The movie posters surrounding this page list the top 22 box office hits in the US. Notice the heavy reliance on computer-generated imagery (CGI) in virtually all of these films. All class members should consider the following questions:

- To what extent have character and plot development been sacrificed to dazzling special effects in films?
- It’s only when you dig deeper into the box office hit list that you encounter films that don’t employ CGI (#32: “Home Alone”, #34: “Meet The Fockers”, #50: “My Big Fat Greek Wedding”, #52: “Beverly Hills Cop”, #59: “Mrs. Doubtfire”). Why does popular comedy lend itself to a non-CGI approach, while popular drama does not?
- As audiences become more accustomed to CGI, the ability of filmmakers to impress the audience seems to be declining. What specific CGI moments in recent films have been particularly impressive or unimpressive? What ideas might filmmakers attempt in the future to continue to reap huge box office receipts?

All students should come to class on Tuesday, September 18, 2007, prepared to discuss these issues. The three panel members listed above will be expected to lead this discussion. Each panel member should:

- Consider each issue thoroughly, preparing specific examples to support the opinions that will be expressed during the discussion.
- Discuss the issues with other panel members, determining who will be the principal discussion leader on each issue.
- Prepare some brief opening remarks about the issues, as a means to prompt discussion about them.