



Jim Carrey shows he can be punky, sexy and even saxophoney in "The Number 23."

## Carrey's latest dramatic foray sucks in 23 ways

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ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Many actors have tried crossing over from the typical film we all grow to love (or hate) them in into genres that seem to be polar opposites.

Jim Carrey has attempted this before with the sappy flop of a film "The Majestic." Closer attempts at non-mainstream comedies have been somewhat successful criti-

### REPORT CARD

Entertainment Value: **F**  
Artistic Crap: **B**  
Plot/Script: **F**  
Performances: **C**  
Overall GPA: **1.25**

SunKyu Yoo-Norris

cally, but one thing this critic has learned is that Carrey was not cut out for horror or suspense.

Not since "Batman Forever" has Carrey been this scary, and that in itself is a comedic proposition on its own. So perhaps this was a comedy after all, just in every unintentional way possible. But believe me when I say this is not a film worth laughing at.

Here's the gist:

Carrey plays Walter Sparrow, an animal control specialist (or dog catcher) who truly loves his job. Throughout this film, Walter narrates what is happening on screen and within his mind, discussing matters of fate and destiny.

After a failed attempt at catching a scavenging dog behind an Asian eatery, Walter-come-lately meets up with his wife Agatha (Virginia Madsen) at a used book store.

Agatha is thumbing through the pages of a strange, self-published book called "The Number 23." Just for kicks she decides to buy it for Walter, as a birthday gift.

Yay! A used book is what I wish I would get for my birthday!

As Walter starts reading through the pages of the book he begins to notice some eerie similarities between the main character, Fingerling, and himself.

Fingerling is a character obsessed with the number 23 and fairly soon after Walter becomes obsessed with the number as well.

Walter is able to connect the book with a murder and attempts to use the facts behind the case to find out exactly what the deal is with the number 23 and why the book is so closely related to his own life.

The paranoia becomes psychotic and some stretches are made to make this conspicuous number have significance in his life.

Some of the ideas behind this film are somewhat ridiculous and the attempts to make this number significant and evil are either wrong or laughable.

For instance, they attempt to express the evil intentions of the number by explaining that two divided by three equals .666.

This is false. The actual answer is an infinite number of sixes past the decimal point and if one was to round it to the nearest thousandth then the rules of math would make that number be .667, not .666.

The rest of the plot and story are somewhat bland and lack any real excitement. The twist was unexpected but boring as well, falling far short of the mind-blowing amazement we got from films like "Fight Club" and "The Prestige."

The dialogue was somewhat unrealistic as well, with some obvious bits of Carrey improv thrown in here and there.

Then there's this dog, this annoying representation of fate that

keeps popping up in the film, apparently portraying Walter's bane of existence as well, acting as some sort of nemesis to the dog-catching character Carrey portrays.

It is almost like a darkly unfunny cartoon.

The involvement of his son is weak as well within a whole cast of characters who are better left for a bad episode of "The Twilight Zone."

Performances seemed to fizzle as well. Carrey tries his hardest to be a paranoid scary guy but ends up being nothing short of what could have been a failed character from "In Living Color."

Madsen is able to hold her own but she really has nothing to worry about here. It is like she's a beauty queen in a room full of wingmen.

The movie had some decent attempts at atmosphere with the foreboding shadows and grainy textures of the book's portrayals.

All in all the movie just wasn't any fun. It was a dozy snoozer which leaves the viewer running for Starbucks with extra money for the extra shots.

The only bit of fun is trying to find out how many references to the number 23 sloopmeister director Joel Shumacher tries to throw at you through the entirety of the film.

Twists are hard to come by these days, but true geniuses in movie-making are still able to make our jaws drop and our minds mangle up in knots. Unfortunately they are just too few and far between.

