

'Excess Baggage' actually entertains



COLIN PENNEY Special to the Gamecock
EXCESS BAGGAGE
 ★★★ (out of five stars)

I humbly walked up to the window and muttered, "Excess Baggage."
 I had a choice between this movie and "Masterminds" for my first movie review. (I didn't really have a choice because I saw "Masterminds" when it was released under the name "Toy Soldiers").

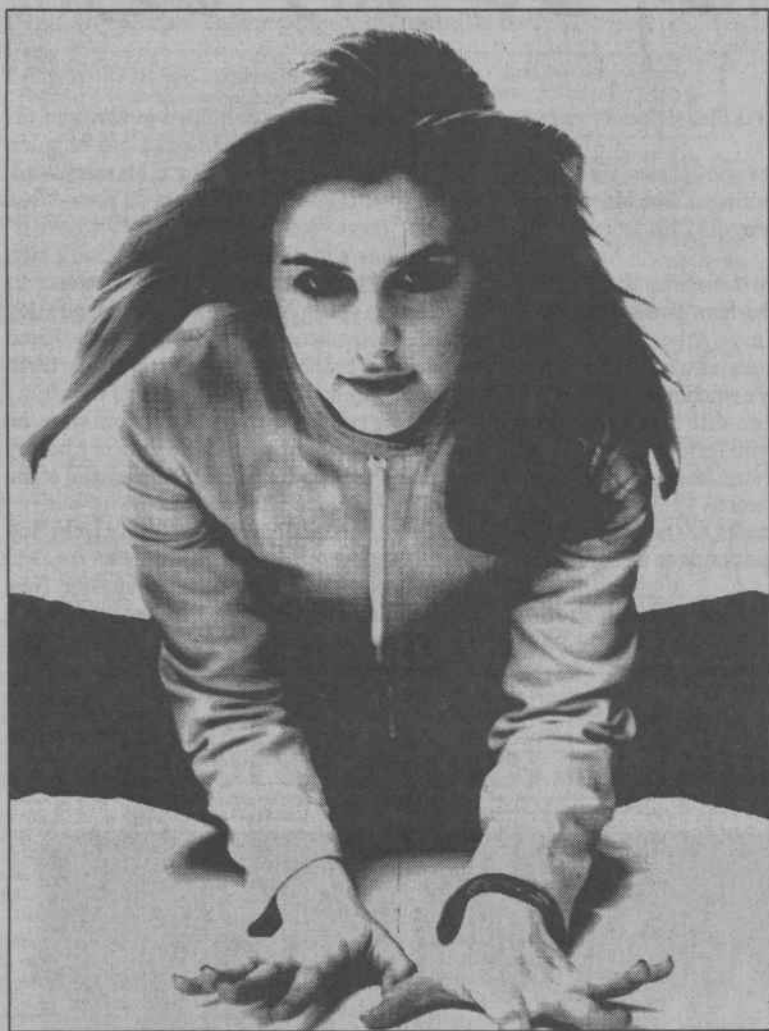
I relaxed some once I was in the dark theater.

The opening sequence is impressive. The premise for the movie is revealed cleverly and quickly: Emily Hope (Alicia Silverstone), a spoiled girl who doesn't get enough attention at home, has faked her own kidnapping to make her father realize how much she should mean to him.

Emily has planned everything perfectly. She tapes herself up and locks herself in her trunk at the supposed drop-off spot.

But, before the authorities can get there, professional car thief Vincent Roche (Benicio Del Toro) steals her BMW while she's in the trunk.

Through a series of coincidences, accidents and misdemeanors, the two become partners trying to avoid the cops, two criminals who are after Vincent, and Emily's "uncle," an ex-CIA assassin her



SPECIAL TO THE GAMECOCK

Alicia Silverstone stars as Emily T. Hope in 'Excess Baggage.'

father hired to bring her back.

If you've ever seen "The Usual Suspects," you're accustomed to the acting style of Benicio Del Toro.

At first, you think this man can't act. But in about ten minutes, you're hooked into his character. He's obviously the best thing in this movie.

Something I've never seen before also happens in this film. Christopher Walken ("Uncle" Ray Perkins) is actually outshined by Del Toro. Walken's an amazing actor, but he's not given enough of a great character. His character is quite shallow.

Another famous actor I was disappointed with is Harry Connick Jr., who plays the part of Vincent's business partner. Sure, in "Independence Day" he had a small part, but he was absolutely fantastic in "Copycat."

In "Excess Baggage," his character doesn't have enough depth for him to do

anything.
 Alicia Silverstone, whose movies range from the hit "Clueless" to the unbearable so-called film "The Babysitter," has been questioned before on her acting abilities.

But in this film, she surprisingly manages to drop the "Clueless" attitude and almost lets the audience forget she was Cher. Even though these characters have the same rich background, Emily Hope actually has a real personality.

Overall, I was pleasantly surprised by this film. The script was intelligibly written, and most of it was actually funny. (Sure, "Clueless" was funny, but do I have to admit it?)

