can’t wait to return to Atlanta at the end of the month. “The whole thing is just more menacing feel.”

The Prodigals will be performing at Smith’s Old Bar on October 25. Call (404) 875-1522 for more information. Visit the band online at www.prodigals.com.

### COTTON CLUB (122 Luckie St.)
(404) 488-1193
www.atlantasecrets.com/cottonclub.asp
10/12-Jake Trout, Love Scallop (comp)
10/13-Minnesota Goodtime
10/14-Ken’s X, MS6e
10/17-Ororo, The Complex
10/18-Puddle of Mud, Mesh
10/19-The Superjets, Elliott James and the Snakes, Gruvinhi

### DARK HORSE TAVERN (164 N Highland Ave.)
(404) 873-3607
10/12-Rav7, Blanket Blank, Six
10/13-Tommy Thompson, Elowen, Johnny Young
10/17-CMAS
10/18-David Brown, Handful, Square Bucket
10/19-Jo %+t, Olive Field, The Nubs

### EDDE'S ATTIC (515-B N. McDonough St.)
(404) 377-4976
www.eddiesattic.com
10/12-Jennifer Daniels, Claire Holley
10/13-Cigar Store Indians, David Franklin
10/14-Molly Baccroft, Jen Harrell, Joe Rathbone, Liquid Pie
10/16-Border Collies
10/17-Brian Doyle, Laura Blackley Band
10/18-Sarah Piers, Christy Snow
10/19-Chlorine

### EDGAR'S ATTIC (1544 N. Highland Ave.)
(404) 873-3607
10/12-Genetorturers, Jr More Dead
10/13-Nonpoint, Rebellion, Switched, Darwen’s Waiting Room
10/14-Nonpassing, Jellin Front Time
10/15-Long Beach Dub Allstars
10/16-Club, Doze, Like, Chrome, MD
10/17-Morton, Excellent, Signs of Dying, Apocalyptic Visions
10/18-Insane Clown Posse
10/19-Jizzy

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10/16-Border Collies
10/17-Brian Doyle, Laura Blackley Band
10/18-Sarah Piers, Christy Snow
10/19-Chlorine

### SMITH’S OLDE BAR (1580 Piedmont Ave.)
(404) 875-1522
www.masq.com
10/12-Cigars Dwarfs, 5 More Dead
10/13-Nonpoint, Rebellion, Switched, Darwen’s Waiting Room
10/14-Nonpassing, Jellin Front Time
10/15-Long Beach Dub Allstars
10/16-Club, Doze, Like, Chrome, MD
10/17-Morton, Excellent, Signs of Dying, Apocalyptic Visions
10/18-Insane Clown Posse
10/19-Jizzy

### STAR BAR (637 Moreland Ave.)
(404) 681-9018
www.star-bar.net
10/12-Brothel Sons of Johnny Cash, Hot Club of Cowtown
10/13-Swinging Deadbreakers
10/17-Fanhead Mike and the Mercenaries, Kickstet, The Gating Headstones
10/18-Ohio Xerxes
10/19-Speed Devils, Blacktop Rockets, Chronycoat

### THEATRE AT THE UNDERGROUND (590 Peachtree St.)
(404) 873-3607
www.star-bar.net
10/12-Brothel Sons of Johnny Cash, Hot Club of Cowtown
10/13-Swinging Deadbreakers
10/17-Fanhead Mike and the Mercenaries, Kickstet, The Gating Headstones
10/18-Ohio Xerxes
10/19-Speed Devils, Blacktop Rockets, Chronycoat

### UNDER THE COUCH (Couch Bldg.)
(404) 206-0965
www.star-bar.net
10/12-Disclosure, Cyrcuses, Bedside
10/13-Sympathetic Vibrations, Nothing But Trouble

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greatest hits album in February 2000, fans are appreciative, especially here on campus. Freshman IntA major Ansley Cleveland says that “they’ve been such a prolific band that even though they’ve only been making music since 1994, they’ve got enough good songs to make a truly great greatest hits album. Plus, Dean Roland is dead sexy.”

Collective Soul plans to aggressively promote their album, even with the recent departure of lead guitarist Ross from 23

Iron Monkey

Iron Monkey is surprisingly funny as well. The cast displays a good amount of wit, and it’s great fun to watch the bad guys get beaten with a battery of both physical and verbal jabs. Tsang, who in real life is female, plays a particularly comical young boy, and she steals each and every scene in which she appears. I can’t help but feel bad for not catching this film the first time around, and you should feel the same way.

Now, I know I told you that the movie could probably be found at a video store, but don’t do yourself the disservice. The finale simply has to be seen on the big screen. It alone is worth the price of admission, so don’t make the same mistake twice and don’t pass this up.