



Rutger Hauer is John Tanner, a TV investigative reporter, who tries to warn his friends of danger in "The Osterman Weekend."

the movies
Louise Snider

Bizarre violence dominates action in confusing film

Dan Greenberg, guest critic for this week's movie review, is a film instructor at the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills.

Osterman's weekend spoiled mine. But I shouldn't complain too much. My only problem with "The Osterman Weekend" (R), starring Burt Lancaster, Rutger Hauer and John Hurt, was figuring out who was doing what to whom, and maybe why.

On the other hand, Osterman (Craig T. Nelson) and all his friends spent the weekend getting battered, beaten and blown to bits by assorted CIA characters. That fate should have been reserved for scensarist Alan Sharp and Ian Masters, who adapted this film from the exciting Robert Ludlum novel.

Ludlum writes excellent, taut espionage stories with considerable understanding of World War II's legacy. His books convey so well the texture and atmosphere of the war.

It was particularly disappointing, then, to see what Sharp and Masters did with his novel. Of course, to compound their sins, director Sam Fellman assumes that large amounts of violence will carry any story. Not so in this case. The film is confusing because it is confused. Or is it the other way around?

THE ONLY CLEAR POINT to "The Osterman Weekend" is that people can be shot with laser-guided antipersone; blown up with bombs; incinerated in gasoline-laden swimming pools; killed with regular guns, and murdered with good, old-fashioned arrows or with modern needles inserted in their noses.

That's where the film begins, as a pretty blonde is done in by two black-suited operatives (needle in hand) while her husband, superspy Lawrence Fasset (John Hurt), whines and CIA head Maxwell Danforth (Burt Lancaster) watches on closed-circuit television.

Fasset, it turns out, is employed by Danforth in a complex plot to turn three Berkeley graduates/Russian spies into double agents.

The three are Bernard Osterman, Richard Tremayne (Dennis Hopper) and Joseph Cardone (Chris Sarandon). Since their college graduation some 15 years ago, they have become, respectively, a writer-media person of sorts; a bad doctor with a cocaine-addicted wife, Virginia (Helen Shaver), and a sleazy financier whose wife, Betty (Cassie Yates), has to be told to remove her chewing gum when they make love.

These three, CIA head Danforth explains, are involved in a terrible Russian plot, Omega. With his trusted assistant Stenning (Sandy McPeak) trying to put respectable brakes on the project, Danforth charges ahead using TV investigative reporter John Tanner (Rutger Hauer) as the bait.

TANNER WILL DO anything to get Danforth on his show. Little do any of them realize that superspy Fasset is out to avenge his wife's death, which he blames on Danforth.

All these characters come together for a weekend at Tanner's who, conveniently, is one of the old Berkeley crowd. This delightful foursome, plus three wives, has shared weekends for years, weekends called "Osterman's."

Now with all those ingredients, you can follow the various assassinations as Fasset pretends to operate the weekend scene to turn the Omega Project spies into double agents via state-of-the-art interactive television that speaks to our hero, Tanner, through his microphone. Gullit via microwave, the latest in psychotherapeutic espionage.

But hold everything. The three friends from Omega aren't really spies, just minor financial crooks. The real plot is Danforth's attempt to become president by exposing a communist plot he created for expose's sake.

Danforth is fooled by Fasset's revenge and Mrs. Tanner (Meg Foster), who takes to the woods with crossbow to protect her son, Steve (Christopher Star). Her arrows make a real nice think while Osterman CIA operatives trying to murder her husband and Bernie Osterman swimming in the aforementioned, gasoline-laden swimming pool. Oh, boy.

Surprisingly, the actors achieve credible results with incredible material. There was even one exciting chase sequence when Mrs. Tanner and son were kidnapped. However, that was not enough to save this film. Save your time and money. Don't spoil your weekend.



Burt Lancaster is Maxwell Danforth, head of the CIA, who plots to turn three Russian spies into double agents.

upcoming things to do

- **'PYGMALION' OPENS**
The classic comedy "Pygmalion" will open the new theater season at the Oakland University Center for the Arts on campus near Rochester. Six performances of the George Bernard Shaw play are scheduled for 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 11 and 12, 10 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 13 and 20, at the Studio Theatre in Varner Hall. The cast of 16 is directed by Adelmo Filicchiello-Medalla of the OU Department of Theatre and Dance. Tickets are \$3.50 for adults, \$2.50 for senior citizens and students, and \$1.50 for everyone at Sunday matinees. Tickets are available at the door.
- **YOUTH SYMPHONY**
Metropolitan Youth Symphony will present its first concert of the 1983-84 season at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12, at the Southfield High School Auditorium, 10 Mile and Lahser roads. The concert will feature Wagner's Introduction to Act III of the opera "Lohengrin." Thomas V. Connor will conduct the symphony orchestra composed of high school students. The Concert Orchestra and the elementary-age String Orchestra also will perform. Tickets are \$3 per person and are available at the door. For more information call 477-2894 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.



Brian Murphy is Henry Higgins and Kolyo Campbell is Eliza Doolittle in the Oakland University Center for the Arts production of "Pygmalion," opening Thursday, Nov. 11.

table talk

- **Foxy's celebrates**
Foxy's of Troy will celebrate its first anniversary from 8-9 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 9, with free hors d'oeuvres and reduced cocktail prices on drinks and champagne. The pastry shop is baking a special cake that will be served without charge. The Machus restaurant also has a new dinner menu. Foxy's of Troy is at 3270 W. Big Beaver in the Sheffield Office Plaza.
- **Croissants praised**
Two awards have been given to Machus Pastry Shops for its croissants. The Grand Prix was awarded for its cheese croissants, and second place given for its plain ones, at a recent tasting of croissants sponsored by the L'Alliance Francaise de Detroit. The croissants were purchased anonymously at six area bakeries, for the tasting. Preben Hansen is chief baker of croissants for the Machus Pastry Shops, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.
- **Offerings incredible**
Everything from ribs to chick-a-bobs and filets, plus three to four specials each day, is available at the Incredible Edibles Food and Spirits, 31231 Southfield, north of 13 Mile, in Beverly Hills. There's a 29-foot soup, salad and chili bar. The restaurant, which Mike Witoszynski opened last February, seats 20. It also has entertainment, with folk singer Carol Kinsley on Thursdays-Saturdays. Hours are 10:30 a.m. to 2 a.m. Saturdays, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays when brunch is served from a 40-foot-long table.
- **New wine system**
The first Cruvet wine system in Michigan has been installed at the Lark restaurant, 6450 Farmington Road, north of Maple, in west Bloomfield. This system makes it feasible to offer fine wines by the glass, rather than only a full bottle. The Cruvet flushes oxygen from the bottle, replacing it with inert nitrogen, which prevents deterioration and preserves the flavor.
- **Lunch hours added**
The Benchmark, known for its elegant dining, has opened for lunch at the Michigan Inn in Southfield. Lunch is being served from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays-Fridays. For reservations, call 8669-4747. Free valet parking is available.



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