



Sissy Spacek is Beth and John Shea is Charles, whose lives take a different turn, in *South America*, when there is a military coup.



the movies
**Louise
Snider**

Viewers' emotions become involved in political drama

It is nearly impossible to look at a Costa-Gavras film and judge it simply as cinema. There is always something else that gets in the way of a cool appraisal.

That's because his movies ("Z," "State of Siege") are impassioned political statements which don't allow neutrality. And it's because he is a master at martialing our emotions and making us respond to his ordering of the facts.

Costa-Gavras is a director who knows how to use his material to manipulate audiences. "Missing" (PG) is no exception.

But what are Jack Lemmon and Sissy Spacek doing in "Missing"? Shouldn't this be an art-house movie with unknown actors speaking a foreign language? Instead we have an English-language film with top stars. It's distributed by Universal, and it's playing in major first-run theaters.

WHAT'S GOING ON? Are American audiences being politicized? Unlikely. "Missing" is a political thriller, it's timely, and it's a darn good movie. It grabs your interest and doesn't let go.

Costa-Gavras does what he's done before and does best. He begins with an attention-getting statement at the beginning. He presents a "true story." He gets you involved through flashbacks which reveal the facts, bit by bit. And he delivers a kicker at the end.

The material is drawn from a book by Thomas Hauser about an American who disappeared in Chile during the military coup which overthrew the Marxist government of Salvador Allende.

The movie opens with Charlie Harmon (John Shea) and his wife, Beth (Sissy Spacek), caught up in the takeover. He was showing a visiting friend at the coastal resort of Venya del Mar when the uprising occurred.

The friend returned home, but Charlie didn't make it. He disappeared.

His father, Ed (Jack Lemmon), a conservative businessman from New York, arrives to help his daughter-in-law look for Charlie. Costa-Gavras cleverly has structured the movie so that as events unfold, what we witness is not only the search for the missing son but the political education or re-education of the father.

AT FIRST, he is the total establishment man. He trusts the State Department. He distrusts his daughter-in-law. After all, he reasons, if she could marry his free-thinking son, then anything she says couldn't have much validity.

As the movie progresses, there is a complete reversal of his attitude and feelings. Ultimately, he not only develops a new respect for his daughter-in-law but a new understanding of and respect for his wayward son.

Why is Charlie missing? Is he in hiding? Was he a random victim of the coup — killed by trigger-happy soldiers or guerrillas? Or was he a deliberate target?

The implication of the movie is that Charlie is missing because he knew too much. By chance, on his visit to Venya, he came in contact with high-ranking American officials whose conversation indicated that the coup — a coup against a democratically elected government — was initiated or aided by the United States.

"Missing" raises some sensitive questions about protecting American people and business interests abroad, particularly at this time when our relationship to the government of El Salvador is being scrutinized and criticized. The State Department issued a three-page paper rebutting the premise of the movie, thus giving it more weight.

WHATEVER ALL the facts are in the Harmon case, what Costa-Gavras does capture in this movie with chilling effect is the victimization of the civilian population — the terror that comes simply from missing a bus and being out after curfew, the horror of turning a street corner and finding bloodied bodies.

War is hell, but civil war is worse.

what's at the movies

ABSENCE OF MALICE (PG). Sally Field stars as a reporter who libels a labor leader (Paul Newman) in a murder case. Film written by former Detroit Free Press editor Kurt Luedtke.

THE AMATEUR (R). Computer analyst with CIA sets out to avenge the death of his girlfriend by terrorists. John Savage, Marthe Keller and Christopher Plummer star.

ARTHUR (PG). Dudley Moore is a playboy millionaire in love with Liza Minnelli in this contemporary comedy.

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

THE BORDER (R). Jack Nicholson portrays a border-patrol guard driven to violence by a nitwit wife, a corrupt colleague and a frustrating job.

CHARIOTS OF FIRE (PG). True and compelling story of two runners. One runs for the glory of God, the other to battle bigotry. Outstanding and elevating movie.

FOUR FRIENDS (R). A young immigrant's view of America revealed in a story about three young men and a free-spirited woman.

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.

table talk

IRISH folk singer Bessie Beckerman will entertain on St. Patrick's Day, Wednesday, March 17, at Hurley's lounge in the Northfield Hilton. Troy Irish coffee and green beer will be served.

In the hotel's Wicker Works restaurant, the daily luncheon buffet will be highlighted by traditional corned beef and cabbage. Buffet hours are 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

THE KING of Irish Coffee contest first prize goes to Keith Butler of Charley's Raw Bar & Seafood Restaurant in the Hotel Pontchartrain, Detroit.

The contest was held last week in the Pontchartrain's Salamandre Bar. Butler was the winner for his recipe combining one and one-quarter ounce of Jameson Irish Whiskey, one-half ounce of Irish Mist and one-half ounce of Bailey's Irish Cream, topped by coffee, whipped cream and green sugar.

SERVIN' o' the green asparagus is being celebrated through St. Patrick's Day at Meriwether's restaurant in Southfield.

Meriwether's has been hosting its annual Fresh Asparagus and Spring Wine Festival, with 14 fresh asparagus dishes. Recently Mary Ann Carey, queen of the National Asparagus Festival, visited the restaurant to share asparagus recipes.

— Ethel Simmons

Drama club does satirical farce

St. Mary's College drama club, the Skarga Society, is performing a satirical farce, "The Police," by the Polish playwright Slawomir Mrozek, and a program of poetry readings entitled "A Millennium of Dreams," by well-known Polish poets.

Performances will be Friday-Sunday and March 26-28 and April 2-4 at the college at Commerce and Orchard Lake roads, Orchard Lake. All Friday performances begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for Friday performances are \$5.

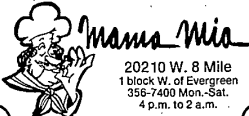
A dinner theater will be held Saturdays and Sundays. Dinner begins at 6 p.m., the play at 7:30. The menu will include prime rib, fresh green peas, rice, salad, rolls, cheese and beverages.

Dinner theater tickets at \$17 should be paid for in advance. Checks may be made payable to St. Mary's College, Orchard Lake 48033.

For further information call 682-4124 or 682-1885.

Wednesday Is Still Pasta Night \$1.99

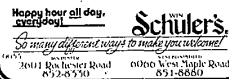
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A Touch of Old Ireland

'Tis time for the wearin' o' the green and to join in the fun when Hurley's celebrates St. Pat's Day! Popular Irish folk singer Bessie O'Beckerman will offer all your favorite Irish ditties from 4 to 8 p.m. And to keep you in the spirit, our emerald trimmed waitresses will serve up Irish Coffee and green beer. So make a note...Wednesday, March 17...at Hurley's!

P.S. And you won't want to miss our Wicker Works luncheon buffet featuring the traditional Corned Beef and Cabbage!

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The Dry Dock name is changing to

Why?...You might ask?

Well, perhaps you already knew that the Dry Dock and J. Ross Browne's are owned by the same company. And, that we both serve the same menu and maintain the same levels of excellence to offer you the best seafood and steak selections in the Detroit area.

So, to be less confusing for all of us, we've decided to change our name to J. Ross Browne's.

We also think this is a great time to introduce our new menu. Lots of your old favorites plus some truly unique new house specialty items. Like our Gourmet Stuffed Shrimp, Brandied Lobster

Stir Fry, our Bountiful Seafood Platter for Two and our Chablis Baked Seabass. We hope you'll visit us soon and we'll go overboard to make your experience special.

J. Ross Browne's

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