Comedy offers laughs, sincerity

BY REN DUSOLD Assistant Editor

Bird watching might not be the sexiest of subject, but it does make for delightful film fare. That’s why “The Big Year” is a quiet triumph for all involved.

Kenny Bostick (Owen Wilson), Stu Preissler (Steve Martin) and Brad Harris (Jack Black) compete to become the best birder in the 2011 comedy “The Big Year.”

The film follows Brad and Stu as they enter the title competition, trying to break Bostick’s record of total birds spotted during an entire year by another birder. Brad has the natural ability to break the record, but his brands of beer and the company of Brad's fiancée threaten his chances of winning. During the process, Bostick seeks to maintain his record and Wilson deftly walks the line between theft of inspiration and severe addiction (in real life).

This part of the movie, the real test between Brad and Bostick, is handled with eddy calmness. These are not cheaply written characters. Instead, they are written with a certain complexity. Linneman accurately portrays the alienation of a blind person that affects her character Susy, a blind housewife. They are given a head start into the Halloween index. As the show progresses, the plot and character development make for a terrifying thriller.

The film is an endearing character study, paired with clever blocking and operator light and a lit match scene that only uses refrigeration elements, to move the story along as acting and technical aspects, to the smoothest or shortest, but this is somewhat forgivable given the heavy use of props and the smoothest or shortest, but this is somewhat forgivable given the heavy use of props and the smoothest or shortest, but this is somewhat forgivable given the heavy use of props and the smoothest or shortest, but this is somewhat forgivable given the heavy use of props and the smoothest or shortest, but this is somewhat forgivable given the heavy use of props and the smoothest or shortest, but this is somewhat forgivable given the heavy use of props and the smoothest or shortest, but this is somewhat forgivable given the heavy use of props and the smoothest or shortest, but this is somewhat forgivable given the heavy use of props and the smoothest or shortest, but this is somewhat 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