



Funnybone gets tender treatment

"Annie Hall" (PG) is Woody Allen's best film yet. Written and directed by Allen with a storyline that somewhat parallels his own life, it is both a comic and bittersweet sounding of contemporary life and love.

Woody plays Alvy Singer, a twice-divorced, very New York, gag writer who has become a comedian. In the opening scene, he addresses the audience in a monologue. Summing up his philosophy of life in two key jokes, he leads into the sad-funny story of the true love of his life, Annie Hall.

As Annie, Diane Keaton, looking fresher and prettier than ever, for once has an opportunity to show some of her own range as an actress. Until now, she has been effective but restricted in scope in her roles opposite Woody. When sweet Annie from the boondocks and intellectual Alvy from the Big Apple fall in love, you know there will be some changes made.

Alvy suffers from a "New York Jewish, liberal, intellectual" syndrome. He seems obsessively concerned with these qualities in himself and others. When he flies to Wisconsin to meet Annie's rural, Mid-west, Protestant family, he faces a cultural gap of Grand Canyon proportions.



WOODY ALLEN

NEVERTHELESS, the romance of Alvy and Annie continues because physical relationships can be beautiful too. They make love, and Alvy says he never had so much fun without laughing.

He seems to imply that we should "go" with our senses, not trust reason; yet, he puts down this notion too. They make love, and Alvy says he never had so much fun without laughing.

Alvy is an intellectual whose intellect keeps getting in the way, checking his carnal lusts. When he tries to force Annie to fit his intellectual style, he only succeeds in making himself jealous and driving her away.

"Annie Hall" is a movie that jumps with technical bravado—split screen, surrealistic effects, subtitles; but, they are more than mere gimmickry because each one is used to effectively make a point. When newly met Annie and Alvy self-consciously talk with each other, subtitles tell us what they are really thinking. And it's not what they're saying.

Tony Roberts, Carol Kane, Paul Simon, Shelley Duval and many others excellently perform small but essential roles that contribute to the feeling and momentum of the film.

EARLY IN THIS movie there is a scene of Alvy as a schoolboy, complete with glasses and perverse logic. His mother has hauled him before a psychiatrist because he has refused to do his homework since he read that the universe is expanding. "What does it matter?" Alvy asks his mother and the shrink. Why do homework when the big bang's coming?

Like a tug-of-war between his libido and his intellect, "What does it matter?" and "It does matter!" are the oppositions of character and thought that give Alvy's actions and outlook their uniquely comical cut.

At 3 a.m., Alvy is understandably upset to discover Annie called him to her apartment to kill a spider in the bathtub. But he's further upset when he asks for a magazine to swat it with and she hands him a copy of the National Review. "Why don't you get William F. Buckley to kill the spider?" he asks sarcastically.

"Annie Hall" ends with Alvy telling the audience another joke; one that deals with how people need each other. Alvy, Woody seem to be saying that we can only strive for temporary and partial relationships; we must savor and be satisfied with these. "Annie Hall" itself is a cinematic experience to savor and satisfy.

