

what's at the movies

ATLANTIC CITY (R). Louis Malle's wonderfully vibrant, superbly acted, romantic film about old and young dreamers in Atlantic City.

BUSTIN' LOOSE (R). Richard Pryor and Cicely Tyson in romantic comedy about ex-con helping a schoolteacher transport children from a Philadelphia ghetto to a Washington farm.

EXCALIBUR (R). Sweeping adventure of King Arthur and the knights of the Round Table with Nicol Williamson as the wizard, Merlin.

FOUR SEASONS (PG). Alan Alda and Carol Burnett in comedy about the up-and-down relationships of three married couples during the course of a year.

THE JAZZ SINGER (PG). Ridiculous remake magnifies all the flaws of the first talking motion picture made in 1927. The story doesn't get any better. The songs get worse.

LEGEND OF THE LONE RANGER (PG). Western adventure with the Lone Ranger and Tonto recounts the beginning of the legend.

OUTLAND (R). Sci-fi thriller with Sean Connery enforcing the law at a colony on one of Jupiter's moons.

TAKE THIS JOB AND SHOVE IT (PG). Robert Hays is executive faced with tough decisions when brewery in his home town is taken over by conglomerate he works for.

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.

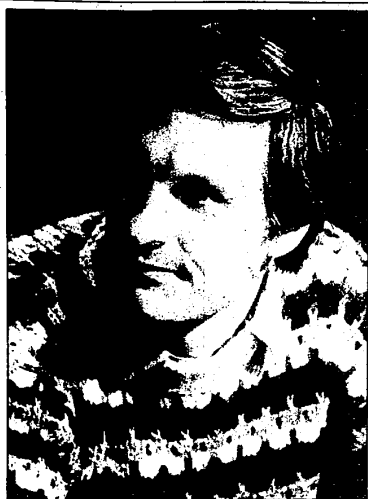
Greeks celebrate summer with 8th Ya'ssoo Festival

The eighth annual Ya'ssoo Festival presented by parish at St. George's Greek Orthodox Church will be held from 5 p.m. to midnight Friday, 11 a.m. to midnight Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday at the church

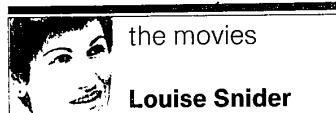
grounds, one-half mile north of Square Lake Road on Woodward Avenue. Greek line dancing to bouzouki music, continuous live band performances by Dino and the Continentals, and ouzo and Greek delicacies are featured.

The church has been issued a gaming license for this year's festival. Parties, shops, specialty items and Greek-style coney island are other attractions. The Big Six and other games, while they sip Greek wine, munch on baklava and watch traditional Greek dancers.

The many boutiques, Greek pastry shops, specialty items and Greek-style coney island are other attractions. "Ya'ssoo" is the Greeks' toast "to life" and that is the spirit of this festive occasion.



Alan Alda portrays Jack, who tries to keep his friends close in "The Four Seasons."



Friendship bonds explored stylishly in 'Four Seasons'

Bless Alan Alda for recognizing the existence of an audience strong enough to handle non-violence.

Alda wrote and directed "The Four Seasons" (PG). He also is featured in it as a member of one of three couples who vacation together four times during a year.

Granted it is unlikely that three middle-class couples would have the money, time and interest to go off together on four trips. It also is curious how they manage to stuff themselves, their gear, their groceries and their ample wardrobes into one car and arrive at their destinations looking like people, not accordeons.

Nevertheless, once you can accept these improbabilities, you can sit back and enjoy watching an ensemble of fine performers gamboled through a stylish script. Alda can match Neil Simon one-liner for one-liner and emerge with more depth to his characters and more meaning to their situations.

In "The Four Seasons" he explores the bonds of friendship between the three couples. Is there a mutuality of interest among them? Is there love and affection? Or is their friendship simply a matter of convenience, an exchange of professional courtesies (Lawyer to dentist: "You clean my teeth; I'll do your legal work.")?

THE COUPLES are Carol Burnett, a Fortune Magazine editor, and Alan Alda, a lawyer; Rita Moreno, an "Italian," as she keeps exclaiming, and Jack Weston, a dentist; and Sandy Dennis, a photographer, and Len Cariou, an insurance salesman.

When Cariou and Dennis divorce, and he marries a much-younger woman (Bess Armstrong), his actions precipitate a flurry of questions, arguments and confrontations among his friends. The other two couples begin to examine the states of their own marriages and the basis of their friendship with the others.

Among the excellent cast, Weston and Dennis stand out, probably because they reveal more of themselves than the others do. Dennis is a shy, insecure person, reluctant to make changes. When the big change happens — divorce after 21 years of marriage — you wonder if she can handle it.

She handles it better than her friends. They are embarrassed when they accidentally meet her. They feel guilty because they haven't kept in touch with her. On the other hand, they also are uncomfortable with Cariou's second wife and disturbed by the generation gap between her and them.

WESTON, WHO IS several years older than the others, confides to them in a serious moment that he is plagued by fears of growing old. The response is an outburst of laughter. In scenes like this, Alda points out some of the amazing contradictions which friendship can contain.

Alda's character particularly is guilty of encouraging people to "share their feelings" and then responding with criticism rather than compassion.

Alda may have the most difficult role as the analytical lawyer who seems to be the mainspring of the group. He is enthusiastic, fun-loving and concerned about others, but there is a smugness about him that sends out a warning signal to beware of his charm. It has a cutting edge.



Three couples who share friendship are Jack Weston (left), Alan Alda, Carol Burnett, Rita Moreno, Bess Armstrong and Len Cariou.

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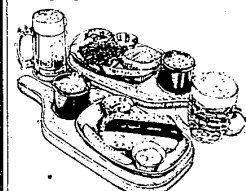
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