

Winefest celebrates season



"Turtle Diary" stars Glenda Jackson as Neera Duncan, author of children's books, who needs a new outlook on life. Costar is Ben Kingsley as a bookstore clerk who becomes her partner in a plan to return turtles from the local aquarium to their home in the sea.

the movies

Dan Greenberg

Turtles are freed and so are helpers in 'Turtle Diary'

"Turtle Diary" (PG) is a very British movie that leaves one with a good feeling about life and living. It's a story for optimists," as playwright-scenarist Harold Pinter describes his adaptation of Russell Hoban's best-selling novel.

Although the film's dramatic structure is flawed, something unexpected in British films, those flaws don't really matter because of the experiences of life, suffered and enjoyed, through which everyone in "Turtle Diary" passes. They are experiences which enrich.

Neera Duncan, portrayed by two-time Oscar-winner Glenda Jackson ("Women in Love" in 1970 and "A Touch of Class" in 1973), writes and illustrates children's books about animals. Her current project is about a water beetle but her creativity is on the downswing.

William Snow (Ben Kingsley who received an Oscar for his "Chariot" is divorced and has more or less dropped out of things. He works as a clerk in a bookstore and lives in a rooming house peopled by an odd collection of characters: a friendly landlady, Mrs. Inchelliff (Rosemary Leach), the lonely Miss Neap (Eleanor Bron), and the quintessential slob, Sander (Jeroen Krabbe).

BOTH SNOW AND DUNCAN are at odds with themselves and their environments. She has a writer's block, he is emotionally detached from life with only Sander's mess in the kitchen and bathroom to keep his juices flowing. Both Snow and Duncan are attracted to the giant sea turtles at the local aquarium.

First, as an expression of sympathy for the imprisoned turtles, and then as personal statements to free themselves and to revitalize their own personalities, Snow and Duncan decide to steal the turtles, drive them 250 miles to Devon and release them so that the turtles may swim "home" to their native, subtropical habitat.

With the cooperation of a sympathetic aquarium keeper, George Fairbairn (Michael Gambon), who also believes the turtles should be released, Snow and Duncan successfully return the turtles to the sea.

Their long drive to Devon avoids the typical involvements one might expect from such turtle-napping and elixir in their joyous release of the turtles — and a lot of their own problems as well.

WHILE THIS might not seem too promising, the film is so good-spirited that "Turtle Diary" works very well as a strong affirmation of the human spirit and of an honest attitude toward life and all its joys and vicissitudes. All the minor plot complications, seemingly unrelated, and the great ease with which they steal the turtles, have a kind of off-hand quality just like life.

Peter Hannan's cinematography adds immeasurably to the film's impact. Whether in the aquarium's tanks or swimming freely in the ocean, the giant sea turtles are filmed with great clarity, in extreme close-ups and in the middle distances as they swim their seemingly choreographed patterns.

The wry British realism of Jackson and Kingsley, as well as the entire cast, has just the right touch for this statement about life and its best potentialities.

As well as celebrating life and freedom, the portraits drawn by the cast are fun to view. The naturalism of their performances reinforces the idea that this is the way life is.

JUST AS "Turtle Diary" is well worth your time and effort in getting to the movies, "Rad" (PG) is well worth avoiding. In fact, "Rad" is so infantile that even 8-year-olds doing "wheelies" on their BMX bicycles will question this weak excuse for a film.

Cru Jones (Bill Allen) hardly looks like Mrs. Jones' (Talia Shire) high-school-age son, unless he repeated third grade four times. He's the local hero who hits the headlines when the town's heavy promoters Duke Best (Jack Weston) and Burton Timmer (Ray Walston) bring nationally renowned BMW bikers to town for the big race.

Cru Jones and one of the factory reps, Christian (Lori Loughlin), dance on bicycles in the school gym. Need I say more? The "dance" has Freudian overtones, but the film is toneless, tasteless, colorless and deadly.

"STEVIE'S LIGHT BULB," a short feature film (76 minutes), written and produced locally by Drs. Sara Dubo, Francis Pasley and Ralph Robinson, is gaining national attention.

Awarded a Blue Ribbon at the 1984 American Film Festival and Best-of-Festival at the 1984 American Art Therapy Association Film Festival, "Stevie's Light Bulb" discovers the fantasy life of children, with words and pictures.

The film will be screened at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at Hawthorn Center in Northville under the auspices of the Michigan Association for Emotionally Disturbed Children. There is no admission charge.

"Tis the season to be jolly." No, you haven't slept through the seasons. This is a different kind of "jolly."

