

# CELEBRITY DISH 2007

By Shehtaz Huq

**2**007 was an, um, eventful year in Hollywood, to say the least. We had the usual breakups and the hookups and the affairs and the checking-into-rehabs. Here's a countdown of the biggest celebrity headlines of the past year.

## 10. Britney shaves her head

February 17, 2007, former pop sensation Britney Spears barges into a Los Angeles salon, takes a razor, and shaves off her head. She then proceeds to showcase her shaved head at a tattoo parlor, while astounded fans look on. Salon owner tries to talk Britney out of it, but the star remains adamant, and off goes the hair.

## 9. Celebrity marriages

Spiderman star Tobey Maguire tied the knot; so did Desperate Housewives star Eva Longoria and basketball star Tony Parker, Neve Campbell and John Light, Brittany Murphy and Simon Monjack, Elizabeth Hurley and Arun Nayar, Keri Russell and Shane Deary, Pamela Anderson and Rick Salomon, and Usher and Tameka Foster, to name a few.

## 8. Celebrity baby boom

Looks like it is raining babies in Hollywood. 2006 saw the birth of two very famous babies: Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie's little girl Shiloh, and Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes' daughter Suri. Not to be left behind, other stars have gone ahead and had babies of their own. Kristy Swanson and Lloyd Eisler had a son; Desperate Housewives star Marcia Cross gave birth to fraternal twin daughters; Tori Spelling had a son, Liam; business tycoon Donald Trump and wife Vanessa had Kai Madison; "Waltress" star Keri Russell welcomed a son into the world; Julia Roberts had her third son, and Naomi Watts gave birth to her first-born son Alexander Pete Schreiber, to name a few.

## 7. Star adoptions

Celebrities aren't satisfied with having their own kids anymore. Hollywood is going through a phase where celebrities travel around the world to adopt children of different backgrounds and ethnicities to add to their own families. Both Angelina Jolie and Madonna adopted children from Africa, while actress Meg Ryan brought home a new

daughter Daisy from China. And Ewan McGregor added a Mongolian daughter to their family. And though adoptions are nothing new, the sudden adoption craze does make one wonder: what exactly are the stars up to?

## 6. Celebrity Makeovers

2007 saw a whole lot of stars looking better than ever. Leading the pack of US Weekly's Top 20 Celebrity Makeover is Katie Holmes, the Dawson's Creek star who went from gawky to glamorous post-marriage. Also turning heads is American Idol winner Carrie Underwood, who's lost weight and revamped her look to get the tag of "Sexiest New Style." Formerly skinny stars Nicole Richie and Kate Bosworth put on a few pounds (thank god), while Grey's Anatomy star Katherine Heigl and Ozzy Osbourne's daughter Kelly Osbourne were praised for "losing the flab."

Young Hollywood's not far behind, either. Ashley Tisdale

and Mylie Cyrus and HEROES star Hayden Panettiere received accolades for "making the switch from sneakers to stilettos."

## 5. Stars Behind Bars

Remember Lindsay Lohan? This twenty-one-year-old was jailed for a day for drunk driving. Then there was British singer Boy George, arrested for falsely imprisoning a Norwegian model.

17 - former BFF of Hilton, Nichole Richie, was arrested for driving under influence. Wesley Snipes faced tax evasion charges. Former boxing champ Mike Tyson was arrested under DUI charges and for the alleged possession of cocaine. Speaking of DUI, Mel Gibson was arrested for drunk driving, but what really made the headlines was the anti-Semitic tirade he unleashed

ing for L.A. Galaxy, could well earn up to \$250 million in contracts and endorsement money. Sweet deal, one might say. The arrival of the Beckhams has thrown the Hollywood paparazzi into overdrive, but the Beckhams are apparently trying to keep a low profile and let the shutter bugs chase more seasoned celebrities. Sure, it's not like they're trying to take over the world.

## 3. Celebrity Breakups

Pamela Anderson and Kid Rock divorced just four months after getting married. The doomed-from-the-beginning-of-time marriage of Britney Spears and Kevin Federline also dissolved into nothingness. 2007 also saw Hollywood golden couple Reese Witherspoon and Ryan Philippe splitting up. Salman Rushdie and wife Padma Lakshmi, Justin Timberlake and Cameron Diaz, Marilyn Manson and Dita Von Teese, and Paul McCartney and Heather Mills are some of the other couples whose happily ever after ended little, well, prematurely.

## 2. Anna Nicole Smith's Death

Anna Nicole Smith, 1993's Playboy Playmate of the Year, famous for marrying an 86-year-old oil tycoon months before his death, died on February 8, 2007. She was found in a hotel room, months after her first-born son Daniel Smith died from an overdose. Anna Nicole's death was followed by a myriad of legal battles over the paternity of her daughter and her final resting place. She was finally buried next to her son.

## 1. Stars in rehab

Stars have the hard life. Fame, fortune, glitz, glamour too much to deal with; I hear you cry. Well, that's why so many of them are in rehab. Jesse Metcalfe checked himself into an undisclosed rehab center for alcohol abuse. So did shaved-headed Britney Spears. She left after just one day, and then checked herself into another rehab after her head-shaving incident.

Mike Tyson got himself admitted to rehab after found in possession of drugs. Party-hearty Lindsay Lohan decided to take care of her personal health by entering rehab. Robbie Williams checked himself into therapy on his 33rd birthday for his addiction to prescription drugs. Big Brother contestant Jane Goody (the one with the racist comments, yes) is now being treated for depression. Grey's Anatomy star Isaiah Washington is undergoing treatment for psychological evaluation after his anti-gay tirade against costar T.R. Knight. And Australian singer Keith Urban, recently married to Nicole Kidman, is seeking help for alcohol abuse.

