



LOUISE SNIDER

Agent 007 soars in 'Moonraker'

Agent 007 flies high in "Moonraker" (PG), the 11th in the James Bond series. This one, like its recent predecessors, bears only slight resemblance to the Ian Fleming story, but it does follow faithfully the slick formula that has made these movies as commercially successful.

Spectacular effects, exotic settings, unique gadgetry and plenty of action assure an entertaining 125 minutes, which may not engage the mind but certainly compel attention. Add the usual array of beautiful women in bondage (the Playboy fantasy), an unusually humorous script and topical material involving spacecraft and the film's bound to attract a viewer or two.

Roger Moore (a well-preserved 51) again is the super-cool secret agent James Bond aided by regulars Bernard Lee as "M," Desmond Llewelyn as "Q" and Lois Maxwell as "Moneypenny." Also making a reappearance is the 7-foot-2 Richard Kiel as the steel-toothed villain "Jaws."

Lois Chiles is Bond's principal playmate in this film. You may remember her as the nasty henchess in "Death on the Nile," where, among the likes of Angela Lansbury, Peter Ustinov and David Niven, she was distinguished by her striking ability to recite every line in a deadpan voice. She still retains that singular talent.

FORTUNATELY, this is a film in which the production values are more important than the dramatic demands. Location shooting in Venice, Paris and Rio de Janeiro substantially adds to the visual interest. Some choice sequences in Venice include a motorized chase on the canals and a knockdown fight in a glass museum.

Bond is on the tracks of Drax. Drax (Michael Lonsdale) is a megalomaniac who has set up a giant space station from which he plans to conquer and rule Earth: first by bombarding it with lethal nerve gas, and then by populating it with his own brainwashed cadres whom he has shuttled to his space ark in pairs.

It takes Bond, Chiles and a detachment of Space Marines to thwart Drax. Chiles dispatches the bad guys with a few Bruce Lee maneuvers. "Where did you learn that — NASA?" inquires Bond.

"No, Vassar."

"Moonraker" does have an ample stock of amusing moments, risque puns and even parodies on other movie scenes and television commercials, including a notable one on Marlboro cigarettes. It all holds together very well under the direction of Lewis Gilbert, who also directed "The Spy Who Loved Me."

This movie is a feast for the junk-movie junkie, but for those who prefer just an appetizer, the first 10 minutes are superb. The spectacular free-fall stunt that precedes the title is one of the most imaginative and exciting action sequences ever filmed.

It's St. Patrick's Day in July

They're celebrating St. Patrick's Day in July at the Oakland County Irish Cultural and Brotherhood Society's first Irish Festival Saturday and Sunday, July 21 and 22.

The festival, to be held at the German-American Club, 2650 Auburn Road, one-quarter mile west of Spaulding Road in Pontiac Township, begins at noon and continues until 11 p.m. both days.

Continuous Irish music is one of the main features of the festival. Present among the groups performing are Pat McDunn and the Gaels.

McDunn, organizer of the festival, will be featured singing several times throughout the weekend, as will the several members of the Gaels: Geno Zwiak, Leo McInnis, Chris Buryta,

Dennis Panars, Rick Schachern, Jim Perkins, Rick Mandarfield and George Fogg.

AMONG OTHER popular Irish entertainers appearing are Charlie Taylor, Pat's People, Tony Black, Tommy O'Halloran, Marty Burke and the 70-year-old Fiddler Al Arsenault.

The festival doesn't stop with music, however. There will be Irish dancers, an Irish dance contest, a tug-of-war pitting the Irish against the rest of the weekend, and prizes, Irish food, imported goods and variety of refreshments.

A donation of \$2 includes admission and continuous entertainment. The Oakland County Irish Cultural and Brotherhood Society is a group

formed by McDunn and several Oakland County residents to promote Irish culture and values to second or third generation Irish in the United States.

However, says McDunn, the nonprofit group also was formed in an effort to share with others who are not Irish the positive aspects of tracing their own ethnic backgrounds and cultures. The group hopes to work with individuals in promoting all ethnic cultures as well as Irish.

McDunn, a long-time Irish performer in the Detroit and Oakland County area, is an English and history teacher. He plans several Irish history classes under the auspices of the group in the near future.

McDunn and the Gaels entertain at

several area pubs weekly, including Alden's Alley in Royal Oak, Fithy McNasty's in Pontiac and the Hurling Green in Rochester. Their Irish-American sing-alongs also include songs from all over the world in their attempt to unite all cultures through music and fellowship.

Proceeds from the festival will be used by the organization for such programs as the Irish history courses, entertainment, at senior, citizen homes, promotion of ethnic studies and appreciation of all ethnic backgrounds.