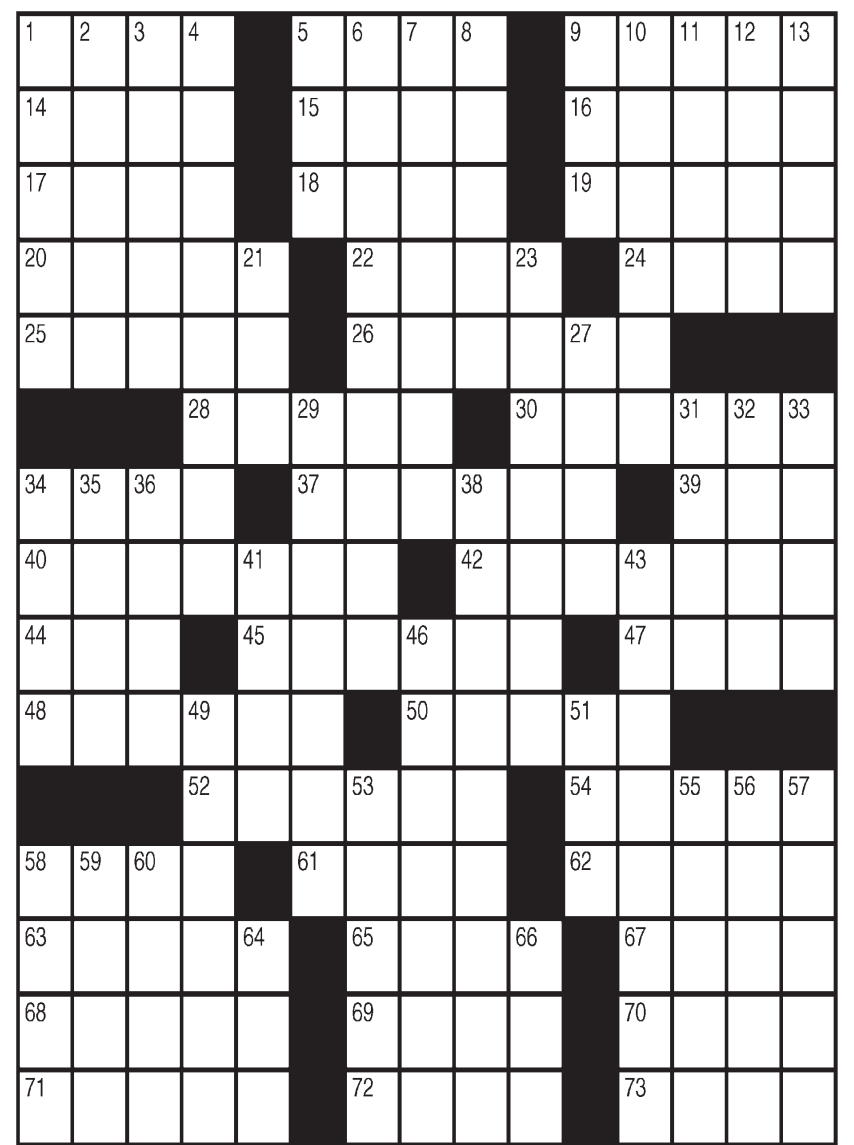
"The Number 23" is 190 proof slop pouring itself down a toilet after a night of bad appetizers from a now-closed Mexican restaurant. And this is being terribly nice.

Stay at home this week and hope that next week holds a little something better for our cinematic needs. Or go buy "The Departed" or "The Prestige." They will at the very least keep your eyes open.

## Crossword

- ACROSS
- Comic Imogene
  - Flows out
  - Employment
  - Install, as software
  - Order to a broker
  - More kind
  - Surrounded by
  - Guilty or not guilty
  - Evil characters
  - Binge
  - Division word
  - Brooding place
  - Gave off bright light
  - Channel swimmer Gertrude
  - Was the designated one
  - Element 53
  - Hosiery hue
  - Individual
  - Actor Beatty
  - Flicker of light
  - Freed of obstructions
  - Firearm
  - Guarantee
  - Extremely
  - Tranquelize
  - American of Japanese descent
  - Rivulet
  - Billiards stroke
  - Depend
  - Lose traction
  - Editor's marks
  - Of age
  - Mine entrance
  - Pupil setting
  - Happen once more
  - Billfold fillers
  - Eyeball impolitely
  - Other side
  - Advantage
  - New Jersey NBA team

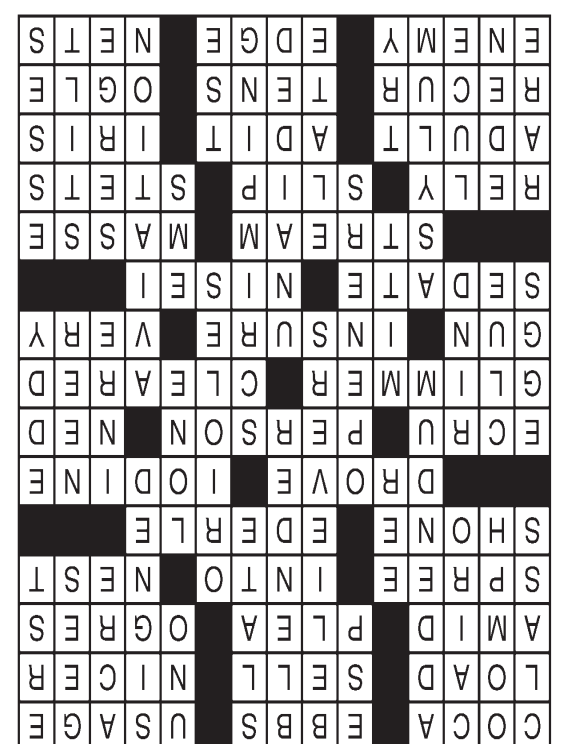
- DOWN
- Set of students
  - Spirited vigor
  - Capital on the Nile
  - Addition to a contract
  - 6th sense
  - Those with faith
  - Kitchen device
  - Roofing material
  - One in Toledo
  - Inked
  - Farmland parcel
  - Turns right
  - Before, before
  - Pamphlet ending?
  - Baltimore's birds
  - Solitary
  - Jacks or better
  - Memo heading
  - \_-do-well
  - Countercurrent
  - Ova
  - Mystery board-game
  - Peel
  - Cutting corners
  - Catcher's need
  - Pilot's field
  - Solo



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### Solutions



- Safe haven
- Mummy's three
- Uplift
- Suit fabric
- Long-legged wading bird
- Sibilant letters
- Hard to come by
- First garden
- Clare Booth or Henry
- Endeavor
- Either part of a fly?

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