With so much going on, what could possibly be in store for next year? A transgenic celebrity, perhaps? Maybe Madonna is going to adopt a monkey? (Oh, wait. Didn't Michael Jackson already do that?) Maybe Lindsay Lohan will set a new record for the star most in and out of rehab in under two months? Hard to tell, really. But rest assured, I'll keep my eyes peeled.

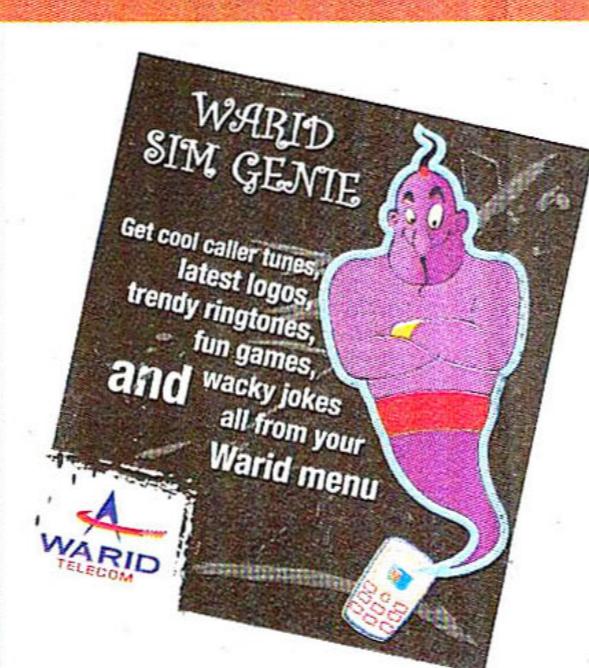
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## Alvin and the Chipmunks

Reviewed by Gokhara

I read a critic review in a magazine and this old man decided to blast it for all its worth. Problem is, the movie looked good in the promo, it's a children's movie. And it's apparently very good. So I decided to get a child's opinion of what it is like. Together we sat down to watch it. So far, so scientific. A bit of history for the uninitiated! "Alvin and the Chipmunks" is a five-time Grammy Award-winning animated music group, created by Ross Bagdasarian, Sr. in 1958. The group consists of Alvin, the mischievous troublemaker; Simon, the tall bespectacled intellectual; and Theodore, the chubby, impressionable sweet heart. The trio is "managed" by their human "father" and confidant, David Seville. In reality, David Seville was Bagdasarian's stage name, and the Chipmunks themselves are named after the executives of their original record label. Audiences often assume the characters started as cartoons and branched out into music, but that's the opposite of how they began. After first being brought to life in Bagdasarian's 1950s novelty recordings under the name David Seville



and the Chipmunks, the characters were an unprecedented success, and the singing Chipmunks and their manager were given life in several animated cartoon series and motion pictures. The movie plot: It's a comeback movie for the group of lovable Chipmunks. And as chipmunks they have squeaky voices. And they have a great fan following for that voice. The movie tells the story of how the chipmunks became rock stars and like all rock stars, get burned out. Well, almost. Jason Lee stars as Dave Seville, who becomes sort of their human parent. One fine day, he accidentally brings them home in a basket of muffins. To his surprise, he discovers they can talk and sing very well.

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Genre: Real-Time Strategy  
Minimum System Requirements  
System: 2.2GHz single-core or any double-core processor or equivalent  
RAM: 512 MB

Video Memory: 128 MB  
Hard Drive Space: 8000 MB  
Other: 1GB RAM required for Windows Vista

Recommended System Requirements

System: Intel Core 2 Duo or equivalent  
RAM: 1024 MB  
Video Memory: 256 MB

## WORLD IN CONFLICT

By Mood Dude

The plot: **W**orld in Conflict is a twisted around version of history. Based about a couple of decades ago, it has the Soviet Union launching an assault on Western Europe. As usual, the United States rushes to help its allies.

Four months pass and the US troops have been beaten down. Suddenly, the USSR invades Seattle in a surprise attack and war comes home (home here is USA regardless if you are sitting at a teashop in Noakhali).

Your character in the game is that of a company commander. You are part of a tiny US contingent defending home turf against the onslaught of communism.

The game: This is not a simulation although the graphics are amazingly realistic. There are 14-missions for the single-player campaign. In the multiplayer mode you can play as part of the USSR Red Army.

While the basic plot line is odd if you consider the actual history, it's very believable thanks to excellent storytelling. And most of



really don't play a game bothering with the real history. The best part of the story is that all the characters are given plenty of attention to emotions and humour, bringing them to life. For a strategy game, that's quite unusual that can have an emotional aspect. Beautifully rendered cutscenes carry the story further and although there are plenty, you can't help but wish for more.

The game limits the number of units you can control instead of having to look after the entire field. Thus, gameplay becomes a little easier and less stressful.

The game's resource system allows you to purchase units as you accumulate points. Units accumulate experience and are better at the war front. But choosing units can be quite a task. A particular unit can have different classes that make them better at certain jobs. Hence a platoon of big tanks can seem like a good idea but to wreak havoc but they are less maneuverable and may fare poorly in tight spaces. When units get destroyed, refund come back to you so you can get replacements.