

Glimpses

NEW RELEASES

THE AMITYVILLE HORROR (R). James Brolin and Margot Kidder look for a "dream house" and find a nightmare.

THE APPLE DUMPLING GANG RIDES AGAIN (PG). Tim Conway and Don Knotts return as the bumbling outlaws in this light feature from Disney.

AMERICAN CATHO (PG). Wild, but maybe not too wild, tale of giant telephone to erase the national debt as U.S. goes broke in 1998.

BEYOND THE POSEIDON ADVENTURE (PG). Sequel about the upended ship with adventures after the "spoils," while more passengers are found wandering about. Can you believe it?

BREAKING AWAY (PG). Bicycle racing occupies four high school pals from Indiana who discover the graduate world in funny, touching story.

THE CONCORDE — AIRPORT '79 (PG). Latest entry in "Airport" series is the silliest yet. All-star cast can't save this.

THE DEER HUNTER (R). An emotionally gripping and violent film about the lives of three friends from a small steeltown as they are affected by the Vietnam war.

DRACULA (R). A scary and very sensual remake of "Dracula" with Frank Langella in the title role he played on Broadway.

ESCAPE FROM ALCATRAZ (PG). Clint Eastwood and director Don Siegel team up again to create a tense, taut drama from the conventions of the prison escape film.

THE FRISCO KID (PG). Comic adventures of a rabbi (Gene Wilder) and a robber (Harrison Ford) as they cross the West to San Francisco in 1850.

GOLDENGIRL (PG). Susan Anton is a programmed track star after Olympic gold in film that tries too hard, looks too silly and finishes last.

HOT STUFF (PG). Don DeLuise directs and stars in slick comedy about undercover police fencing operation.

THE IN-LAWS (PG). Hilarious comedy with Peter Falk and Alan Arkin as near-relatives who not only plan a wedding but ripoff the U. S. Mint.

JUST YOU AND ME, KID (PG). A comedy nimbly tailored for George Burns, with Brooke Shields standing by as half of this young-old duo of delinquents.

LOST AND FOUND (PG). George Segal and Glenda Jackson are paired again in romantic comedy about a "fractured" couple who meet in the Swiss Alps and decide to hold on through life together.

THE MAIN EVENT (PG). Barbara Streisand is a perfume manufacturer who manages a retired boxer, Ryan O'Neal, in comedy about the fight game.

MANNHATTAN (R). The inhabitants are somewhat frayed, but the Big Apple looks glorious in Woody Allen's witty peek at the pairings and partings among New York literati.

MEATBALLS (PG). Lively comedy with Bill Murray (of "Saturday Night Live") as head counselor at a summer camp in an "Animal House" for the junior teen set.

MONTE PYTHON'S LIFE OF BRIAN (R). Totally irreverent, completely zany story tracing the life of Brian Cohen, a peasant born at the same time as Christ.

MOONRAKER (PG). James Bond (Roger Moore) in space adventure with Lois Chiles for company and Richard Kiel (the metalmouthed "Jaws") for challenge in most spectacular of the 007 films.

MORE AMERICAN GRAFFITI (PG). George Lucas's very successful continuation of "American Graffiti" examines the lives of seven of the original characters and their problems in the troubled '60s.

THE MUPPET MOVIE (G). Anyone who doesn't like this movie is probably in need of immediate CPR. A host of stars make cameo appearances but none outshines Jim Henson's laughable, lovable muppets as they head for Hollywood.

NIGHTWING (PG). Some scary moments in this shocker about vampire bats on a Hopi Indian reservation.

NORTH DALLAS FORTY (R). Fine performances from Nick Nolte and Mac Davis as pro-football players in film that takes hard look at the commercialism of the game.

ROCKY II (PG). Sylvester Stallone as Rocky Balboa, the over-the-hill boxer, returns for a rematch with the heavyweight champ.

THE SEDUCTION OF JOE TYNAN (R). Familiar story about the pressures on a "decent" politician, Alan Alda. Hackneyed situations are redeemed by the acting of Barbara Harris, Meryl Streep and Rip Torn.

SUNBURN (PG). Poorly written, edited and directed detective-comedy that should leave the participants red-faced.

TIME AFTER TIME (PG). Nicholas Meyer's ingenious story, based on premise that H. G. Wells constructed his time machine, smartly done as Wells tracks Jack the Ripper from 19th century London to contemporary San Francisco.

THE VILLAIN (PG). As slapstick as a Road-Runner cartoon extended to 90 long minutes with Ann-Margaret, Kirk Douglas and Arnold Schwarzenegger, who is a cartoon.

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING ODDBALL (G). Lagging Disney comedy about Cape Kennedy engineer who gets launched into Round Table days. Based on Mark Twain's "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court."

WANDA NEVADA (PG). Brooke Shields continues to mug the child-woman role as a 13-year-old orphan teamed with an over-30 con man (Peter Fonda) in a 1950s era Western featuring the Grand Canyon.

THE WANDERERS (R). Realistic look at Bronx street gangs in the '60s catches the bravado, humor and pathos of members' lives.

MOVIE RATING GUIDE

G General audiences admitted.
PG Parental guidance suggested. All ages admitted.
R Restricted. Adult must accompany person under 18.
X No one under 18 admitted.

Guerrilla comedy produces laughter in 'Life of Brian'

If you were scared out of your sneakers by the summer's crop of film terror, relax. The fall and winter releases promise a wider range of entertainment with a goodly number of dramas and comedies, as well as disaster movies, space adventure, romance, sports stories, a musical and, of course, chillers.

Probably the zaniest movie, certainly the most irreverent, is one which just opened, "Monte Python's Life of Brian." It's a look at the gospels as interpreted by guerrilla comedy.

