



Nick Nolte stars as Doc, an independent marine biologist, in "Cannery Row."

the movies
Louise Snider

Seedy characters spread good cheer in 'Cannery Row'

If "Cannery Row" (PG) is any indication of the quality of movies for 1982, this should be a good year. The film is a charmer. It has an infectious quality that wells up from vivid characterizations and boisterous humor.

The man most responsible for this achievement is David S. Ward, who directed the movie and wrote the screenplay. His script integrates two of John Steinbeck's novels, "Cannery Row" and "Sweet Thursday."

The merger is very successful. Steinbeck's "Cannery Row" is a loose series of sketches about the colorful characters on the Monterey, Calif., waterfront. Its sequel, "Sweet Thursday," is about the romance of Doc, a marine biologist, and Suzy, a hooker. By integrating the two novels, Ward was able to use the romance as a thematic center that helps shape and unify the film.

The time is the 1940s. Cannery Row, once the site of a thriving industry, has become a street of boarded-up stores and abandoned sardine factories, all of which closed down when the waters of Monterey Bay were fished out.

THE PEOPLE left are an odd assortment of derelicts, dreamers and nonconformists. Among them is Doc (Nick Nolte), who lives and works in his cluttered lab among his specimens. He also acts as the adviser and occasional employer of the bums who live in the drains and slues along the row. In other words, he's a soft touch. Across the street from him in an elaborate Victorian house is the Bear Flag, the local bordello, still an on-going business.

Into this decaying town strolls feisty Suzy DeSoto (Debra Winger). She has been working her way out to the West Coast since she was 10. When she can't find any other job, she goes to work at the Bear Flag for Fauna (Audra Lindley), a red-haired, tough-talking madam with the proverbial heart of gold.

Doc and Suzy immediately notice each other. Even though they can hardly exchange "hellos" without arguing, we know that beneath the bristling surface are two people in love.

The folks on Cannery Row know it, too, and are determined in their own misguided way to do something about it. This leads to a series of comic consequences, among them, the great frog hunt. It's an event "that will live forever in frog history," the narrator intones.

JOHN HUSTON voices the narration in a hammy, tongue-in-cheek style ideally suited to the colorful events and characters. This is one of the few instances where a narrator actually augments a movie, rather than detracts from it.

"Cannery Row," however, is full of surprises. Another one is a terrific comic sequence that develops out of an episode with Doc and Suzy jiggerbugging, as Doc tries to prove to Suzy that he is no dull clod.

Nick Nolte shows a new aspect of his acting ability as Doc, a role which requires a talent for playing humorous situations without looking like a ninny.

Debra Winger, who was such a sensation in "Urban Cowboy," is equally effective here. Her Suzy is just the right mix of fiery spirit and vulnerability.

The movie is further enhanced by a swinging bluesy-jazz score and the breathtaking cinematography of Sven Nykvist.

Perhaps what is most appealing about "Cannery Row" is its optimistic outlook. A hard-luck town, a shabby street, a bunch of seedy characters, yet the tone is positive.

Is this just a case of Steinbeck romanticizing life, or does this tell us something about the change in our attitudes from the '40s to the '80s?



Debra Winger portrays Suzy, a proud and feisty young drifter.

'Sonya' to debut on cable

TV personality Sonya Friedman will be seen nationally on USA Cable when the locally produced talk show "Sonya" airs weekdays on the cable network beginning in April.

Friedman is a Birmingham psychologist and West Bloomfield resident.

"Sonya," the WDIV-Channel 4 locally produced morning talk show, signed a contract last week with USA Cable, one of the largest national cable networks in the United States.

The show becomes the first local Detroit program to sign a major national cable TV network deal, a WDIV spokesperson said.

"SONYA" is scheduled to air on USA Cable on from 10-11 a.m. and 3-4 p.m.

Metropolitan Detroit cities carrying the USA Cable network include Ann Arbor, Dearborn, Drayton Plains, East Detroit, Grosse Pointe Woods, Lincoln Park, Madison Heights, Plymouth, Redford Township, Roseville, Saline, St. Clair, Taylor and Ypsilanti. USA Cable is an advertiser-supported network owned by Paramount, Time and MCA.

