

'Dune' disappoints

Sci-fi classic doesn't have multi-million-dollar look

Last week, in less than 24 hours I had the rare displeasure of seeing 100 million dollars wasted, on two new films I viewed, "Dune" and "Cotton Club."

Actually the DeLaurentis family ("Dune") and the Coppola encouragement ("Cotton Club") took much longer than 24 hours to spend that money making their films, but the results are just OK and certainly not worth the expenditure.

If "Cotton Club" survives legal battles, opens on time and is still running next week, I'll write about it then. For today, on to "Dune." Bring your own water bottle, the desert is dry.

Dino DeLaurentis is an interesting film personality, having pro-

duced some of the best and some of the worst films ever, from Fellini's "La Strada" to "Orca the Killer Whale," with detours to remake "King Kong" and "Flash Gordon," among others.

"DUNE" WAS PRODUCED by his daughter, Raffaella; features his wife, Silvana Mangano; and is dedicated to his son, Federico. All the family DeLaurentis efforts and all that money don't show as well as it might. "Dune" is not a bad space opera but it is not the richly rewarding film experience widely expected.

The plot is well-known to aficionados of Frank Herbert's 1965 best-selling novel. The film version is flawed by its assumption that all viewers have read the book. That not being the case, the story is difficult to follow, at least for the first hour ("Dune" runs 140 minutes), in spite of a concise, opening summary.

The complicated story involves the houses of Atreides and Harkonnen in their struggle to control the planet Arrakis where the spice, melange, is mined. Giant worms make mining difficult but melange is needed by the Spacing Guild Navigators to fold time and space. The navigators look a little wormy themselves, although they're closer to giant embryos.

Meanwhile, the Emperor (Jose Ferrar) and the Bene Gesserit Sisterhood, led by the Rev. Mother Ramallo (Silvana Mangano), maneuver for power. The sisterhood has been breeding selectively for 90 generations to produce a hero to cleanse the universe.

PAUL (KYLE MAC LACHAN), son of the Duke of Atreides (Jurgen Prochnow), bears his messianic burden well, looking only mildly dyspeptic as he rides a giant worm into battle. He should be happy worm-riding is so easy.

Rather than projecting the uplifting spirit of redemption, "Dune" is mired in conventional space opera with a medieval quality reminiscent of warrior-bishops riding off to the Crusades.

The film simply is not visually imaginative. Its medieval motif relies on dark and dank castles and heavy weapons. "Dune" evokes images from "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court" and the technology a 19th-century mechanic might "invent" were he flung back 10 centuries.

Much of the combat is phony; Paul and his allies, the Fremen, easily ride the suddenly docile giant worms into battle. Battles consume much of the film's 140 minutes, scenes so dimly lit it's difficult to tell the good guys from the bad as myriads of dark figures disappear in repetitious electronic flashes. When the worm-like embryos who navigate space are zapped, they aren't very spectacular in their visual pulsations either.

Good worms and bad worms notwithstanding, "Dune" does flow along fairly well to a rather simple-minded conclusion, albeit a positive one.

In this visually sophisticated day and age, however, producers who spend 40 or 50 million bucks on a film ought to be able to deliver a more imaginative product.

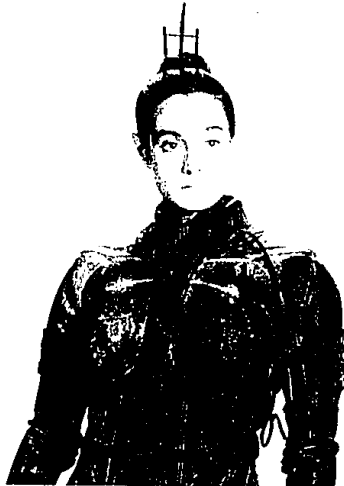


the movies

Dan Greenberg



Kyle MacLachlan is Paul Atreides in "Dune," film version of the science-fiction classic.



Sean Young is the Fremen named Chani, whom Atreides loves.