Parking surrounds the park-like area. Though outdoors, the area is sheltered should there be inclement weather. Tickets are available at the gate.

Theater classes open for summer

Will-O-Way Apprentice Theatre, licensed as a Trade School of the Theater by the Michigan State Board of Education since 1949, announces their

Bluegrass musical plays at True Grist

The first mid-Michigan staging of the new bluegrass musical, "The Robber Bridegroom," is playing through Aug. 5 at True Grist Ltd. in Homer.

"The Robber Bridegroom" is an adaptation of a novella by Eudora Welles whose affection for the South, combined with a mixture of realism and fantasy, translates well to the musical theater.

A fellow Southerner, Alfred Uhry, recognizing this quality received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to pursue the idea in partnership with a collaborator from his Brown University days, Robert Waldman.

Both men are prolific musical contributors to various media. Waldman, a protégé of Frank Loesser, has received both Drama Desk and Tony Award nominations.

JOHN HOUSEMAN's acting company took the show on a national tour, climaxing with a highly acclaimed, limited Broadway run.

Directed and choreographed by Dan

are still openings in Classes and Workshops.

Openings for teens, undergrads and adults in the summer, five-week term

iel Yargalis. "The Robber Bridegroom" stars Pat Kerr as gentleman Jamie Lockhart, the robber of the woods. Kerr, who was in the chorus of "Pippin" at True Grist, has worked professionally with Detroit's Attic Theatre.

Playing his true love, Rosamund, is Jackie Karasak, who appeared as Catherine in "Pippin." Her father, the wealthy planter, Clement Musgrove, will be played by Tim Robb, who was cast as Charlemagne in "Pippin."

Sherry Tuckett, Fastrada in "Pippin," continues her way ways as the amusingly wicked Salome.

Also featured are Noel Bearman, Karine Beesley and Barb Stark. Rounding out the cast are Resident Company regulars Paul Hopper and Karl Trader as the erstwhile evil but woefully inept Hans Brotherhoods.

"The Robber Bridegroom" is designed by Tracy Wigent and lighted by John Charles, with musical direction by Lyle Juracek. Matinees are scheduled for July 11, 18, 25 and Aug. 1. Reservations are required for all performances, by calling 517-568-4151.

Glimpses

NEW RELEASES

ALIEN (R). Hair-raising, sci-fi horror film about alien life form that terrorizes the crew of a space ship.

BLOODLINE (R). Relatives trying to bump off pharmaceutical heiress constitute a bitter pill in placebo version of Sydney Sheldon's best seller.

BUTCH AND SUNDANCE: THE EARLY DAYS (PG). "Pre-quel" to the successful hit. Tom Berger and William Katt are paired off as the rascally robbers in their salad days.

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

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

THE FIFTH MUSKETEER (PG). Your average swashbuckling tale with heroes, villains and court intrigue. Beau Bridges deftly handles dual role as nasty king and his noble twin.

HAIR (G). The counter culture musical of the '60s, directed by Milos Forman, comes to the screen with amazing vitality and musical energy — if a decade late.

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.

THE LAST EMBRACE (R). Bizarre, tension-filled mystery is stylishly filmed, but burdened with hopelessly complicated plot.

THE LAST WAVE (PG). Offbeat mystery from Australia when lawyer (Richard Chamberlain) encounters the occult as he delves into aborigine culture.

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 yodel on through life together.

LOVE AT FIRST BITE (PG). Dracula goes disco dancing in funny, contemporary version with George Hamilton.

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

MANHATTAN (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.

MOONRAKER (PG). James Bond (Roger Moore) in space adventure with Lois Chiles for company and Richard Kiel (the metal-mouthed "Jaws")

for challenge in most spectacular of the 007 films.

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.

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

PROPHETCY (PG). Schlock monster movie with Talia Shire in absurd story about pollutants and mutants in Maine.

PLAYERS (PG). Ali MacGraw and Dean-Paul Martin play mixed singles in this double fault of a tennis film with a weak story and acting to match.

THE PRISONER OF ZENDA (PG). Comedy adventure with Peter Sellers in new version of the Anthony Hope novel of royal intrigue.

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



George Segal and Glenda Jackson star in "Lost and Found," a comedy about mismatched newlyweds.

'Golden Girl' previews

A benefit "Sneak-er" Preview of the movie "Golden Girl" is first in a series of events sponsored by Acme Sporting Goods for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The preview is slated for 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 19, at Tel-Ex Cinemas 4, Telegraph and Ten Mile, Southfield.

The movie stars Susan Anton as a runner in training for the Olympics. Tickets for the Detroit-area preview are available with a donation to MDA at Acme Sporting Goods stores in Birmingham and Livonia Mall.

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