The cable network contract for "Sonya" will include two years, 500 hours of programming with a potential audience reach of more than 25 million people each day.

"Sonya" has been a daily WDIV morning talk show since January 1981. Dr. Friedman has been a local Detroit radio and TV personality for more than 10 years.



photo by LINDA SLOMON

WDIV-TV's Sonya Friedman, who is a talk show host and Birmingham psychologist, will soon be seen regularly on the ABC Cable network.

TRAVEL AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE
ON THE TOWN

Kingsley Inn
Rest Assured...
A thoughtful way to welcome visitors or clients, is a reservation at the Kingsley Inn. We are near all business, sports and educational centers in the tri-county area.
Woodward and Long Lake Rd. Bloomfield Hills
Woodward Avenue and Long Lake Road Bloomfield Hills 644-1400

Monday Nights Joins Tuesday Nights as **INFLATION FIGHTERS** at the **Shalea Inn**
\$7.51 per person
Featuring Petit Frog Legs (All you can eat) served with Cheese Crust and Crackers, Soup, Salad, French Fries, Roll and Butter
TWO LOCATIONS
3315 AUBURN ROAD Between Adams & Oyster Rd. 852-3410
GRAND BLANC Just off I-75 exit 1-695-1650
OPEN FOR LUNCH AT 11 a.m. MON. THRU FRI.

CABIN FEVER RELIEVER!
Roast Prime Rib or Seafood Platter Dinner \$6.95
Happy hour all day, every day!
Schuler's
Many different ways to make your weekend!
2601 Rockwood Road 672-8770
6000 West Maple Road 671-8860

DINE OUT TONIGHT

C - D - BR (beer)?
C - D - YN (wine)?
them at **MARVIN'S**
• All drinks 1/2 price
• Beer 75¢ domestic/ \$1 imported
• Wine \$1 domestic / \$1.25 imported
HAPPY HOURS:
Mon-Fri: 4 p.m.-7 p.m.
Mon-Thu: 9 p.m.-11 p.m.
Fri-Sat: 10 p.m.-12 p.m.
MARVIN'S
NEW YORK DELI
30100 Telegraph / N. of 12 Mile / 642-2430

MERRICK'S RESTAURANT
50% OFF
We invite you to enjoy a 50% discount on One Entree when a second Entree of equal or greater value is purchased.
Coupon Valid Tues.-Saturday Evenings Only 5:30 pm-9:30 pm Located at American Center in Southfield
for easy to follow directions and Reservations CALL US AT 353-8144
• Not valid for parties over 10 or in conjunction with other coupons or offers.
• If 3 or more dine, discount applies to least expensive meal.
• Salad Bar Only is considered an Entree.
• Expires 2/27/82
• Present this Coupon
• One coupon per couple
• One check per Table
• This coupon supersedes all other newspaper offers or coupons prior to 4/1/81.

Wednesday is Always **Macaroni Night** \$1.99
Little Artists—show your talent to Mama Mia and win a pizza at our pizzeria.
Draw and Color while you eat and the monthly winner will get a big round cheesy treat.
Mama Mia
20210 W. 8 Mile Rd. 1 Block W. of Evergreen 356-7400 Mon.-Sat. 4 pm to 2 pm

Mini-Vacations. Minutes Away.
Need to get away from it all? And SAVE GAS, jump into your car and drive to the Northfield Hilton for a super weekend fling at an un-super little price. Go ahead - spoil yourself. You deserve it.
• Luxurious room
• Cocktail in Hurley's, our contemporary lounge with nightly entertainment and dancing on a stainless steel dance floor
• All-season indoor pool
• Saunas
• Leisurely breakfast in Wicker Works (or room service)
• Free parking
• \$39.82 per person, double occupancy
HONEYMOONING
• Luxurious room
• Bottle of champagne
• Entertainment and dancing in Hurley's
• Indoor pool and saunas
• Leisurely breakfast in Wicker Works (or room service)
• Free parking
• \$75 per couple
Tips and taxes are included! Call 879-2100 for color brochures on our Unwinder and Honeymooning packages.
NORTHFIELD HILTON
5500 Crooks Rd. at I-75 Troy, Michigan 48068 (313) 879-2100