



the movies

Louise Snider

Stranded youths reflect naive Victorian era

There are at least two paradoxes about "The Blue Lagoon" (R). The first is that the film, about two shipwrecked youngsters who grow through puberty on a tropic isle, probably will have a strong appeal for younger teens, but because of nudity, it is rated R. The second is that 18-year-old Christopher Atkins, the male lead who is without previous acting experience, acts circles around Brooke Shields. Unfortunately, that's not hard to do. Shields, a "veteran" actress at 14, has yet to demonstrate that she can do anything besides posing, even though she does that awfully well. The film is adapted from Henry de Vere Stacpoole's novel of 1903 and, thankfully, it hasn't been updated. Today's pre-teens would be falling out of their seats with laughter to think their contemporaries could be as naive as the boy and girl in this adventure. However, within the Victorian framework in which the story is cast, the naivete is acceptable. The era's prudery and fear of the flesh are evidenced by the efforts people made to cover up that flesh.

THE PROGRESSIVE shedding of layers of clothing as time passes for these isolated children serves as a metaphor for the shedding of restrictions as the two move toward an uninhibited state. The natural beauty of the island with its colorful flora and fauna contributes to the Eden-like atmosphere of delight and innocence.

Nestor Almendros captured the exotic and luxuriant appearance of the island (location shooting was in the Fijis) in close-ups that look like pages from National Geographic. The stilted manners of the civilized world are contrasted with this paradise through the inter-cutting of a batch of stereotypical slides depicting Victorian attitudes and mores. The slides and viewer were in a trunk salvaged from the flotsam and jetsam of the burning ship on which the children fled. Their dimming recollection of that adult world is dramatized when the two attempt to celebrate Christmas. They try to get into the spirit of the occasion by singing carols, but all they can remember is the first line or two of each song. It is a touching part of the film and also jolting to realize that growing up uneducated they still maintain beliefs in childhood myths such as Santa Claus and "the boogie man." However, as the years go by and the pubescent children discover the joy of sex, the continuing oh-my-gosh innocence becomes more and more ludicrous. When they don't know where babies come from but they do know how to handle the umbilical cord, it does make you wonder if there is a serpent in this garden after all.

what's at the movies

- NEW RELEASES
- AIRPLANE (PG). A picture that takes off. This spoof of all those "Airport" movies is one of the zaniest films around.

THE BLUES BROTHERS (R). A film that's as unoriginal and dreary as it is expensive (very) with one meatball scene after another and enough car crashes to make AAA go belly up.

BRONCO BILLY (PG). Clint Eastwood stars as rowdy, brawling owner of Wild West show.

BRUBAKER (R). Serious drama with Robert Redford as reform warden fighting corruption on state prison farm.

CAN'T STOP THE MUSIC (PG). But it wouldn't be a bad idea to try. The EMPIRE STRIKES BACK (PG). "Star Wars" sequel unites original cast in continuation of battle against the evil empire.

FAME (R). Lots of young talent in vibrant musical about students at New York's School of Performing Arts.

THE ISLAND (R). Butchery galore as Michael Caine investigates ship disappearances and finds modern-day piracy in Caribbean.

ROUGH CUT (R). Diamond thief Burt Reynolds falls for Scotland Yard decoy Leslie-Anne Down.

THE SHINING (R). Stanley Kubrick fashions ultimate horror film where ordinary becomes ominous, and Jack Nicholson's psychotic evokes both fear and laughter.

TOM HORN (R). Steve McQueen in story about rugged men at the end of the Old West era.

URBAN COWBOY (PG). Replay of "Saturday Night Fever" with C & W music. John Travolta works in a Houston plant by day, two-steps at Gile's honky tonk by night.

WHOLLY MOSES (PG). Religious spoof set in Biblical times with Dudley Moore, Lorraine Newman and Richard Pryor.

- 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.

Play opens in Traverse City

The comedy-thriller "Deathtrap" starring William Shatner opens Tuesday and runs through Aug. 3 at the Cherry County Playhouse in Traverse City. Shatner, best known as Captain James Kirk in the television series "Star Trek," plays Sidney Bruhl, a

Group plans music outing

The Community House in Birmingham is taking reservations for a chartered bus trip Sunday to Meadow Brook Music Festival, where the Detroit Symphony Pops Orchestra will play music from great motion pictures. The bus runs from the Community House to the entrance of the Meadow

brook pavilion. Tickets for the ride and concert are \$16 a person. John Addison will conduct renditions from "Gone With The Wind," "Tom Jones," "Dr. Zhivago" and other movies. For more information, call 616-947-9560.



second runs

Tom Panzenhagen

Jack Webb meets David Nelson

ter, you might think this was an Andy Warhol version of life on a big city daily. Topping it all is a music score that's a combination of typewriter noises and a bad impression of the '50s beatnik beat. Put it all together and you've got a five star film that could choke a bulldog.

It's the "Uninvited" (1944). 12:30 Thursday night on Channel 50. Originally 96 minutes.

The modern day "masters" of the horror film — those who rely upon violence, gore and/or shocker endings to disturb their audiences — should pay close attention to this Lewis Allen film starring Ray Milland, Ruth Hussey and Gail Russell. It's a suspense-filled picture, but one which allows for the imagination to create the horror. You'll come away chilled but with the realization that nothing has happened which you didn't expect to happen.

"Philadelphia Story" (1940). 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the Redford Theatre, 17309 Lahser, phone 537-2560, \$2. Running time 112 minutes.

Wealth, love, yellow journalism and wealth are at the center of this George Cukor film starring Katharine Hepburn, Cary Grant and James Stewart. The story was remade in 1956 as "High Society" and changed somewhat, with Grace Kelly, Bing Crosby and Frank Sinatra starring. The first version is the best, largely because the class actors from the '40 version were replaced with the likes of Bing, Frankie and Grace in the remake.

"One Million Years B.C." (1966). 8 p.m. Tuesday on Channel 50. Originally 100 minutes.

It's hard to believe, but Raquel Welch has made more than 30 films, the fifth of which was this epic. Well, one thing's for sure: Raquel, in her cavewoman outfit, has never been better.

"Maltese Falcon" (1941). 8 p.m. Wednesday on Channel 50. Originally 100 minutes.

"Falcon" and "High Sierra" came out in the same year, propelling a bit player who specialized as a small-time thug into a star. The actor was Humphrey Bogart and the director of "Falcon" — in his directorial debut — was John Huston, who also wrote the screenplay. Considered the prototype for later crime films of the '40s and '50s, "Falcon" also stars Mary Astor, Sidney Greenstreet and Peter Lorre.



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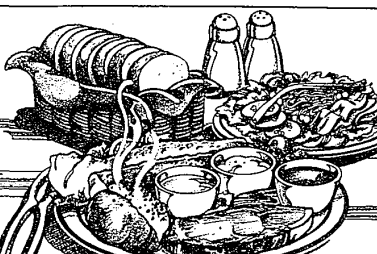
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