Last column reported and promoted the Tuesday, April 15, extravaganza at the Novi Hilton with the Sonoma County Winegrowers Association. Now announcement comes of the fourth annual Ann Arbor Winefest, an event designed to support the community arts programs of the Ann Arbor Art Association.

This is to be held just three days following the bash in Novi. It will be quite a week. In addition, in a more vicarious manner, wine enthusiasts may participate in bidding for wines through the annual Channel 56 Benefit Auction to support public television in our area, a most needed and worthy event. The wine-bidding night of the auction runs during the evening of the 18th (also) and is a subset of the Friday, April 11, to Saturday, April 19, auction.

Several locally prominent wine people will serve as hosts and auctioneers that evening. Judging by the past, there will be most meritorious lots of wines on which one may bid. Local wine people and members of the wine community at large are being asked to contribute from their cellars, the minimum contribution being \$50. Local wine outlets may have information about participation, or those interested in volunteering may call Channel 56 at 873-7200.

BUT NOW, back to little old Ann Arbor town.

The winefest will be held at the Ann Arbor Inn, 100 S. Fourth. At 7 p.m. there will be a silent auction covering some 40 lots. At 8 p.m. the real business gets going with more than 120 lots being offered in traditional auction format. Wines will include recent vintages as well as rarities from private collections, the lots ranging in size between single bottles to case lots. Again this year, there will be some large bottles, always popular in events of this kind.

Honorary chairman is John Wright, president of Domaine Chandon. A great deal of his sparkling wine will be poured during the evening of the delight (and uninhibited) of the guests, you may be very sure.

Other wines will be available as well. A special Italian dinner, some rare wine books from the Longone collection, overnight lodging at Sterling Vineyards followed by a luncheon at Domaine Chandon and a dinner for eight at the Escoffier in Ann Arbor also are to be had for the best price.

The entry cost? A modest \$25 per person, but that includes both wine and the food for the evening described as "a sumptuous buffet served by local restaurants." The food, prepared and contributed by 80 restaurants, will be offered in two stages (before and following the auction).

Perhaps taking a room at the Ann Arbor Inn for the night would not be a bad idea. One could watch the last part of the Channel 56 Auction before falling off (down?).

All of this effort in Ann Arbor — and it is a huge enterprise requiring the donated time and energy of many, many people — goes to benefit local art programs sponsored by the Ann Arbor Art Association. These include a program for eco-



wine
Richard Watson

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nomically disadvantaged children (Art Start), scholarships, merit awards and outreach programs to special audiences.

association at 694-8004. Some choruses of "The Victors" probably will be sung during the evening and, throughout, a jazz band will play.

For further information, call the



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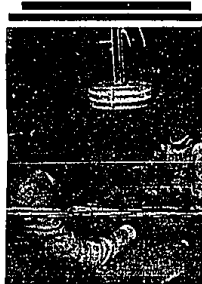
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Timothy Hastings of W. Bloomfield, Michigan will be our featured artist at the 1986 festival. His original painting "Spring Break" will be published as our second limited edition show print... sold only at the 1986 festival!

Michigan Wildlife Art Festival

SOUTHFIELD CIVIC CENTER SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN

APRIL 11-13, 1986

Friday 11am to 10pm Saturday 9am to 9pm Sunday 10am to 6pm

Come to Michigan's most exciting and complete Wildlife Art Show & Sale... displaying over 1,000 original & limited edition prints, carvings, nature photography, bronzes and wildlife art gifts... all on sale. Meet nationally renowned artists and participate in the Festival's many special events.

Show hours: Friday April 11... 11 am to 10 pm
Saturday April 12... 9 am to 9 pm
Sunday April 13... 10 am to 6 pm

Admission charge: \$5.00 daily
\$4.00 weekend pass
\$2.00 children under 12

Demonstrations Schedule Fee— \$2 per session

Friday 1:30 Airbrush	Saturday 1:30 Watercolors
3:30 Decoy Carving	3:30 Decoy Carving
6:30 Photography	6:30 Photography

Schedule of Events

Thursday, April 10 "Preview" Sponsors Only
Friday, April 11 11 am to 10 pm
Silent auction open to public
Decoy painting contest begins
Wildlife art demonstration begins
Saturday, April 12 9 am to 9 pm
Silent auction continues
Decoy painting contest continues
Wildlife art demonstrations begin
Sunday, April 13 10 am to 6 pm
Decoy painting contest ends— auction of decoys begins
4 pm Silent auction ends— presentation of paintings to highest bidder

For information call 617-688-3650 or 615-380-8356
Michigan Wildlife Habitat Foundation