



Feature of
the month

From Slapstick To Serious

Jim Carrey is the man with the many facial expressions. Little do many people know that behind the ever funny jokes hides a real man with real feelings. Feelings that when transferred to the big screen will convince you that Carrey is so much more than simple slapstick comedy, but also an incredibly good actor.

by Dennis I. Larsen

Jim Carrey, aged 45, has won 2 Golden Globe awards and can be seen in about 40 different movies and TV-shows, which include memorable hits such as "Dumb and Dumber", "The Mask" and "Ace Ventura". There's no doubt that Jim Carrey has become a household name. However nobody starts at the top and Carrey's life was no different. He made his film debut in 1983 in a movie called Rubberface. But nothing really happened from this and the same goes for the rest of movies he starred in back in the 80's. It wasn't until 1994 and 1995 when he got the roles as Ace Ventura, Lloyd Christmas and Stanley Ipkiss in Ace Ventura: Pet Detective, Dumb And Dumber and The Mask respectively that people started to pay attention. The critics didn't seem to agree with the rest of the world though, but a "Worst New Star" award didn't stop Carrey. Those three movies turned out to be huge successes and really helped him from then on. What later followed were a series of comedy movies, something which you had come to expect from Jim Carrey. But in 1998 he tried out a more serious role in The Truman Show, which got him a nomination that he unfortunately didn't end up winning. 2004 arrives and Jim Carrey is at it again. Eternal Sunshine Of The Spotless Mind (which you can read a review of on the next page), a critically acclaimed, Oscar winning (best writing) and also a unique film with Kate Winslet (of Titanic fame) impresses many people, even though it's hard for some people to see Jim Carrey in this kind of role.

Jim Carrey

Fun Facts

Birth Name: James Eugene Carrey

Height: 6' 2" (1.88 m)

Dropped out of high school at 16

At one point his family lived out of their car/trailer

First actor to reach 20 million dollar mark salary (for The Cable Guy (1996))

Fast forward to 2007 and he's got a new movie to add to his resumé. It's called The Number 23 and it just recently hit theaters around the world. The reviews so far have been a mixed bag. Some dislike it with a passion, while others think it's a good thriller. The movie is basically about Jim Carrey, who plays the part of Walter Sparrow, who becomes obsessed with a novel and thus a number, you guessed it, "The Number 23" is the title. He later starts to believe that it was written about him. As his obsession increases, more and more similarities seem to arise. It seems like Jim Carrey is out to prove himself to the world and is trying to convince the world that there's more substance to him and if you ask this reviewer he's definitely succeeded.

Eternal Sunshine Of The Spotless Mind Review

Genre: Drama/romance
Year: 2004
Runtime: 108 min
Jim Carrey as Joel Barish
Kate Winslet as Clementine Kruczynski

Focus Features, which is the specialty films unit of Universal Pictures, has released this wonderful and unique movie. It's called something as weird, yet memorable as *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*; a quotation from a famous poem by Alexander Pope and Kirsten Dunst got to say it in the movie:

"How happy is the blameless vestal's lot! The world forgetting, by the world forgot. Eternal sunshine of the spotless mind! Each pray'r accepted, and each wish resign'd;"

Written by Charlie Kaufman, you already know that you are in for something special. His previous work includes *Being John Malkovich* (1999), *Adaptation* (2002) and *Confessions of a Dangerous Mind* (2002), and it's as if Kaufman won't settle for doing a "regular" movie. His movies are all thought provoking and they are movies you talk about afterwards, not many people have achieved that.

Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind (ESotSM) is nothing like what you might expect. I know I thought to myself, that seeing as Jim Carrey has a huge role in this movie, I thought he might be hilarious throughout the movie. I loved him in both of the *Ace Ventura* movies, but respected him more for his infamous grimaces rather than his acting skills. ESotSM totally changed my mind about how I perceive Jim Carrey, he even convinced me that he deserves an Oscar, no doubt about it. The movie made me realize that there's SO much more to him, something we rarely get to see though. Yeah, I could go on all day long about how great his performance is. He plays Joel Barish, who is a shy humble man having trouble with the opposite sex. One day he suddenly, spontaneously, decides to skip work and takes a train to Montauk. Here he ponders on his life, asking himself (when he sees Clementine Kruczynski (Kate Winslet), an attractive wild, free-spirited multi-hair colored woman for the first time), why he falls in love with every woman who shows him the least bit of attention. On the train ride back home he begins a conversation with Clementine and they almost immediately fall in love. This is where things start to get really serious. I think you've guessed by now that this is not Carrey's usual stuff, but a romantic drama!



- ★ The title is quoted from the poem *Eloisa to Abelard* by Alexander Pope (1688-1744). This poem was used in Charlie Kaufman's earlier project *Being John Malkovich* (1999).
- ★ The opening credits appear 18 minutes into the film, at the end of the first reel.
- ★ Despite the fact that Charlie Kaufman's script and Michel Gondry's visual concepts were closely followed, the actors were allowed many chances to improvise. Elijah Wood and Mark Ruffalo improvised extensively, and much of the dialog between Jim Carrey and Kate Winslet resulted from videotaped rehearsal sessions during which the two actors became close by sharing tales of their real life relationships and heartbreaks.



Joel finds out in a heart-wrenchingly way that she has had him erased from her mind and how does he know this? Their relationship has just ended at this point and he walks into a bookstore and sees her sitting behind her desk, but naturally finds it odd when she doesn't seem to recognize him at all. Back home he gets a letter (he wasn't supposed to see) that simply says:

"Clementine Kruczynski has had Joel Barrish erased from her memory. Please never mention their relationship to her again. - Thank you."



The letter has been sent by Lacuna, Inc; a company which has specialized itself in erasing people's memories, thus removing any pain it might have caused. The mere thought that Clementine can't remember their relationship and everything they used to be haunts Joel and therefore he decides to undergo the very same procedure. But everything doesn't turn out the way Joel imagined. In the middle of the whole erasing process he changes his mind and tries eagerly to escape with Clementine to the darkest fragments of his memory (this is how most of the movie goes) after he learns that he might not want to forget their relationship.



Most of the characters in ESotSM are familiar from other movies and the team from Lacuna, Inc who are to erase Joel's memory consists of: Mary (Kirsten Dunst), Patrick (Elijah Wood), Stan (Mark Ruffalo) and Dr. Howard Mierzwiak (Tom Wilkinson). I must admit that I did, sort of, have a hard time in the beginning acknowledging that Elijah Wood won't always be Frodo of Lord of the Rings, but I quickly forgot as the movie went on. All in all an incredible cast.

The visuals are not striking in the same way that most big-budget Hollywood-produced movies are but it's still very good and I was definitely impressed by some scenes and kinda prefer them to that new Blockbuster because it feels more real and overall there was an amazing use of colors. Luckily the director, Michel Gondry, didn't choose to focus too much on CGI, which I think is a big problem for many Hollywood-directors. It's as if they believe that as long as the visuals are OK, then people won't notice the smaller things not being there... like a story for instance! ESotSM is made just the way movies are supposed to be made and is one of my all-time favorite movies, hence I give it a maximum rating of 5 stars.

