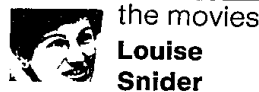




Rodney Dangerfield would drive anyone into a frenzy with his antics in "Easy Money."



the movies
Louise Snider

Comic Dangerfield won't get respect for 'Easy Money'

If watching Rodney Dangerfield for a few minutes causes one to become nervous and edgy, what does watching him for 90 minutes cause? Ninety minutes worth of discomfort, that's what. The proof of the pudding is "Easy Money" (R), critic's Exhibit A.

Dangerfield's general physical demeanor in this movie is a continuing assault of jerks, quirks, shouting, puffing and raging. He could drive a catanite into a fit of St. Vitus Dance.

Dangerfield plays Monty Capuletti, the low-life husband of a simpaten heiress, Rose (Candy Arizona). Although she was presumably raised in privileged circumstances, you would never know it from her appearance or that of her household. She has about as much class as a Twinkie.

Just marrying Monty would be enough to confirm her absence of good judgment. But there's more. Their home is furnished in a manner that makes it a monument to bad taste. It's a sanctuary for every revoltingly cute object. It reflects the polyester quality of the humor in this movie — sleazy, artificial and easily packaged.

CARRYING THE THEME further, Monty dresses in a "regular guy" look, all synthetics and mismatched patterns and colors. He makes Archie Bunker look like a fashion plate in comparison.

This is a movie which is hung up on stereotypes of lower-middle-class life, like bowling shirts and painted flamingos on the front lawn.

The gimmick in "Easy Money" is the conditions of grandmother's will. Rose's mother will leave \$10 million to her, providing that Monty reforms. He must lose weight, stop smoking, drinking, gambling and philandering.

For a man who has devoted his entire life to nurturing these habits, the will reads like a sentence to a torture chamber. But his family and friends aren't going to let him give up \$10 million just because he craves a smoke or a pizza.

The agony he suffers from such deprivations during his endurance trial of one year makes up the featherweight plot of the movie.

EMBROIDERING THIS plot are comic twists derived from the stereotypical images. The most offensive of these is the depiction of a Latino character, Julio (Taylor Negron) as a dumb greaser. Julio is engaged and then married to Monty's daughter (Jennifer Jason Leigh), who is even less bright than Rose.

The only family member with a modicum of smarts is the grandmother (Geraldine Fitzgerald), who owns a swanky department store. However, even her intelligence must be questioned for wanting to leave her money to her family when there are so many worthy charities around — the Lint Collectors of America, to name just one.

"Easy Money" does have a few good one-liners and one or two good visual gags, but generally it's a coarse movie that abounds with jokes about bosoms, buttocks and booze.

what's at the movies

CUJO (R). Suspense and thrills in movie based on story by Stephen King.

EASY MONEY (R). Rodney Dangerfield as Monty Capuletti can inherit millions but only if he gives up drinking, smoking and gambling for a year.

FLASHDANCE (R). A determined young woman works as a welder by day and a dancer by night. Movie doesn't make too much sense but the dancing makes a terrific impact.

GETTING IT ON (R). Two boys with active imaginations and overactive glands indulge in crazy capers on campus. Martin Yost and Heather Kennedy star in comedy written and directed by William Olsen.

MR. MOM (PG). Michael Keaton is a rising young executive who gets pink-slipped and trades jobs with his wife, a housewife and mother, who then goes out to work.

NATIONAL LAMPOON'S VACATION (R). Walley World, the world's greatest theme park, is the destination in this cross-country comedy starring Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo, Imogene Coca and Christie Brinkley.

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.

upcoming things to do

• FOR DANCERS

Entertainer Mel Ball and his vocal/instrumental group, Colours, play for listening and dancing at 9 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays at the London Chop House, 155 W. Congress, Detroit. Ball, a musician, composer and hand-dancer, is playing a return engagement at the Chop. The band features Ball on vibraphone, Michele Goulet, lead vocalist; Dan Valen, lead vocalist/guitar; Dan Oestrike, lead vocalist/bass; Jose Carretero, keyboards/vocals; and Scott Thompson, drums. For reservations, call 982-0277.

• SINGERS WANTED

School Jazz, Schoolcraft College's vocal jazz ensemble, will hold auditions for new members from 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 31, and Sept. 7, in Room F-301 on campus in Livonia. Bradley Bloom, ensemble director, is looking for male and female singers to fill open spots in each section. Auditions are open to the public, and ensemble membership can be through the Music Department's credit classes or through the Community Services Program. To arrange an audition appointment, call the Music Department at 591-6400, Ext. 510.

• MD TELETHON

Channel 2 TV news anchorman George Sells and WJR Radio personality J.P. McCarthy will host local segments of the 1993 Jerry Lewis Telethon for Muscular Dystrophy. The 22-hour telethon being televised on WJBK-TV begins at 8:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 4, and continues through 6:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 5. Christopher Rush of Rochester, this year's national MDA Poster Child, will join Jerry Lewis at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas for the nationally televised telethon.



