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Beau/Derek on

*The Descendants* ★★★★★

By Beau Behan

One can argue that Shakespeare's legacy to the literary world is a précis expression: "To be, or not to be, that is the question." In essence, it is a question of whether death is better than life. *The Descendants* is not about *Hamlet*; rather, it is about taking one side of this proverbial expression--that is, "To live, and to live to the fullest."

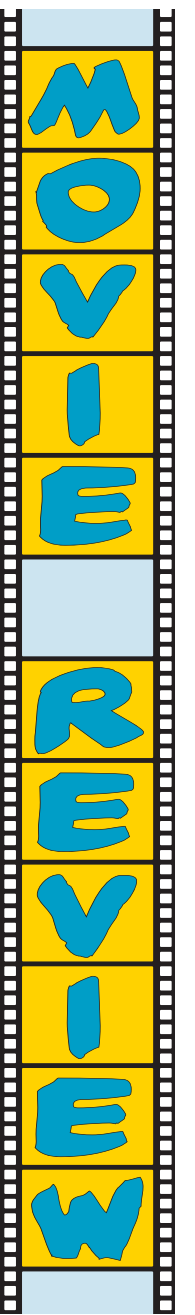
George Clooney portrays Matt King, a man forced into self-introspection. He is suddenly bombarded by his past, by a present family crisis due to his wife's

comatose state, and by the very uncertain future of raising his daughters without a mother. To make matters worse, he must also grapple with a decision to sell the family's land that was handed down from Hawaiian royalty and missionaries.

Academy Award winning director Alexander Payne (*Sideways*) has painstakingly labored to convey the adage that life is not always a bed of roses. One can even say that his conscientious effort could be egregious due to the pain and sorrow that a moviegoer may experience through King's agony and dilemma.

I highly recommend this movie. It reminds us that life is too short. Derek is off on a holiday— practicing living life to the fullest!

(Derek Zembrak is a filmmaker and the president of the California Independent Film Festival Association (CAIFFA); Beau Behan is a member of the CAIFFA Board and director of the Lamorinda Theatres.)



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Trading Hot Chocolate for Donations



Courtney Jensen and some of the participants from the Acalanes "Campaigners" Young Life group, a 501(c) (3) charitable organization, were enthusiastically giving out hot chocolate and asking for donations for a trip to Africa on a recent chilly day in front of the Lafayette Reservoir. "We have a desire to make a difference in the world," said Jensen. Their tentative plans include painting a school and working on a water project in Tanzania or Kenya; their plans haven't been finalized. They have started a fundraising effort to help at least partially de-fray the cost of the trip. Katie Stensland, Fiona Nelis and Kim Holland, along with organizer Jensen, made \$145 that day, the day before Thanksgiving. Although the \$145 is just a drop in the bucket – it's a start and the young women have ambitious plans for future fundraisers. For more information, check out their blog at <http://africaorbust2012.wordpress.com>. C. Tyson

THE APP RAP

By Eric Pawlakos

**Shake to Answer**  
**Price: Free**  
**For: Android Smartphones Only**  
**By: Murat Yener**

Being able to answer your smart phone by shaking it may seem like a really simple idea. Sometimes the simplest apps are among the most useful. Shake to Answer is that kind of app. Without any bells or whistles, it simply allows you to answer your phone by shaking it, bypassing the need to slide to answer. It is quick to download and takes only seconds to set up. This app is extremely useful in a variety of situations when you just need to grab your phone and answer it without having to slide or tap. It can be especially desirable when driving. Even with an ear-

piece, we all know how inconvenient and even dangerous it is to slide your phone or tap it to answer. With Shake to Answer, when you hear your phone ring, you simply jiggle it and say "hello." It comes with a shaking sensitivity, giving you six levels from which to choose. You can customize how vigorously to shake your phone before it picks up—from a gentle shake to a much more rigorous quaking. You can even tailor the app to go directly to speakerphone by shaking it. Practical, straightforward, and free...an excellent app for your Android.