

## A Lawyer's Summer Movie Guide

By Lawrence Savell

**N**EW YORK — The appearance of crayons and lunch boxes on office supply store shelves, and patches of actually dry areas on dress shirts, indicate that the end of summer is approaching. If you are worried that you have not seen as many of the 2003 summer movies as you hoped, and are seeking guidance as to which films lawyers might particularly enjoy, you need look no further. As the following selections indicate, this season's offerings include several created specifically for the legal audience.

**"Google-y":** Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck play woe-fully mismatched but superficially attractive law partners who spend all their billing (i.e., waking) hours running Internet searches for the terms "ishtar," "waterworld," "heaven's gate," "glitter," and "swept away +madonna."

**"Legally Bald":** Someone with no hair goes to law school and becomes a lawyer. (Of course it could never happen, but suspend your belief for 90 minutes and enjoy this fantasy.)

**"Kornblatt Almighty":** A small firm's founding senior partner thinks he's God. (See prior entry's parenthetical.)

**"Johnny Latin":** Rowan Atkinson plays a bumbling law firm proofreader pressed into service when all his colleagues unexpectedly explode, testing his purported specialty of checking archaic legal terminology pompously expressed in its original language.

**"Lara Croft, Temp Reviewer":** Based on the popular LEXIS interactive game, Angelina Jolie reprises her role as a former archaeologist turned contract litigation paralegal, racing against time through a mazelike records warehouse searching for a critical "smoking gun" document, with the very fate of her employer's contingency fee hanging precariously in the balance.

**"Finding Memo":** In this heartwarming story from Pixar Animation Studios, Marlin, a lonely and forgetful senior associate (wonderfully voiced by Albert Brooks), goes to feverish lengths (and great depths) to locate the one competent research memorandum he ever created, which he



SONY PICTURES

thinks he might have left at the dentist.

**"The Xerox Reloaded":** Keanu Reeves returns as Neon, a gaseous and Zen-muttering photocopier service technician who dresses like Johnny Cash, in a special effects smorgasbord that climaxes with a hallway brawl pitting him against a hundred look-alike law firm Reproduction Department Managers.

**"Litigator 3: Rise of the Machines":** Arnold Schwarzenegger robotically portrays an attorney remand-

ed to the present from a horrific future in which the world is controlled by renegade vibrating Blackberrys so he can locate and permanently enjoin the rebellious hot plate that started all the trouble.

**"Dull and Duller":** Two poor and unknown actors who unfortunately resemble two funny-looking but quite wealthy and famous actors play a pair of charisma-challenged attorneys who team up for a series of blind dates with pairs of unlucky women, who kindly listen to the lawyers' detailed recitation of their workdays for as long as they are able to remain conscious.

**"The Italian Sub":** In a techno-thriller boasting elaborate chase scenes, a team of corporate attorneys pulling an all-nighter to close a massive deal is betrayed by one of its members in a daring heist of a colleague's ordered-in-dinner sandwich.

**"The League of Extinguished Gentlemen":** Sean Connery stars in this adaptation of a comic book, simultaneously published in the Harvard Law Review and Modern Maturity, in which a gang of long-retired law school professors is summoned (i.e., awakened) to thwart a madman's plan to allow the use of commercial outlines during exams.

**"SpinBad":** A one-dimensional criminal defense attorney fails cartoonishly to sway public opinion (and the jury pool) in favor of a client accused of pirating second-tier animated films.

**"Not 2 Fast 1 Furious 1 Fired":** This sequel to 2001's surprise hit about reckless bicycle messengers in Manhattan details the relationship between one who actually follows posted traffic regulations and the livid dispatcher who accelerates his shift to another line of work.

**"C' Brisket":** In this stirring Depression-era story of redemption and kosher beef, Tobey Maguire plays Johnny "Red Meat" Pollard, the son of a cattleman who says nay to being saddled with the stable family business, instead galloping off to law school and then to a post at the FDA as a tough delicatessen evaluator. ■

*Lawrence Savell is counsel at Chadbourne & Parke in New York City.*