

Brides, E2
Babies, E2
Puzzle, E4

Accent

CONNECTICUT POST

E

SUNDAY
September 14, 2008



ON TV
AMANDA CUDA

10-year-old British sitcom odd, hilarious

Fall is upon us. Over the next few weeks, we'll see a crop of new shows on our TV screens, as well as the return of some old favorites. In fact, some shows have already made their fall debuts, signaling an unofficial start to the new TV season.

So, is it wrong that, with so much newness upon us, I spent last weekend hunkered down watching a British sitcom that made its debut almost 10 years ago? Not when the show in question — the hilarious "Spaced" — is roughly a zillion times better than most of the comedies currently on the air.

"Spaced" debuted in the U.K. in 1999 and was the brainchild of a coven of comic geniuses, including director Edgar Wright and writers/stars Simon Pegg and Jessica Hynes (then going by the name Jessica Stevenson). It lasted a mere two seasons, but was a cult hit, launching the careers of Pegg, Wright and co-star Nick Frost. The trio has since become famous on these shores for the two brilliantly funny movies they made together, "Shaun of the Dead" and "Hot Fuzz."

I'm a big fan of both films and, once I heard Pegg, Wright and Frost did a TV show together, I was dying to see it. Alas, the show wasn't available on DVD in the United States until a few months ago, so I had to wait.

Thankfully, the wait's been worth it. I received the DVDs as a birthday present last week, and zipped through the whole first season in an afternoon. I haven't watched the second season yet, because I want to make the show last — much in the way one savors a delicious meal.

"Spaced" has a deceptively simple premise: two down and out twenty-somethings, Tim and Daisy (Pegg and Hynes) meet by chance and pretend to be a married couple in order to score a choice apartment. Their new digs come complete with a nutty landlady and wacky neighbor.

Yes, it sounds like the setup for one of a hundred lame, uninspired sitcoms. But "Spaced" transcends its premise, and becomes a bizarre, intelligent, often uproariously funny piece of television.

The main area in which "Spaced" deviates from the sitcom norm is in its two central characters. Tim and Daisy aren't impossibly pretty like the folks on "Friends." They don't have glamorous jobs, beautiful clothes or fabulously furnished apartments.

Tim is an aspiring graphic artist who spends his days working in a comic book shop, playing video games and fantasizing about Gillian Anderson. Daisy is an aspiring journalist who views every blank piece of paper with a mix of terror and fatigue. Their apartment is cozy but cramped, with clothes and other items strewn about recklessly.

They seem like people you'd actually meet in real life. They even talk like real people (except funnier). In one scene, Tim is asked if he likes his weird neighbor Brian (Mark Heap).

"I do like Brian," Tim replies. "I just don't know why."

Who wouldn't say that exact same thing about at least one of their friends?

Please see BRITISH on E3

Mosaic master



Brian A. Pounds/Staff photographer

Silvano Radaelli of Milan, Italy, works on one of the many mosaic panels in the new chapel at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield. Top, the baby Jesus and mother Mary, rendered in mosaic on the wall of the new chapel.

Vatican artist creates sacred art at SHU

By MEG BARONE
Correspondent

Only those who journey to the Vatican in Italy can step into the Sistine Chapel to view the sacred art created by Michelangelo in the early 16th century.

The Connecticut faithful need only to travel to the campus of Sacred Heart University to see the work of a man many have called "the modern-day Michelangelo." The Rev. Marko Rupnik, a Jesuit priest and Vatican artist who is installing a masterpiece of his own at the university's new chapel, still under construction, arrived on campus Aug. 16 with a team of 15 artists.

They began their laborious task of applying hundreds of thousands of colored mosaic stones and tiles to the chapel walls the following day, in accordance with a long-standing tradition of installing iconographic art in sacred places, said Svetozar Zivkovic, of Montenegro. Zivkovic is one of Rupnik's artists, who represent eight different nations

and five different Christian churches. They refer to themselves as "a human mosaic." Their work began in Italy last spring, where the artists used Rupnik's sketches to create images of Christ, the apostles, the Angel Gabriel, the Magi in the Nativity and other biblical figures. After unpacking crates, they realized the face of one apostle had been left behind.

