

COMINGSOON.NET: July 30, 2008

"Sixty Six" Edward Douglas' review of the film ran with artwork and was designated "The Chosen One" for the weekend.

<http://www.comingsoon.net/news/weekendwarriornews.php?id=47377#3>

THE CHOSEN ONE:



Sixty Six (First Independent Pictures)
Starring Eddie Marsan, Helena Bonham Carter, Stephen Rea, Catherine Tate, Peter Serafinowicz, Geraldine Somerville, Richard Katz, Ben Newton, Gregg Sulkin

Directed by Paul Weiland (**Made of Honor**, **City Slickers 2**, "Mr Bean"); Written by Peter Straughan (upcoming **How to Lose Friends and Alienate People**), Bridget O'Connor

Genre: Comedy, Coming-of-Age
Rated PG-13

Tagline: "It was Bernie's big day, but there was a little competition."

Plot Summary: It's 1966, and 12-year-old Bernie (Gregg Sulkin) has been anxiously awaiting and planning for his Bar Mitzvah for years but as his neurotic father (Eddie Marsan) and mother (Helena Bonham Carter) suffer from the reduced business at his grocery store, it looks doubtful that Bernie will have the Bar Mitzvah of his dreams, made even worse when he realizes that it coincides on the exact day that England is to play in the World Cup finals.

It's kind of strange when smaller indie movies from different countries start appearing in theaters, having obviously gotten their ideas from the same cinematic ether. While this British coming-of-age comedy is based around a highly-anticipated World Cup final much like the Brazilian film [The Year My Parents Went on Vacation](#), which was a "Chosen One" back in February, that's about all they have in common, this time setting the story four years earlier when England was trying to make the football finals. This movie was produced by the prolific British production company Working Title and was released over in England two years ago, but it finally gets a release here, and you know what? It's quite a fun little movie, a coming-of-age tale with a great cast of character actors including a personal favorite of mine, British character actor Eddie Marsan, who's appeared in movies like Mike Leigh's **Vera Drake** and who most recently, played the baddie in Will Smith's **Hancock**, as well as Stephen Rea and Helena Bonham Carter. In this one, Marsan plays the compulsive and neurotic father of Bernie, a 12-year-old boy who's dreamed of becoming a man at his Bar Mitzvah but suddenly sees his big day

and all his perfect planning fall apart as nothing goes as planned. Young newcomer Gregg Sulkin plays the role of young Bernie and manages to carry the piece despite the slew of more experienced actors he's paired with and Paul Weiland does a great job keeping things moving throughout. (What's odd is that he made this movie before the recent wedding comedy **Made of Honor** and it's only finally now getting released.) I'm not sure why I enjoyed the movie as much as I did, maybe because of my own connection to being a young kid growing up in a place where the World Cup was the most important thing in the world, but it's really driven by the great cast including Peter Serafinowicz as Bernie's charismatic uncle Jimmy. Ultimately, Weiland's movie is sweet, sentimental and funny in a warm and fuzzy way, even if it's somewhat predictable and few of the actors seem very Jewish. You're probably likely to forgive some of the more obvious humor and problems, because otherwise, the movie is clever and different from other comedies we've seen out of England.

Sixty Six opens in select cities on Friday, including New York's Village East Cinemas.