Other funny flicks, all scheduled for December openings, are Steven Spielberg's "1941," featuring John Belushi in a story about the Great Los Angeles Air Raid of early World War II, and "The Jerk," in which Steve Martin stars in a Horatio Alger tale directed by Carl Reiner. In contrast to the above, Art Carney, George Burns and Lee Strasberg comprise a trio of feisty seniors in the wry comedy, "Going in Style."

Finally, Peter Sellers and Shirley MacLaine are paired in "Being There," based on Jerry Kosinski's wildly satirical novel of politics and culture.

OTHER FILMS mine the serio-comic and romantic vein. Julie Andrews is the live-in girlfriend abandoned by Dudley Moore in "10," as he searches for the perfect young beauty, the perfect "10."

Sean Connery finds romance and adventure during the revolution in "Cuba," while World War II provides the backdrop for the love affairs of GIs and English girls in "Yanks."

Youngsters create the interest in "Rich Kids," a movie about a couple of intelligent 12-year-olds coping with their parents' divorces.

"Time after Time," which opened at area theaters Friday, combines social comment, sci-fi and suspense in Nicholas Meyer's ingenious story of Jack the Ripper pursued by H. G. Wells in contemporary San Francisco after both fly off in Wells' time machine.

Serious dramas include "The Electric Horseman," in which Jane Fonda plays a TV reporter and Robert Redford is a down-and-out cowboy pitching a breakfast cereal. Al Pacino is a young criminal lawyer troubled by his conscience and the judicial system in "And Justice For All." Dustin Hoffman and Meryl Streep headline "Kramer vs. Kramer," the story of a woman who leaves her family in order to find herself.

THE DRAMATIC blockbuster of this fall and the most hyped film is Francis Ford Coppola's "Apocalypse Now," which will open Oct. 17. Coppola's vision of the Vietnam war is seen in terms of Joseph Conrad's exploration of the dark forces of human nature in "Heart of Darkness."

Other biggies include two space adventures. In "The Black Hole," Anthony Perkins, Yvette Mimieux and Joseph Bottoms are among the crew of a space ship which encounters another craft — commanded by Maximilian Schell — being pulled into the gravitational storm of a black hole. It's the most expensive film ever produced by Disney with enormous attention lavished on detail, design and special effects.

Another sci-fi adventure and one long awaited by millions of trekkies is "Star Trek." Most of the original cast is reunited on the starship Enterprise, which is called upon to halt an alien force that has destroyed Klingon cruisers and is heading into Federation space at warp seven.

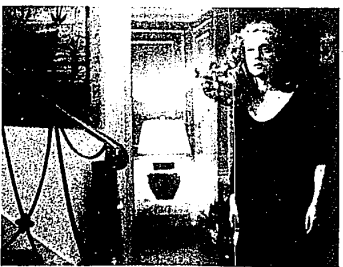
Sci-fi of the disaster genre is represented by "Meteor," where the hunk of metal from outer space threatens to destroy planet Earth. A sturdy cast, including Sean Connery (a busy actor), faces the danger.

Several chillers, sports films and just one musical round out the roster. The musical is "The Rose," starring Bette Midler as a rock singer who acts and sounds like Janis Joplin but, they say, is not J. J.



Still frightening

Although non-scary movies are on the way this fall, according to movie critic Louise Snider (see above), the chillers continue. A few have just opened at area theaters. (Above) Pete (Sam Elliott) and Maggie (Katharine Ross) are lovers to whom strange things begin to happen, in Universal's "The Legacy" (Below) Carol Kane warily follows strange noises in the house where she is babysitting in Columbia Pictures' "When a Stranger Calls."



Attic show gets rewrite

Attic Theatre audiences are seeing a new version of "5th of July." The rewrite was very recently completed by playwright Sanford Wilson.

Director of the production, Samuel Pollak, has been in contact with the playwright, who encouraged the Attic to work with the revision.

The new version has been playing since Thursday, Sept. 27, at the Attic Theater, 925 E. Lafayette. Performances are Thursday-Sunday through Oct. 13. Phone 963-7789 for reservations and information.

"Doing a revision in midstream, with a production that has been very favorably received, is kind of a crazy thing to do," said Pollak. "But the consensus was that it is a great opportunity to share in the work of one of America's best playwrights. The only other theater with the revision is the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles, where '5th' just opened in repertory with 'Tally's Folly.'"

"THE CHALLENGE was just too attractive to pass up. It's what the Attic Theater is about."

Pollak said the revision is important in enriching characters in the play and clarifying relationships between them; the plot points are stronger and the action of the whole play is tightened up.

Wilson, who is a writer in residence with New York's Circle Repertory, wrote the play for that company. After a successful run there, one of the characters, the somewhat batty Aunt Sally, turned into the inspiration for another work, "Tally's Folly," which will run on Broadway next year.

Currently, the works are evolving into a trilogy, with the third part named to reflect the Missouri location of the plays, "The War in Lebanon."

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Dixie music coming

Shades of old New Orleans! Dixieland music that reaches back to its Deep South roots will be performed at Chuck Muer's TOP Jazz Series, 6-10 p.m. Monday, Oct. 1.

Percy Gabriel's New Orleans Dixieland Band takes over the 25th floor Top of the Pontch at the Hotel Pontchartrain for a lively session that is likely to include such jazz-blues standards as "Back Home in Indiana," "Jazz Me Blues," "Muskat Ramble" and "Tin Roof Blues."

At 63, Percy, bassist with the group, is one of the youngest members of the band. His brother, Manny, who plays clarinet, just celebrated his 81st birthday.

Doors are open at Top of the Pontch at 5 p.m. Tickets will be sold at the door the evening of the event. A hot buffet also will be available.

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