Rupnik used a packing box as a makeshift easel to re-create the image and Zivkovic spent 10 hours reproducing it in mosaic form.

The rest of the project has gone much more smoothly, and the artists anticipate completing the mosaics soon, a day or two ahead of schedule. When the chapel is completed, Rupnik said, he hopes his art — which combines traditional Byzantine and contemporary styles — will engage the viewers, provoke thought and open a pathway to God.

"He has a theology that's very profound, but never far from humanity," said Silvano Radaelli of Italy, who has worked with Rupnik for seven years.

Architect Brad Prestbo, of Sasaki Associates, the firm that designed the chapel, said it is quite a coup for the university to have a Rupnik installation. "In terms of the liturgical art world, he's quite sought after," Prestbo said. Among his

projects is the 1999 mosaic renovation in Pope John Paul II's Redemptoris Mater Chapel.

The SHU installation is not Rupnik's first in Connecticut. Four years ago, he created the mosaics for the renovated Knights of Columbus chapel at its world headquarters in New Haven.

The installation at SHU is three to four times larger than the Knights' and is the largest Rupnik installation in the United States, Prestbo said.

Patrick Korten, vice president for communications for the Knights, has no doubt as to the beauty of the SHU installation, based on the work Rupnik did in New Haven, which he called "a beautiful set of mosaics, stunningly gorgeous. The work is very similar to the work he did for Pope John Paul II at the Vatican. His mosaics have truly made our chapel a beautiful, ideal place to pray and meditate," Korten said.

Guido Petra, president of Petra Construction, the North Haven company building the SHU chapel, called Rupnik "a modern-day Michelangelo," a label that makes Rupnik uncomfortable.

"I never had one thought like this, not even for one second. I say in my heart to God, 'You know who I am' ... This is the work of the Holy Spirit," said Rupnik, who is director of the Centro Aletti workshop of spiritual art in Rome.



Bursting out

Colors at fashion week loud, but harmonious

By SAMANTHA THOMPSON SMITH
McClatchy Newspapers

Would you ever think to wear a red suit with an orange blouse? Or a cobalt blue skirt with a robin's egg blue top? How about magenta and bright yellow stripes? Those are just a few of the

daring color combinations designers are suggesting for spring, and one of the big color trends to emerge from Fashion Week.

Peter Som was among those mixing his vibrant blues. He paired an azure blue shirt with a teal green skirt. He put a sapphire blue coat with cobalt blue pants. And then he mixed fuchsia with orange.

And the surprising result was that almost all of it worked.

The other big trend for spring is even more daring: mixing patterns.

It's a head-scratcher of a look to pull off, but Michael Kors on Wednesday showed how easily any age group can do it. As usual, Kors kept it understated and streamlined with a collection of beachy

Please see COLOR on E3

DANBURY HOSPITAL A Higher Level of Care | **Ashlar of Newtown** A Community of Care by Microlife | **St. Vincent's** Medical Center

Presents:
Improving Our Health & Wellness for the Future
Wednesday, September 24, 2008
6-8 PM, Reed Intermediate School, Newtown, CT

Featured Speakers: Susan L. Davis, RN, EdD, President & CEO, St. Vincent's Medical Center
Dr. John Murphy, Executive Vice President, Danbury Hospital

For more information, please call Gina Malgieri at 203-364-3127

Designing blogs

If you like color, then you'll love the recent post at Alkemie (www.alkemie.blogspot.com), where the blogger focuses on dining rooms that are anything but beige. Images include rooms with dramatic color combinations (green and pink, red and white, and turquoise and magenta), as well as one room with a wall of decorative plates and another sporting an orange shag rug. (We're partial to the green dining room with the fabulous wallpaper.)

The Peak of Chic (www.thepeakofchic.blogspot.com) posts a Q & A with designer-of-the-moment Windsor Smith.

— WASHINGTON POST