Glimpses

NEW RELEASES

- ANNIE HALL (PG). The best Woody Allen film yet. Truth and comedy go hand in hand in this touching, contemporary love story. Diane Keaton is also at her best as Annie.
- BLACK SUNDAY (R). Slick thriller of inflated terrorism from a blimp at the Super Bowl. Robert Shaw and Marthe Keller are the capable adversaries. Fine acting by Bruce Dern as the berserk pilot.
- CROSS OF IRON (R). Grimly realistic war drama of 1943 German retreat in Russia. James Coburn, Maximilian Schell and James Mason are the luckless Germans.
- DOGS (R). Fido flips out. Hollywood cleans out the Kennels in seeking new ways to kill people. Now it's berserk, people-chomping dogs. David McCallum "stars."
- THE GREATEST (PG). Film bio of Mohammed Ali in and out of the ring as he decks opponents and stands firm against a drafted government.
- THE LATE SHOW (PG). Comedy and suspense tangle in this melodrama about a kooky girl (Lily Tomlin), a missing cat (identity unknown), and an over-age private eye (Art Carney) who still knows a trick or two.
- ROCKY (PG). Human warmth and exciting drama combine in this stirring film about a no-name boxer who gets a chance at a title bout. Acting accolades to entire cast and especially Stallone as Rocky.
- SINBAD & THE EYE OF THE TIGER (G). Swashbuckling adventure-fantasy with Patrick Wayne (son of John) and Taryn Power (daughter of Tyrone).
- SLAP SHOT (R). A comic and cutting look at the violence of professional hockey. Paul Newman as the amoral player-coach smiles beguilingly as he utters every obscenity in the book.
- STAR WARS (PG). Serio-comic sci-fi adventure about a rebellion of solar systems in a distant galaxy. Good time movie with laughs and special effects. Two robots steal the show.
- THREE WOMEN (PG). Director Robert Altman's strange, provocative study of the merging relationships of three women and their alienation in a masculine world.

BACK AGAIN

- THE STING (PG). Redford and Newman are the two ingratulating con men who outcon them all in this fast, funny flick that won seven Academy Awards.
- YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN (PG). Mel Brooks' comic classic with Gene Wilder as Dr. F., Marty Feldman as a hunchback with a morose hunch, and Peter Boyle as the monster. Terrifically funny, start to finish.

Friends support new Will-O-Way

The Kingswood Will-O-Way Theatre is receiving excellent local support for the classic films that are being shown preparatory to renovation and enlarging the stage, according to Cella Merrill Turner, director.

The six-year-old building at 2000 Woodward at Square Lake Road in Bloomfield Township is being renovated for live stage productions.

"A group of determined, intelligent, creative men and women, Friends of the Theatre, are dedicating themselves to make the dream of a legitimate local theater materializing at the Kingswood Will-O-Way," Mrs. Turner said.

Since May 2 Kingswood Will-O-Way has shown Truffaut's "Straw Change," "The Red Shoes," "Camelot," "The King & I," "Carousel," "Man of La Mancha," and "The Lion in Winter" showing through June 21. "It Happened One Night" and "Mr. Deeds Goes to Town" will open June 22.

Stage Productions now being planned will feature local actors with visiting stars. Open casting combined with long rehearsal periods will precede the arrival of each star.

Stars will spend two weeks in Bloomfield Hills, rehearsing Monday through Thursday of the first week, opening Friday and performing 12 times through the second Sunday.

The stage design, created by Joaquin Cortes of the Troy firm of Ellis, Nyevert, Genheimer Associates, thrusts forward from the existing movie screen.

Films will be shown seven days a week, 52 weeks a year, during the 29 weeks when visiting stars will perform. The theater also will be available for rental by business and community groups for art shows, musical presentations, and instructional and educational programs.

Committees for the Friends of the Theatre are headed by Galt Fried of Bloomfield Hills, Nelda DiBlasi of Livonia, Bernice Kandel of Southfield.

Jean Vasku of Orchard Lake, Henriette Kryskalla of Detroit, and Ken Turner of Bloomfield Hills.

MORE ARE Phil Embury and Thomas Sarkisian of Farmington Hills, Eileen Weiss of Pleasant Ridge, Lin Sausenleck of Southfield, Serwindt Netzel of Pontiac, Frances

Jacobs and Marj Verguson of Birmingham, Andrew Hurley of Sterling Heights and Gregory Hoesline of Bloomfield Hills.

The committee has invited prospective Friends to have coffee and cookies at noon Wednesdays or Saturdays at Kingswood Will-O-Way.

Wonder Band opens

Alice and Wonder Band, five-piece rock band, opens Monday and continues through Sunday at Fanny's at the Troy Hilton. The young group out of Columbus, Ohio, includes four guys and a gal vocalist. They appear nightly from 8:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

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