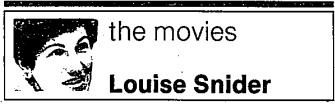




Jaye P. Morgan, regular "Gong Show" panelist, plays herself in "The Gong Show Movie," X-rated comedy opening Friday at metropolitan Detroit movie houses.



Comedies keep laughter flowing despite the news

Movie producers have come up with their own antidote for the depressing news that confronts us every day. Whether this occurred by accident or design, one can't say. But in the stock of spring/summer movies being released, the emphasis is on comedy.

Action comedies, romantic comedies, caper comedies, spoofs, satires and just plain weird comedies — Alan Arkin, for example, in a werewolf fable, "Full Moon High" — are aimed at our funny-bones.

Some of these sound promising, some questionable, some negligible. However, the range is so great that there is bound to be at least one that will make us laugh, whether we want to or not.

Don Adams takes up his television role as the devastatingly inept agent Maxwell Smart in "The Nude Bomb." Nancy Morgan is featured in a satire of religious broadsheeting, "Koolhaa." Bob Hays and Julie Hagerty star in a satire of disaster movies, "Airplane." And Dudley Moore and James Coco combine talents in an Old Testament spoof, "Wholly Moses."

COMEDIES WITH MUSIC include John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd in "The Blues Brothers" and Frank Langella of "Dracula" fame in "Those Lips, Those Eyes," a romance set against the background of summer stock theater.

Of course, there also must be a summer camp comedy, so we have "Garp," based on John Irving's best seller, "The World According to Garp." Another film adaptation is "Happy Birthday, Gemini" from the play "Gemini." Madeline Kahn and Rita Moreno head the cast.

May releases include James Coburn and Omar Sharif in "The Baltimore Bullet," an action comedy, "The Hollywood Knights," car club action set against the 1960s counter-culture in L.A., and "Bon Voyage, Charlie Brown," with the Peanuts gang as exchange students. In June, Burt Reynolds and Lesley-Anne Down will appear in the romantic comedy "Rough Cut."

If we add sci-fi to the action, romance and comedy, we get the film that's destined to be a highlight of the summer, "The Empire Strikes Back," opening Wednesday. "Empire" reunites Mark Hamill, Carrie Fisher and Harrison Ford in the "Star Wars" sequel directed by Irvin Kershner, but overseen by the original director, George Lucas.

According to a recent interview, Lucas is thinking about "Star Wars" and "Empire" as parts of a multi-part film saga grouped into a trilogy. If box office receipts live up to the producers' expectations, the "Star Wars" phenomenon might be around for a long time.

AMONG OTHER MAJOR films that will be released this summer is Stanley Kubrick's "The Shining." Filmed in England, it's a supernatural thriller starring Jack Nicholson and Shelley Duvall. Another thriller heading our way is "A Watcher in the Woods" with Bette Davis and David McCullum.

There also will be two Western yarns. A whole passel of acting brothers — Carradine, Quaid, Reaches and Quaid — will appear in "The Long Riders," a story about the James-Younger outlaw gang. Charlton Heston has the lead in "The Mountain Men," a story about Rocky Mountain trappers in the early 1800s.

John Travolta will return to the screen as a cowpoke who likes to dance to country and western music in "Urban Cowboy."

Another star vehicle is "Brubaker," a prison drama with Robert Redford and Jane Alexander. Lee Marvin will appear in a World War II epic, "The Big Red One." Kirk Douglas, Martin Sheen, Katherine Ross and James Farentino are cast in "The Final Countdown," in which a group of 1950s people are time-warped back to 1941 and given the power to change the course of history.

Do they go for the oil fields? We'll have to wait and see.



Hans Sojo (Harrison Ford) uses primitive means to deactivate C-3PO's (Anthony Daniels) voice mechanism in "The Empire Strikes Back." The suspenseful sci-fi fantasy, a sequel to "Star Wars," opens Wednesday at Detroit area theaters.

what's at the movies

NEW RELEASES

ALL THAT JAZZ (R). Tour de force by writer-director Bob Fosse. Roy Scheider plays hard-driving, fast-living choreographer (Fosse) in "behind the scenes" story of unusual imagination and energy.

BEING THERE (PG). Peter Sellers is a TV-educated economist in satire that pokes fun at our political and social conceits.

THE BLACK MARBLE (PG). Paula Prentiss and Robert Foxworth in offbeat, romantic comedy about two ill-matched L.A. cops.

BLACK STALLION (G). Story about a boy and a horse told in rich visual images. Terrific performance by Mickey Rooney as an ex-jockey who befriends the boy.

