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'Spider-Man' trailer, other films drop scenes of twin towers

By **LOUIS B. PARKS**, *Copyright 2001 Houston Chronicle*
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What started out as an amusing movie promotion idea became unintended poor taste and bad timing following Tuesday's tragedy at the World Trade Center.

Columbia Pictures pulled all teaser trailers for its 2002 release of *Spider-Man*, starring Tobey Maguire, because they showed the superhero stringing a web between the Trade Center towers to catch New York bank robbers escaping by helicopter.

"You want to act as responsibly as you can," a Columbia Pictures spokesman said. "We're asking everybody to return that teaser."

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Columbia said the scene was not in the movie, which is scheduled for release in May. Some news reports and fan Web sites, however, claimed the scenes were in the movie and would have to be digitally removed.

"The images in the teaser were never in the movie," said the spokesman from Columbia's promotions department, who requested his name not be used. "It was made specifically for the teaser."

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Early advance trailers for big-budget movies sometimes create separate scenes or images meant to capture the public's imagination and convey the tone of the movie -- at times even before any actual movie footage has been shot. The images may have little to do with the actual story line.

The movie's advance poster is also being recalled. It "had a vague reflection of the twin towers in Spider-Man's glasses," the studio spokesman said.

Spider-Man is just one of many films to make fast changes after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon:

· The ending of *Men in Black 2* will be changed because it was going to involve the World Trade Center, Sony's Columbia Pictures and Steven Spielberg's Amblin Entertainment announced.

The studio also said it will review all footage shot so far, and should any of it contain the World Trade Center, it would be excised or possibly reshot or revised.

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· Jackie Chan's *Nosebleed* will be altered. Chan was to play a World Trade Center window washer who must thwart a terrorist plot to blow up the twin towers.

· DreamWorks has pulled its national ad campaign for *The Last Castle* because it features an upside-down American flag, a symbol of distress. The promotional campaign for the prison drama will be altered to center on the film's stars, Robert Redford and James Gandolfini. *The Last Castle* is scheduled for release on Oct. 12.

· *Collateral Damage*, an Arnold Schwarzenegger film involving Colombian terrorists, was quickly pulled from its Oct. 5 release date by Warner Bros. No new date has been announced. The release date of the studio's police drama *Training Day* has been changed from Friday to Oct. 5 to fill the vacancy opened up by the postponement of *Collateral Damage.* "We determined for a variety of reasons that Oct. 5 would be a more appropriate release date for *Training Day*," said Dan Fellman, president of domestic distribution for Warner Brothers Pictures.



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· *Sidewalks of New York*, a romantic comedy by director Ed Burns (*The Brothers McMullen*) was postponed from Sept. 28 until late November. The Paramount film had scenes with New York skyline shots.

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· *Big Trouble*, a Touchstone (Disney) comedy starring Tim Allen and based on a Dave Barry novel, has been indefinitely postponed, from its Friday opening. The movie showed bungling thieves smuggling a gun and an atomic bomb onto an airplane under the nose of even stupider airport security guards.

Zap2it.com contributed to this report.

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