

'Monde' explores classical master

By JOHN MONAGHAN
SPECIAL WRITER

Little is known about Sainte Colombe, the French master of the viola who lived a reclusive life in 16th century France. "Tous les Matins du Monde," a 1991

French film currently at the Maple, successfully fills in the gaps of the fascinating musician's life.

Sainte Colombe (Jean-Pierre Marais), so mysterious his first name isn't known, never gets over

MOVIES

the death of his wife. He locks himself away in a tiny cabin behind his elegant home and practices literally all day, adding a seven-minute string to his viola for a richer sound.

He raises two daughters with a firm hand, teaches them the instrument and stages recitals that become all the rage with the French court. The King's chief violinist offers him a seat as a royal musician, but stubborn Sainte Colombe declines. "I like sunlight in my hand, not gold," he snarls.

Marin Marais, a bitter young man of 17, hears of Sainte Colombe's greatness and asks to become his pupil. The story that follows takes some depressing and strangely triumphant turns as Marin enters a complex relationship with both Colombe and his daughters.

Tolnette and Madeleine (Carole Richert and Anne Brochet) look like they've never set foot off the property, so it's no surprise that they're fascinated by the young, passionate Marin. Madeleine, the eldest, falls hardest and sinks into the deep family funk when he ultimately dumps her.

The ubiquitous Gerard Depardieu plays Marin as an old man, head of musicians at Versailles, who interrupts rehearsal at the court to recall in vivid detail the story of his former master.

As young Marin, Depardieu's real-life son Guillaume has twice as much screen time as his famous father. He's also quite fetching; his wispy build, long blonde hair and aquiline nose

more closely resemble English actor Julian Sands. "Tous les Matins du Monde" tells us that talent is pure and that music can be found in the simplest things. The soundtrack shows the range of the viola (which, according to Marais' narration, could evoke both the sighs and screams of the human voice) while celebrating the sounds of silence, or rather the sounds that slowly come from the strings.

It becomes one of Sainte Colombe's most important teachings. He takes Marin to the home of an artist friend and tells the boy to listen to the intricate brush strokes. If you can hear them (or think you possibly could), you've probably enjoyed the movie and gotten at least part of its point.

Sticking around to listen to the point may be more exciting for other viewers, who will find the story stiff and depressing. If you want a lively reading of the classical masters, watch "Impromptu" or "Amadeus," which unfortunately the movie has been compared to in the advertising. If you want a thoughtful, insightful, emotionally draining glimpse at the suffering that sometimes enters the artistic process, catch "Tous les Matins du Monde."

Law and order: History holds some answers



BARBARA SCHIFF

Voice mail message: Barbara, I have just read your article, "Guns change course for coming of age in the '90s," and I want to know when will people take responsibility for their blitty for their own actions in life and stop blaming objects for crime. People blame flashlights, cars, alcohol and firearms but these things are not at fault, people are.

Dear Caller,

Thank you for the response to the article on guns. I share your opinion on this subject. A possibility on why these laws can't be enforced is that too little is spent on law enforcement because the money is not available or because strong law enforcement would antagonize those electorates.

The following thoughts came to me while considering this initial question and your response:

Thomas Jefferson did not believe in a large government ruling the people. He believed that the people would govern themselves by God's principles. However, he recognized that some people would fall from the high road and be unable to govern themselves and would cause difficulty to fellow citizens. He believed at this point that the agencies would step in and do what was necessary to rehabilitate those who had fallen from grace.

Most Americans are not informed about colonial America and the foundation stones on which this country was built —

Barbara

If you have a question or comment for Barbara Schiff, write or call her at 2000 West Street, Detroit, MI 48208. You can also leave a message by calling 953-2047, mailbox 1877, on a touch-tone phone.



Like father: Guillaume Depardieu plays a young Marin Marais while his father Gerard plays the aging Sainte-Colombe protegee in "Tous Les Matins Du Monde."

SCREEN SCENE

A sampling of what's playing at alternative movie theaters across metro Detroit as reviewed by John Monaghan.

DETROIT FILM THEATRE
Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Call 833-2223 for information. (\$5; \$4 students/senior citizens)
"Johnny Steechino" (Italy — 1992). 7 and 9:30 p.m. Mar. 5, 6, 7 and 7 p.m. Mar. 7. The most popular movie in the history of Italy stars Roberto Benigni, whose pumpkin-loving Rome cabbie was the best thing in Jarmusch's "Night on Earth." He takes the dual role of a naive bus driver and

a mafioso with a contract out on his him.

MAPLE THEATRE
432 W. Maple Road, Bloomfield Hills. Call 855-9090 for show times. (\$5.75 evenings; \$2.95 twilight)
"Rain Without Thunder" (USA — 1992). In the year 2042, a daughter and her mother are the first to be prosecuted for "fetal murder," an abortion-related crime of the future. Jeff Daniels, Betty Buckley, Linda Hunt and Frederic Forrest star.
REDFORD THEATRE
17360 Lohser, Detroit. Call 537-2650 for information. (\$2.50)
"Houseboat" (USA — 1958) 8

p.m. Mar. 5-6. Sophia Loren becomes the housekeeper for Cary Grant and his three kids in this mildly amusing comedy.