Mel Ball and Colours are back at the London Chop House.

• SUNDAY CONCERTS

Free Sunday concerts for September have been announced by Somerset Mall in Troy. The Jo LoDuca Jazz Quartet featuring Marcus Belgrave plays Sept. 11, the Max Davey Singers perform Sept. 18, and the Bobby Kalao Gypsy Violins, with Madam Hudy-ma and Tarot card readings, is featured Sept. 2. No concert is scheduled for Sept. 4.

• FESTIVAL PREVIEW

The King and Queen of the Michigan Renaissance Festival will arrive for a festival preview from 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 1, at Somerset Mall in Troy. The royal couple will bring

their court jesters, minstrels and ladies-in-waiting. The Festival Dance Company will entertain with period dances.

• WAGON WHEEL

Entertainment is offered Thursday-Sunday nights at the Wagon Wheel Saloon on Rochester at Big Beaver roads in Troy. September attractions are the Stratton Brothers, with Motown Medley and light rock, Sept. 1-3, 8-10; Pat Karbowaki, comedy and light rock, Sept. 4, 11, 18 and 25; and Leigh Stanley and Rick Estes, light rock and Top 40, Sept. 15-17, 22-24 and 29-30. Cover charge is \$1.

• FREE EVENTS

Free attractions at the Michigan State Fair at the State Fairgrounds in Detroit will include the Budweiser Championship Pro Rodeo in the new Budweiser Coliseum at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 1, and 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 2; an Elias Brothers International Circus, Monday-Friday, Aug. 29 through Sept. 2; Joie Chitwood's Thrill Show at 2 and 7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Sept. 1-3; and Arbor Day/Coca-Cola Demolition Derby on Sunday-Monday, Sept. 4-5. Also free are the Firemen's Field Day in the Grandstand at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 4; six days of performance horse shows in the Coliseum; televised coverage of Channel 2's "Stars of Tomorrow" talent show, Monday, Aug. 29, through Monday, Sept. 5, and a fireworks display by Kroger Supermarkets on Kroger Day, Wednesday, Aug. 31.

• BRASS RING

Def Leppard, with special guest Krokus, will perform at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, Aug. 30-31, at the Joe Louis Arena in Detroit. The concert has been rescheduled from June 15-16. Tickets are \$11 and \$10.

• HANS HOLZER

The Parapsychology Society International will host Dr. Hans Holzer in a program entitled "The Truth About Horror Films: A Famous Psychic Investigator Compares Truth with Fiction" at 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 1, at Somerset Inn in Troy. Admission is \$4 for members, senior citizens and students, \$5 for non-members.

• 'CHILDE BYRON'

The Fourth Street Playhouse will open its fourth season Thursday, Sept. 16, with "Childe Byron" by Romulus Linney. Performances continue at 8:30 p.m. Thursdays-Fridays, 6 and 9 p.m. Saturdays and 7:30 p.m. Sundays through Nov. 5 at the playhouse, 301 W. Fourth, Royal Oak. A New Theatre Benefit at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 18, will feature a performance of "Childe Byron," and hors d'oeuvres and drinks. Benefit tickets are \$25. For further information call the playhouse at 443-3666.

• COMEDY-MYSTERY

"Catch Me If You Can," a comedy-mystery starring Jimmy Lanza, will open Friday, Sept. 16, at Somerset Dinner Theatre in Troy. The play will be presented Fridays-Saturdays through December, with cocktails at 7 p.m., dinner at 7:30, curtain at 8:45. Tickets are \$18.95 per person inclusive. For reservations call Alfred's at 643-8865.

• AT TRAXX

An Evening of Music for Piano and Drums, with Patrick Moraz and Bill Bruford, will be presented Friday, Sept. 2, at Traxx, rock 'n' roll dance club at 1400 Grand south of Seven Mile Road, Detroit. Moraz was formerly with Yes and the Moody Blues. For more information call 968-8788.

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WEDNESDAY	SPAGHETTI Includes meat sauce, cheese and vegetables	3.50
	VEAL PARMIGIANA DINNER Includes spaghetti or pasta and vegetables	3.75
THURSDAY	SALISBURY STEAK DINNER Includes french fries and coleslaw	3.50
	LIVER & ONIONS Includes french fries and coleslaw	3.50
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SATURDAY	GROUND SIRLOIN DINNER Includes french fries and coleslaw	3.75
	SALISBURY STEAK DINNER Includes french fries and coleslaw	3.50
SUNDAY	HONEY DIPPED FRIED CHICKEN Includes french fries and coleslaw	3.95
	BATTER DIPPED FISH & CHIPS Includes french fries and coleslaw	3.50
	GROUND SIRLOIN DINNER Includes french fries and coleslaw	3.75
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Includes potato and vegetable

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