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What's Hot, What's Not

By Vickie Mitchell

The movie you see this weekend could be the theme of the party you attend next weekend. Red velvet, red roses and high-kicking dancers? Must be Moulin Rouge. Chilly blue and silver decorations, beautiful girls and a James Bond lookalike? You've entered Bond's ice cave hideaway from Die Another Day. Hobbits and hateful dragons? Welcome to The Lord of the Rings.

Party themes are often inspired by popular culture, particularly movies and television. And, like much in modern life, these themes are often fads, falling in and out of style as fast as bell-bottom pants and peasant blouses.

"All these things come and go," said Ted Boyd, executive sales and event manager for ME Productions in Pembroke Park, Fla. "They fall out of the spotlight like fashion."

The television show Survivor is the best example of a faded fad. If you haven't been to a Survivor party, you probably know someone who has. For those who would rather be stranded



Ted Boyd
Exec. Sales &
Event Mgr.

on a deserted island than become embroiled in Survivor's tribal tribulations, there's good news for 2003: Survivor parties are out.

"Survivor is done; it is over with," said Boyd.

Some of the themes to watch for in the coming year, designers say, are nightclubs, Monopoly, Moulin Rouge, Big Top circus, Marvel Comics and the 1950s.

Like the award-winning film upon which it is based, the Moulin Rouge party is a hit. The party employs lots of rich reds — from roses to velvet curtains — as well as high-kicking dancers. "It is visually stunning," said Boyd.

Tropical themes fit Florida

Tropical themes are a natural in Florida. "For South Florida, the most popular is tropical or Latin." Said Boyd. "Lots of times, groups want their event to be indicative of the city or area they are in."

Event planners have their likes and dislikes. For example, Boyd is obviously no fan of Barnum and Bailey. "Big Top circus is raising its ugly head again," he said.

Personal opinions usually get pushed aside, however. Event planners know that their job is to deliver a memorable party, no matter what theme a meeting planner picks.