STAR JOHN R
32289 John R. (at 14 Mile), Madison Heights. Call 585-2070 for information. (\$6; \$3.75 before 6 p.m.)
"Passion Fish" (USA — 1993). Mary McDonnell and Alfre Woodard play women who are uprooted from their city lives by sudden events and then transplanted in rural Louisiana. From independent writer/director John Sayles, who could use a thoughtful, insightful character study to help us forget his last couple of efforts.

STATE THEATER
2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Call 961-5450 for information. (\$1.89)
"Heathers" (USA — 1989). 9 p.m. Mar. 1. In this wonderfully nasty black comedy, Winona Ryder and Christian Slater start killing the popular kids in school and setting it up to look like just another teen suicide.

"Hellraiser" (Britain — 1987). 9 p.m. Mar. 5. Horror novelist Clive Barker made his directorial debut in this gruesome story of a gelatinous creature who seeks human blood so he can return to human form.

'Mr. Frost' is a chilling look at evil

By LEANNE ROGERS
STAFF WRITER

It's a dark night in the English countryside as two thieves break into a garage, intent on snatching an Aston Martin. One complains the building smells like rats. Not a good sign. The pair, unaware they are being watched from a dark window in the mansion, beat a path out of there after a body falls out the driver's door of the car.

It's daylight when a police inspector, played by Alan Bates, arrives to find the homeowner leaning on his shovel out on the back lawn. The man, the title character of the effective 1989 film "Mr. Frost" played by Jeff Goldblum, isn't the least surprised to be visited by the police.

Bates is rather embarrassed to have to unofficially check on a story that two arrested car thieves told police about finding a body at the house. To the officer's amazement, Mr. Frost calmly sipping coffee confirms the story and adds he had just finished burying the body when the officer arrived.

The full magnitude of Mr. Frost's crimes soon become known as police find two dozen mutilated women, men and children buried on the property — all tortured to death. Time passes and no one is able to learn anything about Mr. Frost, not his first name, age or nationality. Soon after his confession, Mr. Frost himself stops speaking.

After two years and stints in a couple different psychiatric hospitals, Mr. Frost arrives at a new hospital. Kathy Baker is the psychiatrist who starts to find out about the real Mr. Frost.

VIDEOS

and follows Mr. Frost from place to place. He's convinced Mr. Frost is nothing less than evil personified, Satan in human form. Naturally, the psychiatrists think Bates is as delusional as their patient.

Mr. Frost, when he speaks to Baker, confirms Bates' position. Mr. Frost wants a return to the old days of straight-forward battles between good and evil, days when people would sell their souls, simpler times which have been supplanted by science, particularly psychiatry.

The crimes committed by Mr. Frost or actions induced in others are designed to show the true face of evil and their importance in stopping it.

Even in lighter films, Goldblum has a gloomy intensity that works very well in this role. His Mr. Frost is glib and charming, completely logical yet capable of rage. Baker is also fine as his opponent chosen for her analytical medical mind. She doesn't believe in the devil.

"Mr. Frost" has much more subtlety than you might expect from a film that more or less falls into the horror genre. You don't see the video record Mr. Frost made of his crimes. The reaction of Baker as she watches says it

all. This is a film that hee a world in which psychiatrists have used science to banish the devil but maybe the devil isn't inclined to be forgotten.

"Mr. Frost" is available on cassette at your local video store. If you have a question or comment for LeAnne Rogers, send it to Street Scene, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. You also can leave a message by calling her at 953-2103.

Corsi's
Served in our beautiful banquet hall
• We seat 400 guests for all occasions.
Perfect for your Holiday Party.

Wednesday Buffet

Featuring:

- Homemade Soup
- Sautéed Bar with Fresh Fruit
- 3 Homemade Pastas
- Meat Entree and Vegetable
- Assorted Pizzas
- Homemade Bread & Garlic Rolls
- Dessert Table

Served 4:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Groups Welcome - Cocktails Available

531-4960

Adults Under 10 Years Seniors
\$6.95 \$7.95 \$5.95

We cater to all areas
7 Mile between Inkster & Middlebelt
Livonia

On the Town
DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

When You Think of BBQ What Comes to Mind?

11:00-4:00
Lunch
10% OFF
From Your
Total Bill
Sunday
thru
Thursday

BONE-YARD BAR-B-Q

Open 7 Days 11 am-11 pm
3 Locations to Serve You
Carry Out Available

3100 Orchard St. Rd.
Livonia, MI 48150
851-7000

\$2.00 OFF
Slab Dinner For 2
Expires 3/18/93
Sunday thru Thursday

\$2.00 OFF
BBQ Chicken dinner
For 2
Expires 3/18/93
Sunday thru Thursday

30843 Plymouth Rd.
Livonia, MI 48150
427-8500

Warp Factor Karlos Barney

"Alright, which one of you wise guys put yeast in my shrunken head recipe?"

START SPREADING THE NEWS!

SKITCH HENDERSON AND THE NEW YORK POPS
Tuesday, March 2, 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium

Start spreading the news! Skitch Henderson and the New York Pops "Go To The Movies" including a tribute to Disney and works by Irving Berlin, Leonard Bernstein, Frank Loesser, and more... These great flicks of yesteryear are now recreated musically in a truly nostalgic evening.

When you go to the movies at the Ann Arbor, Michigan, or State Theaters, pick up a special offer for the New York Pops with Skitch Henderson concert.

Presented in association with Ervin Industries

University Musical Society
Burton Memorial Tower
Ann Arbor, MI 48105-1270

313-764-2538 or 763-TKTS
Supported by the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs