

# Oscar-guessing contest begins

The Observer & Eccentric invites readers to enter the annual Oscar Contest. Guess the winning entry in each of the Academy Award categories listed and win two movie tickets to an area theater.

## BEST PICTURE

"Coming Home"  
"The Deer Hunter"  
"Heaven Can Wait"  
"Midnight Express"  
"An Unmarried Woman"

Jane Fonda ("Coming Home")  
Geraldine Page ("Interiors")

## BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

Warren Beatty ("Heaven Can Wait")  
Gary Busey ("The Buddy Holly Story")  
Robert De Niro ("The Deer Hunter")  
Laurence Olivier ("The Boys from Brazil")  
Jon Voight ("Coming Home")

Dyan Cannon ("Heaven Can Wait")  
Penelope Milford ("Coming Home")  
Maggie Smith ("California Suite")  
Maureen Stapleton ("Interiors")  
Meryl Streep ("The Deer Hunter")

## BEST DIRECTOR

Bruce Dern ("Coming Home")  
Richard Farrow ("Comes a Horseman")  
John Hurt ("Midnight Express")  
Christopher Walken ("The Deer Hunter")  
Jack Warden ("Heaven Can Wait")

Hal Ashby ("Coming Home")  
Michael Cimino ("The Deer Hunter")  
Woody Allen ("Interiors")  
Warren Beatty and Buck Henry ("Heaven Can Wait")  
Alan Parker ("Midnight Express")

## BEST ACTRESS

Ingrid Bergman ("Autumn Sonata")  
Ellen Burstyn ("Same Time, Next Year")  
Jill Clayburgh ("An Unmarried Woman")

Nestor Almendros ("Days of Heaven")  
Vilmos Zsigmond ("The Deer Hunter")  
William Fraker ("Heaven Can Wait")  
Robert Surtees ("Same Time, Next Year")  
Oswald Morris ("The Wiz")

Only one entry per person. In case of a tie, entry with the earliest postmark will prevail. All entries must be postmarked no later than March 31. The contest is not open to employees of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

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Movie Contest  
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## Mystery surrounds 11-day absence of Agatha Christie

"Agatha" (PG) is a very classy movie. Based on a book by Kathleen Tynan, it appears as "an imaginary solution to an authentic mystery." The mystery is the 11-day disappearance of English novelist Agatha Christie in December, 1926.

Her disappearance came at a time when, professionally, she was enjoying tremendous literary success and fame upon publication of her controversially plotted best seller, "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd."

However, her personal life was in shambles. A painfully shy woman, she was in agony over the pending collapse of her marriage to the World War I flying ace, Col. Archibald Christie.

Colonel Christie, portrayed by Timothy Dalton as a supercilious cad, was having an affair with his secretary and wanted a divorce.

THESE WERE the circumstances of her life when her abandoned car was found in a field and she was missing. Tynan picks up from there, combining research and conjecture in her speculation.

Its unfortunate that publicity about "Agatha" may lead people to expect a thriller and thereby be disappointed, only because their expectations aren't met. For, in other ways, "Agatha" is a smartly done film.

It's an effective vehicle for the acting skills of Vanessa Redgrave, as the mystery writer, and Dustin Hoffman as a shrewd and brash American reporter who tracks and finds her. It's a wonderful period piece showing life at the lady's restraint is coupled with a vivid imagination and an unusual repression of a lady with a proper Edwardian upbringing. In this case, the lady's restraint is coupled with a vivid imagination and an unusual interest in murder.

Hoffman excels at an uncommon role for him, as the dapper and urbane newspaperman. He traces Agatha to the Hydro Hotel in Haregate where she is registered as Mrs. Neele. She uses the same surname as her husband's mistress, who is supposed to be arriving shortly for baths and treatments.

Red herrings seem to spawn in these mineral waters as we notice Agatha's keen interest in the electrical devices in the therapy rooms. Redgrave portrays Agatha with a passionate sort of restraint that always leaves us unsure of what she is up to.

HOFFMAN ALSO is skillful at developing more than the superficial aspects of his character. Perhaps this is shown best in a tender scene outside Agatha's door when the oddly mismatched couple exchange a gentle, lingering kiss.

It's an effective scene because Hoffman and Redgrave turn the awkwardness to an advantage.

Whatever the real events that transpired during the late Mrs. Christie's disappearance, Tynan's conjectures, partly based on fact, make an intriguing story. Shirley Russell's shabbily elegant sets, complemented by Vittorio Storaro's moody photography, play an important part in shaping that intrigue.

Hoffman supposedly has renounced the film because of some quarrel about the final edited version. The pace is slower than some viewers might be accustomed to, but the gradual unfolding and the interesting personalities involved catch one up in the story. Whatever Hoffman objects to, it sure doesn't show on the screen.

# Glimpses

## NEW RELEASES

AGATHA (PG). Sketchy characters but intriguing story and fine acting by Vanessa Redgrave and Dustin Hoffman carry film based on Kathleen Tynan's speculations about the 11-day disappearance of Agatha Christie.

THE BRINK'S JOB (PG). William Friedkin directed this comic adventure about the big heist with Peter Falk, Peter Boyle, Warren Oates and Gena Rowlands.

CALIFORNIA SUITE (PG). Neil Simon's comedy of four episodes about guests at the Beverly Hills Hotel. Starring cast includes Jane Fonda and Water Matthews.

EVERY WHICH WAY BUT LOOSE (PG). Country-western-style action comedy with Clint Eastwood, Sandra Locke and Clyde, an orangutan. FAST BREAK (PG). Gabriel Kaplan is a N.Y. deli clerk named to coach a motley crew of basketball players at an obscure college.

GET OUT YOUR HANDKERCHIEFS (R). Eccentric view of male-female relations as woman's husband and lover work toward her happiness in unconventional way.

THE GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY (PG). Adventure caper in 1855 as three active crooks plan the first robbery of a moving train.

HARDCORE (R). George C. Scott is a religious, midwestern businessman who searches the underworld for his missing teenage daughter.

Scheduled as a major opening event for spring, the 71st annual Shrine Circus will move into the State Fair Coliseum for a 17-day run March 16-April 1.

The circus, sponsored by Detroit's Moslem Temple, will feature 45 acts in its two-and-a-half presentation utilizing three rings and two stage areas.

The all-new show this year, slated to be the world's largest indoor circus, will feature such headlines as:

• The Great Wallendas — following the tradition of this world famous high wire act founded by the late Karl Wallenda, grandaughter Rietta, 17, and grandson Ricky, 23, lead a four-member troupe.

• Fix Bears — four giant Polar bears compete for attention with Syrian, Siberian and Canadian Black bears under the guidance of trainer Jeannette Rix.

• Lions Galore — trained but untamed black-maned lions fill a cage with snarling fury as Joerg Harrelda leads them through an amazing array

of tricks.

• World Wheelers — basketball rules fall aside as these cages play and offer trick routines from the seats of unicycles.

• Geronimo — this Indian daredevil makes a 60-foot dive of death into an air-filled Apache war drum.

• Les Dolies — direct from France, this troupe performs cycling feats and aerial acrobatics high above the crowd.

• Beeswax — mule outfits human friends in a return to slapstick comedy.

• "We've worked to put together a show that is pure family entertainment with something special for all age groups," said Tom Draper, circus chairman. "Our aerial acts include the finest, from both Europe and South America and our ground performers include the greatest range of animals we have ever been able to offer."

"We'll kick off each show with a grand parade of all artists and many of our Moslem Temple units, including our great Shrine Clowns who will pro-

vide laughs throughout each performance. The grand finale will also be a spectacular with the entire cast thanking the audience."

Tickets for the Shrine Circus are on sale at the State Fairgrounds main ticket office and at Hudson's, Sears, Wards, and the Bank of the Commonwealth.

Performances will be offered at 1:30 and 7:30 p.m. daily with special early-bird performances set for 10:30 a.m. on

each of the three Saturdays during the run and on Sunday, April 1.

PROCEEDS FROM the annual circus go to support Moslem Temple activities which are primarily directed toward the care of crippled and burned children from Southeast Michigan. The circus staff — from ticket sellers to vendors — is composed of more than 1,000 local Shrine volunteers who work on a non-paid basis to aid the temple's philanthropies.

## Attic reserves seats

The Attic Theater, Greentown's resident theater, announces the start of its 1979 season subscription campaign.

The season opens with "The Playboy of the Western World" on Friday, March 23, offering four shows for the price of three and the first reserved seating ever at the Attic.

The reserved-seating should avoid long lines at the box office which have become a trademark of the attic.

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