THE CHANGLING (R). George C. Scott in haunted house tries to unravel mystery of a child-murderer that took place decades ago.

CHAPTER TWO (PG). Autobiographical Neil Simon story about a man starting over after death of his wife.

COAL MINER'S DAUGHTER (PG). Sissy Spacek is outstanding as Loretta Lynn in movie bio of country singer's grueling early years and troubled success.

DIE LAUGHING (PG). Energetic but pathetic attempt at comedy as police, Russians and a maniac chase a cab driver-musician with valuable monkey.

ELECTRIC HORSEMAN (PG). Jane Fonda is a reporter and Robert Redford an ex-rodeo champion in satirical romance.

FFOLKES (PG). Adventure flick with Roger Moore heading up team of unusual underwater sabotage experts and problem of hijacked oil platform.

THE FOG (R). Horror film from John Carpenter, who directed "Halloween." Supernatural fog, associated with legend of mariners rising from their graves and seeking vengeance, creates havoc in coastal village.

FOXES (R). Four San Fernando Valley teen-aged girls face problems and pressures of growing up.

GILDA LIVE (R). Funny sketches and strong language from Gilda Radner; includes Father Sarducci's monologues and Radner's Roseanne Resurrection.

KRAMER VS. KRAMER (PG). Perceptive, well-acted drama about a broken marriage and a custody battle. Dustin Hoffman and Meryl Streep star.

LITTLE DARLINGS (R). Tatum O'Neal and Kristy McNichol are two teen-agers who go to summer camp and wager who will lose her virginity first.

THE MARRIAGE OF MARIA BRAUN (R). Entertaining and provocative film parallels rise of post-World War II Germany with fortunes of soldier's wife who rises from poverty to business success.

THE SERIAL (R). Life among the trendy folk of Marin County.

SIMON (PG). Comedy with Alan Arkin as brainwashed professor who believes he is an alien from outer space.

THE TIN DRUM (R). Oscar-winning film from Gunter Grass' novel about precocious child who decides to end his growth at his third birthday.

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.

Gallery hosts Sunday music

With capacity crowds in its first month of operation, the Detroit Institute of Arts continues its newest attraction "Sunday Afternoon" on a permanent schedule, every Sunday from 1-4 p.m.

Providing a new meeting place within its museum, "Sunday Afternoon" is set in the recently refurbished Crystal Gallery. Burgundy velvet drapes, checker Empire shades, an out-sized Oriental carpet, pink linens and special china service complete the ambience intended to duplicate the Palm Court of Plaza Hotel in New York.

Imported teas, exotic coffees, cocktails and French pastry are offered.

Featured keyboard artist for May is Charles Boles, playing music of Gertrude Stein, Cole Porter and Sondheim at the Steinway baby grand piano. June's guest artist will be Detroit's own Bernice Katz.

Reservations are not required. A minimum charge includes two selections from the "Sunday Afternoon" menu.

For information regarding "Sunday Afternoon," call the Detroit Institute of Arts ticket office at 832-2730. There will be no "Sunday Afternoon" on May 25 (Memorial Day weekend).



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Center plans musical

The Allan Barnes Band, the Rod Lumpkin Quartet featuring Teddy Harris Jr., and singer Greta Hendrix will headline "Arts Review II — An Evening of Contemporary Jazz" June 7 at Temple Israel, 17400 Manderson at Merton in Palmer Park, Detroit.

The program, planned by the Palmer Park Center for the Arts in cooperation with American Black Artist Inc. also will feature "Roots in America," an exhibit of the history of blacks in Detroit as expressed by metropolitan black artists.

"Arts Review II" is sponsored as a tribute to the memory of the late Dauris Gwendolyn Jackson. Mrs. Jackson was one of Detroit's leading educators, authors and advocates of equal rights.

Planned as a sequel to the "Arts Review" weekend, which introduced the community to the center in February, the jazz evening and exhibit will be the second major program produced by the center. Temple Israel is one block north of West McNichols and east of Ponchartraine Drive.

The doors open at 7 p.m. The jazz program begins at 8 p.m., and tickets are specially priced for students and senior citizens. Free parking is available in adjacent lots.

Refreshments will be offered, and tickets may be bought at the door. Tickets also will be available at Hudson's downtown, Northland and Oakland stores and at Sam's Jam's, 327 W. Nine Mile, Ferndale.

Established as a non-profit corporation in May 1979, the Palmer Park Center seeks to buy properties of Temple Israel and transform them into a multimedia arts center.



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