

Tim Burton's macabre love fable

The wait is finally over. It's been 12 years since Tim Burton's last stop-motion animation gem *The Nightmare before Christmas*, and now he's back with another delightful offering. *Corpse Bride* is a macabre love fable based on an old Russian folk story. Penniless 19th century aristocrats the Everglots (voiced by Joanna Lumley and Albert Finney) are forcing their daughter Victoria (Emily Watson) to marry Victor (Johnny Depp, who teams up with Burton for the fifth time) the son of social climbers, the Van Dorts.

The two meet and fall for each other but, after botching the rehearsal, Victor retreats to the woods to practise his vows. As he practises he places the ring on a stick reaching up out of the snow – only problem it isn't a stick but the finger of the murdered bride

Movie
The Corpse Bride
In cinemas October 27
Directed by Tim Burton
Review by Tammy Buckley

Emily.

The corpse bride (Burton's wife, Helena Bonham Carter) insists they are now married and whisks him off to the land of the dead. Drama and laughs follow as Victor tries to escape from the corpse bride and get back to his love who, in his absence, has been engaged to pompous lord Barkis Bittern.

The land of the dead is colourful and vibrant, a direct contrast to the land of the living, which is grey and depressing.

The corpse bride is cleverly designed with half-rotted features and an eye that constantly falls out but still manages to

look beautiful.

Another brilliantly designed creature is Elder Gutknecht, a wise skeleton with half specs and a wispy beard of cobwebs.

The corpse bride's Jiminy Cricket, a maggot who lives in her head, is another stand out character. The maggot is brightly coloured and provides many laughs. He has many great lines like: "If I hadn't just been sitting in it, I would say you have lost your mind."

The animation is superb. Look out for the reunion of Victor and his dog Scraps; it highlights how talented Burton is. The animation is flawless and amazingly detailed. It's reason enough to see this film.

Just like with *Nightmare*, Burton uses songs to move the story along. They are great, catchy songs but lack that something special the songs in



Nightmare had. The lyrics were at times hard to understand and it was tough to focus on them with dancing skeletons and rotting corpses getting down.

Corpse Bride is one of the best

films you will see this year. The fairy tale plot is simple and the story moves along swiftly. A must see for young and old – if only to appreciate the wonderful animation.

Black Rebel Motorcycle Club's personal revolution

Naming an album after one of the poems that fuelled the start of the early 1960s counter culture could signify an album with revolutionary ideals.

After being dropped by Virgin and picked up by the more sympathetic RCA, home to kindred spirits the Strokes, the Black Rebel Motorcycle Club seem to have gone through a personal revolution. Or maybe it was a mental breakdown — their noisy fuzz pop sound has dissolved into a laidback, country and soul-infused retrospective.

Shuffle Your Feet, which opens the album, begins with a gospel harmony leading into a genuine toe-tapping, southern

Music
Howl
Black Rebel Motorcycle Club
In stores now
Review by Nicole Stanley

ditty, clearly pointing to a band confident in their ability to pay homage to greats of the past.

Through the 13 tracks of the album we are virtually walked through a who's who of great American song writers.

Bob Dylan gets a look in the harmonica folk sensibility of *Complicated Situation*, while the yearning lyrics of *Devil's Waiting* wouldn't sound out of



place on an early Johnny Cash album. Even Springsteen's story-telling appears on *Restless Sinner*.

The best songs on the album are clearly the ones where the band lets loose, kick up their heels and have a bit of fun.

The slide guitar on *Ain't No Easy Way* easily makes it the stand out track of the album, as the song builds up into a foot stamping, back porch hoe-down.

There is a sense of earnestness in a band that wants to impress with mastering the great song craft that Americana has to offer, but the album is a relaxed listen and indicates that the BMRC aren't taking themselves too seriously... for now.

While lacking Ginsberg's revolutionary outrage, *Howl* is haunting and evocative.

The stripped-down, acoustic songs offer a modern look back at the glory days of American music before the hype took over.

What's on

events

Auckland Marathon
Starting from Devonport
October 30

The marathon is the standard 42.195km and the half marathon is 21.09km. There is also a 10km run and the National Heart Foundation 5km walk will be introduced for the first time.

Diwali Festival of Lights
Aotea Centre, Aotea Square and Queen Street
October 30, 11am to 10pm
Diwali, or Festival of Lights, is a very popular Indian celebration marking the beginning of the Hindu New Year.



Armageddon Pulp Culture expo
Aotea Centre
October 22 - 24

This Labour Weekend the most geeky expo is celebrating its 10th anniversary. Special treats include a huge computer gaming level, live wrestling, gameboy tournaments... Meet the stars of Stargate SG1, Bro'town, Star Trek the Next Generation, Battlestar Galactica, Flash Gordon, Harry Potter and much more.

theatre

A Bard's Tale
The Classic, 321 Queen St
October 27, 8pm
A band of merry men and women transport you back to The Globe theatre creating an epic Shakespearean play on the spot before your very eyes.

A Novel Encounter
The Pump House Amphitheatre
Killarney Park, Takapuna
November 4

A unique imaginary conversation between two well known novelists — Agatha Christie and Barbara Cartland — revealing the contrasts and conflicts of their lives and literary achievements.

The Land of Make Believe
Silo Theatre
Lower Greys Avenue

October 26 - November 12
1984: The big fluorescent glamour of the eighties doesn't have quite the same look in a small New Zealand city, where Carol-Ann dreams of a magical future beyond the limits of the Hutt Valley.

cinema

Red Lights
Academy Cinema, Lorne Street
From November 3
A French thriller in the tradition of Claude Chabrol and Alfred Hitchcock, based on Georges Simenon's novel. Starring Jean-Pierre Darroussin and Carole Bouquet.

Festival of Festivals 2005: New Zealand's annual French documentary film festival

The Moving Image Centre (MIC), 17 Galatos Street and NZ Film Archive, 300 Karangahape Road
November 9 - December 8
The French Documentary Film Month arrives in New Zealand with outstanding French documentaries, fresh from European film festivals.

The Edukators
Rialto, Broadway
From October 20
A group of three young Germans full of ideals try to change the world, attacking capitalism. But while Robin Hood was stealing from the rich to give to the poor, our Edukators enter wealthy properties, rearrange furniture and leave notes like: "You have too much money". Starring Daniel Bruhl, Julia Jentsch and Stipe Erceg. A brilliant movie.

Mysterious skin
Cinemas nationwide
From October 27
A film about child abuse in the US and how two young men end up having very different life trajectories after being abused by a charismatic sports coach at the age of eight.

exhibitions



Francis Alÿs: (to be continued) 1992-
Artspace, 300 K Rd
Until November 19
The Mexico City-based Belgian artist will exhibit film and slide projections, as well as a series of works entitled City Maps. Alÿs looks at the world and observes the everyday, in particular in Mexico City.

Pick Me Up and Hold Me
Artstation, 1 Ponsonby Rd
Until October 29
Hundreds of soft toys of different characters, materials and sizes take over the Artstation Gallery. From appealing to odd. At first, the toys were arranged in specially made spaces in the gallery, but visitors can pick them up and move them about.