

Media

Catholic students 'Meet the Spartans'

By C.S. Morrissey
Special to The B.C. Catholic

Joshua and Katy Palmarin were just married in December. They met as students at Redeemer Pacific College, where they are both still pursuing their studies. They enjoy talking to one another about media and culture in light of their RPC education in the faith.

The B.C. Catholic sent them on a movie "date night" to see *Meet the Spartans* on its opening night. Here is their Catholic commentary on it and the culture in which they live.

Josh: *Meet the Spartans* is a not-so-clever spoof on the recent blood-spiller *300*.

Katy: The spoofs and bashing of celebrities had zero impact on me.

Josh: The movie seemed written specifically to appeal to adolescents immersed in pop culture and lacking sexual morals.

Katy: In order to even get any part of the movie, you had to have seen *300* and know a lot about what is happening in pop culture today.

Josh: For a comedy movie, it sure doesn't produce a lot of laughs, and those that it did produce were not memorable.

Katy: There were a few places that made me laugh, for instance when [Spartan King] Leonidas killed the giant penguin and wore it over his head and shoulders coming back to town, compared to the movie *300* where it was a wolf.

Josh: The only part of the movie that gave me a decent laugh was when King Leonidas was doing an assortment of painful wrestling moves on his son, which was of course teaching him to be manly. It at least mocked the hyper-violent sense of masculinity that was glorified in *300*.

Katy: By the time I left the theatre I had already forgotten most of the movie; that's how much it stood out in my mind!

Josh: The humour was mostly tasteless and seemed based only on shock factor and outrageousness. In short, it was "stupid humour."

Katy: I found that the humour was old, and not funny.

Josh: There were several scenes in which bodily fluids spurted out of mouths in copious amounts, always landing on characters' faces; way too many homoerotic scenes; and is it just me, or is seeing men receive accidental blows to the genitals just not funny any more? In this movie it happens as the "punch line" in five or six scenes.

Katy: I felt at moments that I almost needed to laugh so I would not get angry or sick to my stomach.

Josh: Even if you leave your brain at home before going to the theatre, you still might be



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Despite being newlyweds, Joshua and Katy Palmarin, who met as students at Redeemer Pacific College, are still pursuing their studies.

offended at the constant sexual lewdness, profane language, and repulsive 'humour' in this movie. Watching a man's nipple being ripped off and stapled back on isn't funny.

Katy: If it was a 10-minute Saturday Night Live skit I would have perhaps found it funnier, but since it was an hour and 20 minutes I felt like it was a waste of time, money, and energy.

Josh: Suggestion: save yourself some money! Just grab a newspaper and read the comics several hundreds of times over; at least that would be funnier than *Meet the Spartans*.

On the feast of St. Francis de Sales, the patron of writers and journalists, Jan. 24, the Vatican traditionally reveals the Pope's

message for the Church's annual World Day of Communications. In this year's message, Pope Benedict XVI observed of the entertainment media that "in order to attract listeners and increase the size of audiences, it does not hesitate at times to have recourse to vulgarity and violence, and to overstep the mark."

Josh and Katy concur that experience verifies the Pope speaks the truth. What they see in *Meet the Spartans* is yet another occasion for them to reflect on how happy they are to have met each other.

Chris Morrissey teaches Latin and philosophy at Redeemer Pacific College, as well as a history course, Greece and Rome: Leadership in the Ancient World, being offered at RPC for the first time this semester. □



Movie Ratings

NEW YORK (CNS) – Recent films rated by the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. For reviews, see www.nccbuscc.org.

USCC classifications: A-I – general patronage; A-II – adults and adolescents; A-III – adults; A-IV – adults, with reservations (not for casual viewing because, while not morally offensive, some analysis and explanation is required in order to avoid false impressions and interpretations); L – limited adult audience (many adults will find the problematic content troubling); O – morally offensive.

The second rating is from the Motion Picture Association of America.

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| The Air I Breathe, L (R) | Meet the Spartans, L (PG-13) |
| Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem, L (R) | National Treasure: Book of Secrets, A-II (PG) |
| Alvin and the Chipmunks, A-II (PG) | One Missed Call, O (PG-13) |
| Atonement, A-III (R) | Over Her Dead Body, A-III (PG-13) |
| Awake, A-III (R) | The Perfect Holiday, A-II (PG) |
| Bordertown, L (R) | The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A VeggieTales Movie, A-I (G) |
| The Bucket List, A-III (PG-13) | P.S. I Love You, A-III (PG-13) |
| Cassandra's Dream, A-III (PG-13) | Rambo, O (R) |
| Charlie Wilson's War, A-III (R) | Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street, L (R) |
| Cloverfield, A-III (PG-13) | There Will Be Blood, L (R) |
| First Sunday, A-III (PG-13) | 27 Dresses, A-III (PG-13) |
| The Great Debaters, A-III (PG-13) | Untraceable, L (R) |
| Hannah Montana & Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert, A-I (G) | The Wager, A-II (no rating) |
| How She Move, A-III (PG-13) | Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story, O (R) |
| I Am Legend, A-III (PG-13) | The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep, A-II (PG) |
| In the Name of the King: A Dungeon Siege Tale, A-II (PG-13) | Youth Without Youth, L (R) |
| Juno, A-III (PG-13) | |
| The Kite Runner, A-III (PG-13) | |
| Mad Money, A-III (PG-13) | |



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