

Changeling

Wow. What a great film... and I don't think I've been able to say that since I saw *The Orphanage* months ago. We ventured over to the Toledo suburbs yesterday for date night to see [Changeling](#) at the nice theater since we still had a free pass leftover from a movie where they had technical issues. It was a long drive (saw 3 overturned semis in the ditches of the Ohio turnpike just in the almost 40 miles we use it, what's up with that? Has it really been that windy the past few days?), but well worth the long drive since our local theaters didn't have anything good playing. There's also great food in the Toledo area, and we went out to dinner at Ruby Tuesday's... that is good food for us – you should try moving to Bufu; it really makes you appreciate places like Ruby Tuesday's, Olive Garden, etc. in a whole new light when you don't get to have them very often. We wanted to try a place that has Mediterranean food which was recommended by justj, a fellow tangents.org blogger, but we figured we'd wait until a time when he could join us.

Changeling is a “period thriller”; the period being 1928-1935. The movie is based on the true story of Christine Collins, a single working mom whose 9-year-old son goes missing. What follows is the tale of one woman's plight as she seeks justice in an unjust world where women don't even really have a voice. I'm going to have to stop giving the plot synopsis there, however, because it was so great for me to watch the film only knowing about it what I've shared with you – I recommend you don't research the story until after you see the movie. I didn't know the course the events would take, even though it's really easy to find out since it's based on a true story – it probably stays closer to the actual events than do most movies based upon true stories. After you watch the movie, you can look up the real story and see how close they were, and if you're like me, you'll wonder why they

changed and left out the things they did in the movie.

The acting is great, the cinematography is breathtaking, and the direction ([Clint Eastwood](#)) is incredible. The movie really gives you a vision of what everyday life might have been like in 1928. [Angelina Jolie](#) is a really good actress – I can't stand all of the publicity stunts she pulls over in her personal life, but as an actress, she's proven herself with this film alone. [Amy Ryan](#) (you might recognize her as Holly from The Office – need her back in the Office though!) is also amazing in this movie, and I'll say the same for [John Malkovich](#) and [Jeffrey Donovan](#), who played the villian you loved to hate. The movie is lengthy at 2 hours and 20 minutes, but the time flies by as the plot unravels. I was never bored, never lost, and thoroughly entertained the entire time. Changeling has a story to tell, and its story is riveting, as is the movie. I highly recommend this movie!!!

A Hobbit In the Orphanage

Last night (after C and [taylhis](#)' recommendation), I watched [The Orphanage](#), a brilliant, suspense filled movie that just held your attention the entire time. So much so that to go into detail would almost certainly ruin it. Totally much more suspenseful than gory which is always a plus (but I think my favorite scene was probably the most twisted scene of the entire film). I also thought the use of the burlap mask was well conceived; harkening back to the Scarecrow's face in [Batman Begins](#) which was also creepy. I think the idea to use a burlap face for our haunted attraction is a great idea. *The Orphanage* was in Spanish with English subtitles but (although necessary unless you are fluent in Spanish) was not a huge distraction.

Guillermo del Toro, producer of *The Orphanage*, is in the process of writing the two film prequel to [The Lord of the Rings](#) trilogy. He will also direct [The Hobbit](#) films (the first of which is set to be released in 2011). Peter Jackson, who was largely responsible for bringing the original trilogy to the big screen will share writing duties with del Toro. My experience with the adventures of Bilbo Baggins is limited to the Tolkien novel and the Book and Record (remember those?) set that was released with the 1977 animated feature. I never saw the animated versions of the novels. But, I will definitely see these two films.

So, I HIGHLY recommend checking out *The Orphanage*; oddly enough it is not available through [Blockbuster.com](#)

The Orphanage

Wow. What a good movie. [The Orphanage](#) is an eerily spooky ghost story, and I don't really know what else to say about it because I want to make sure not to spoil anything. They must have felt the same way when they wrote the summary on the back of the dvd's box because it was very general and even incorrect in some aspects. The movie is in Spanish, and I'll admit that scared us away from watching it for awhile. We got to go out to see a movie together while we were in Florida last January, and we went to buy tickets for *The Orphanage*, but the worker told us it had subtitles. So we saw [One Missed Call](#) instead, and that wasn't nearly as good, not even the same kind of movie. Our movie rental place has a satisfaction guarantee, so when we told them how unhappy we were with *The Fun Park*, we got a free rental. My husband was trying to be quick again – that's what got us into trouble with *The Fun Park* in the first place though – so he just grabbed *The*

Orphanage, remembering that we had wanted to see it after reading the glowing reviews from critics. Pretty soon, it was Sunday already and we hadn't watched the movie and it was due by 11 pm that evening, so we quickly watched it while the kids were all napping from our big weekend. It didn't take long to forget we were reading subtitles rather than watching people talk in the movie; it was that good. The critics were actually right for once. Like I said, I really don't want to give any of the plot because it'd be difficult to explain anything without giving away spoilers. So I'll just say, if you like spooky movies, this one is a must-see. It's not even really a horror movie; it's supernaturally suspenseful. The story draws you in and doesn't let go... you may not speak the same language as the characters, but you identify with them, feel their pain, and genuinely care about what happens to them as the story unfolds. SEE IT! It's a totally different movie experience between the subtitles and just the kind of movie it is – I HIGHLY recommend it!