The acting was good, with the exception of Del Toro. He was brilliant. If you're in the mood for a light movie, I recommend this one to those willing to let Silverstone entertain you.

Munch exhibit draws visitors to museum

JENNY COOKE
 Special to the Gamecock

Swirling images arise, the intense create meaning, and the artist's fierce emotions, furies and desires come to life.

The expressiveness, which Edvard Munch presents in his works, is evident throughout the room. But you don't have to go to the Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art in New York or the Smithsonian to see the famous works of Munch.

Until Sunday, the world-renowned artist's exhibit will be at the Columbia Museum of Art, only one in four US cities the show will be touring.

The museum was thrilled when they learned of the opportunity to host the exhibit, "Munch and Women: Image and Myth." The exhibit portrays Munch in a different light than the world tends to perceive him. Bill Bodine, chief curator of the Museum, said, "These pessimistic images have stereotyped Munch as a relentless woman-hater, but this exhibition re-examines this aspect of the artist's imagery."

Included in the exhibit are tender images of the important women in his

life, confirming that Munch did, at one time, positively relate to women on an individual basis.

His paintings contain recurring themes of the "new woman" that emerged at the turn of the century.

Death and sickness often occupy his works because he lost his mother and sister to tuberculosis. Also, during Munch's time, there was an epidemic of syphilis, much like the AIDS epidemic. Syphilis is carried by males and is fatal to both women and children.

Sophomore Mark Amundson said he was very impressed with the exhibit.

"The ideas of each painting stand out. A lot and his feeling, his emotions stand out."

Suzanne Flowers, public relations director at the Museum, is delighted with the public's reaction to the exhibit.

"Attendance has nearly tripled," she said. "More come in every day."

Flowers said the turnout foreshadows what will happen when the Museum moves to a larger facility in mid-1998.

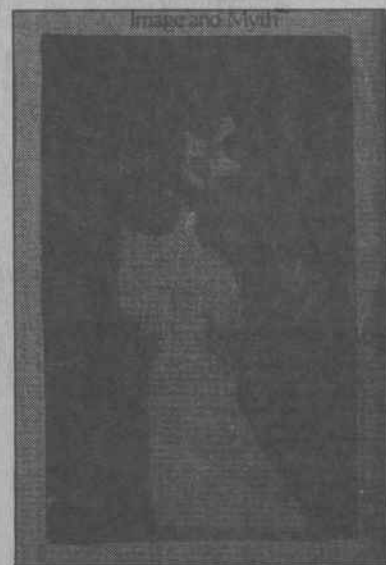
Flowers said she encourages students to view the show.

"If people will read the labels next to the artwork, they will realize it is really more than just looking at images," she said.

Perhaps you best remember Munch as the creator of "The Scream," that haunting image Hollywood popularized earlier this year. While the exhibit does not contain this work, there are many related souvenirs in the gift shop, from inflatable "Scream" dolls to silk ties.

If you have experienced desire, jealousy, love, loneliness, anguish, sickness or the death of a loved one, or if you just want to check out the gift shop, you can relate in some way to this exhibit.

Therefore, take this time to see one of the greatest artists of all time.



TORI O'HARA The Gamecock

The Edvard Munch exhibit at the Columbia Museum of Art ends Sunday. Munch is a renowned artist.



CONCERT CALENDAR

- **Sister 7**, 10:30 p.m., Sept. 6, Elbow Room
- **Mighty Mighty Bosstones**, 8 p.m., Sept. 10, The Ritz (Raleigh, NC)
- **Vince Gill w/ Bryan White**, 8 p.m., Sept. 12, North Charleston Coliseum (North Charleston, SC)
- **Indigo Girls**, 7:30 p.m., Sept. 21, Township Auditorium
- **Fiona Apple**, 8 p.m., Oct. 10, Grady Cole Center (Charlotte, NC)
- **Elton John**, 8 p.m., Oct. 15, Carolina Coliseum

ETC. BRIEFS

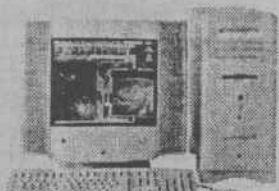
Town Theatre kicks off 79th season

The musical "Hello Dolly!" opens at Town Theatre on Sept. 12 and runs until Oct. 4. Tickets to this irresistible and beloved show are \$14 for adults, \$11 for seniors and full-time students and \$9 for youths. All performances are at 8 p.m. except for the Sunday matinees at 3 p.m. Call 799-2510 for details.

"Frankenstein" arrives at Theatre USC

The real story of "Frankenstein," the classic tale about the struggle between creator and creation, will be depicted on stage in USC's Drayton Hall auditorium from Sept. 19 to 28. Curtain times are 8 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 3 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets are available at the Longstreet Box Office and cost \$10 for the general public, \$8 for USC faculty/staff and \$6 for students.

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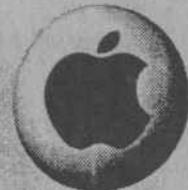
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