O&E sports...
your guide to local scores

Introducing **Chicklets**
FOOD & DRINK

A NEW FAMILY DINING EXPERIENCE

4305 Orchard Lake Road
(Just South of Pioneer Trail)
Located in The Park Lake Mall
851-2770

Daily Lunch Special
1/2 Steak & 1/2 Cup of Soup \$2.99
Hamburger Delite \$2.99

BANQUET FACILITIES
Available for all occasions
Fri., Sat. & Sun. 12:00-5:00 pm
Mon. thru Thurs. 11:00 am-1:00 pm

Dec.-Jan. Dinner Special
1/2 Slab of Ribs \$16.99

Open Sundays 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM
Serving Breakfast Bar 'till 2:00 pm, Adults \$1.99, Children under 12 \$1.99

Happy Hour Mon.-Thurs. 2-6:30
Dining Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 11-11, Fri. & Sat. 11-12, Sun. 4-9

VOTED
DETROIT'S #1
SUNDAY BRUNCH*



*Metropolitan Detroit Magazine Reader's Poll
November '84 issue

And only \$7.75 Children 7 and under \$4.95
Served from 10 to 2 p.m.

Kingsley Inn

1475 N. WOODWARD
Just S. of Long Lake Road • Bloomfield Hills • 642-0100

Rip's Two for One
Lunch & Dinner
Specials

Monday-Saturday 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
With this Coupon, Expires December 24

Extended Cocktail Hours

Monday & Tuesday 4 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Wednesday Night - Ladies Night - Special Prices
Entertainment Wednesday - Saturday Evenings
Saturday - Happy Hour All Day Drinks Specials

998 W. Huron • One Block West of Telegraph • Pontiac

JOIN US AT THE
ROMAN TERRACE
FOR
NEW YEAR'S EVE

3 WAYS TO ENJOY THE HOLIDAY

5:30..... 10% SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNT

7:30..... PRE-PARTY DINNER

10:00..... DINNER, PARTY & DANCING

(10:00 SEATING INCLUDES PARTY FAVORS AND 1/2 BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE PER COUPLE)

\$10 PER PERSON DEPOSIT IN ADVANCE REQUIRED
ROMAN TERRACE - NE. CORNER OF 12 MI & ORCHARD LK.
FARMINGTON HILLS MI
851-4094

PRESENTING

McFROCK'S
4th ANNUAL

NEW YEAR'S EVE

\$1.00 DONATION AT DOOR
PRIZES, SURPRISES

#1 DRAWING FOR ROUND TRIP AIR TICKETS FOR 2 TO FLORIDA

PARTY FAVORS & GOODIES

DISC. JOCKEY & DANCING

6:00 P.M. - 4:00 A.M.

HELP ATTEND THE BIRTH OF

CASUAL, COME AS YOU ARE

1985

NE. CORNER OF 12 MI. & ORCHARD LK. RD. FARMINGTON HILLS
855-3860 6 PM - 4 AM

JOIN SANTA FOR
CHRISTMAS BRUNCH
(HO, HO, HO!)
(Tuesday, December 25th)



Free picture taken with Santa for children under 4. We'll be serving up smiles with our extravagant Holiday Buffet in a winter wonderland setting. From 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

MENU
Watercress Soup, Waldorf Salad, Fresh Fruit, Mandarin Orange Salad, Shrimp & Herb Rice Salad, Oriental Tea Pad, Tuna, Marinated Tomato and Onion, Dill Assorted Cookies, Brownies, Pudding and Custards, Tiramisu, Cakes & Hot Crumbly Cakes, Egg Nog, AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!
Cucumber, Mushroom and Water Chest Salad, Tossed Salad with all the fixings, Au Jus and Cherry Sauce, Baron of Beef, and Honey Glazed Ham, Carved by the Chef, Roast Duckling, Breast of Chicken in Champagne Sauce, Herb Rice, Rigatoni and Provolone Cheese, Seafood Mornay, Broccoli, Palatine, Belgium Carrots
Danish, Bagels & Cream Cheese, Mueslis, Truffles.

Adults \$9.95 Children \$6.50 (under 12)

Northfield Hilton
5500 Crooks Rd. at I-75 (313) 879-2100

Give Yourself A Holiday Package

The Present
You Deserve
Right Now

Revive your holiday spirit with our Holiday Weekend for Two. Includes room, welcome package of snacks and beverage, \$25 dinner, cortisole, use of all Bay Valley Resort facilities including indoor pool, spa and exercise room. Shop nearby. Available Fri., Nov. 16 to Sun., Dec. 30. Reservations required. Taxes and gratuities not included.

Two Nights for Two, \$110.00
For reservations or more information
Call: Toll free in Michigan
1-800-292-5028
In Detroit call 313-963-3242



Bay Valley
Hotel & Resort

175 at M-84 • Bay City MI 48706 • (517) 696-3333