




TIME TWERPS

BILL AND TED'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE

Starring: Keanu Reeves, Alex Winter, George Carlin
Director: Stephen Herek
Distributor: Castle Home Video
Cert: PG, 86 mins

 Their banter drives me mad and their care-free naivety often makes me want to puke, but I most seriously believe that Bill (Winter) and Ted (Reeves) are the freshest thing to happen to fantasy filmmaking in decades. They're the kind of guys you'd roll out with for a quick flip around a fun fair or take on a trip to visit obnoxious aunt Molly. The film's not bad either.

In the beginning, you're as much in the dark as the twerpish twosome. A shades-wearing dude, called Rufus (Carlin) arrives in a time-travelling telephone booth and offers to help them out with their verbal history report, which has to be delivered at their high school the next day. They have real problems because, if they fail, Ted will go to military school and Bill will end up on life's junk heap.

Soon, they're whizzing through time, and picking up historical figures such as Napoleon, Billy The Kid and Socrates, who'll come in handy during the verbal and whose opinions on the present will certainly add a wild flavour to that report.

Things start to go wrong when Napoleon hitchhikes to the future and is looked after, and lost, by Ted's little brother. Eventually, all the time personages end up in jail, and Bill and Ted must get them out not just to pass their test but also — surprise, surprise — to save the future of humanity.

Wickedly funny, if plainly preposterous, *Bill And Ted's Excellent Adventure* exhibits all that's good and fun about independent filmmaking. It's good, clean, family fun (apart from Bill's occasional references to his slight Oedipus complex), which makes a change from much of the material I have to slip through my slot every month.

John Gilbert



■ Wickedly funny: Bill (Alex Winter) and Ted (Keanu Reeves) look to the future