



Prince makes his directorial debut and stars as an American pianist working on the French Riviera in "Under the Cherry Moon," a summer release from Warner Bros.

### the movies

Dan Greenberg

## Summer releases are being touted in movie trailers

If you've been to the movies lately, you've seen the seemingly endless trailers announcing this summer's crop of films.

As expected, there's more than a fair share of blood, gore and perversion, with "Poltergeist II," "Eight Million Ways to Die" and "Let's Get Harry" leading the way.

Approes of last week's discussion of sexuality in the media, Tri-Star Pictures announced that it was changing the title of "Sexual Fervor" in Chicago to "About Last Night."

The film is based on... Pulitzer-Prize-winning playwright David Mamet's Oble Award-winning play, "Sexual Perversity in Chicago," and stars Rob Lowe, Demi Moore, Jim Belushi and Elizabeth Perkins.

Quoting again from Tri-Star's release, "It is a funny and often poignant look at two people who try to build a relationship out of a one-night stand and the pressures exerted on them by their two best friends."

**THE TITLE CHANGE** was motivated by advertising considerations as some newspapers would only accept copy for their X-rated film section while broadcast media indicated they would not run material for that title before 11 p.m.

The 2 1/2 page Tri-Star release is an interesting trip down a thin line. Obviously the producers were disappointed in losing the potential box-office draw of that suggestive title. Less obviously, they do not realize (or don't want to believe) that an acceptable title for a book or play becomes provocative in the broader venues of film and television.

Having neither read the book nor seen the film, I can make no judgments. The movie may very well deal with the issues of commitment and responsibility. But what is interesting is the hypocritical attitude implicit in playing both sides of the street.

"Frankly, I'm appalled by the advertising media's power to influence this kind of decision—especially in the case of an award-winning play." That from the film's director, Ed Zwick. Apparently responsibility is for the other guy while First Amendment and property rights are extended to all who agree with you.

**ONE OF THE** summer films that arrived early is the Danny DeVito-Joe Piscopo vehicle, "Wise Guys." It's OK for an idle summer day, if you're nothing better to do, but on the whole its too unreasonably plot overwheals two very funny guys—and that's a shame.

DeVito and Piscopo play lower-echelon hoodlums, an Italian and a Jew, who are great buddies but jumbling idiots entrusted with getting Mr. Big's laundry and groceries. They live next door to one another in one of Newark's less pleasant neighborhoods. Piscopo is the Jewish hoodlum, Moe DiKlestein, whose name gives rise to interminable and not very funny obscenities. Those who giggle at bathroom jokes will probably enjoy.

To the film's credit, the potential of this situation—the heroes bumble through to culinary victory. Piscopo is sent to the track to bet 10 grand on a longshot for Mr. Big. Since the last three times Mr. Big has backed a loser, DeVito convinces Piscopo to bet on a "sure thing." Naturally, the longshot wins.

The potential of this plot generally gets lost in major build-ups to mundane punchlines. The possibility of a rather long conference between our heroes in the racetrack bathroom (two in a stall, anyone?) are lost in a low-key, pulled punchline that is mildly scatological.

And so it goes until the highly artificial, contrived ending. Judeo-Italian cuisine may win but the movie audience loses.

**ALLY SHEEDY** was working in a lot lately and "Short Circuit," her latest, which opens Friday, May 9, looks interesting. It co-stars Steve Guttenberg in a fantasy about a sophisticated robot with hundreds of features, including nuclear capability. When the robot decides he's human and goes in hiding, military scientists and security agents mount the chase.

There's a great potential here, reminiscent of Karel Capek's play "R.U.R.," of a half-century ago. Of course, it may degenerate into simple-minded silliness. Next week will tell.

Shedy is also starring in "Blue City," which sounds like a rather old-hat story about a young man, Judd Nelson, who comes home to find his father, the mayor, murdered and thugs in control of the town. The true test of this film, as with most others, is not the story but how it's told. Time will tell.

**NEXT WEEK** also promises an interesting event when Alan Alda arrives in town and gets to work screening of his latest film, "Sweet Liberty."

Imagine a historian whose book is to be filmed. The film company arrives in town and gets to work. The comic potential there, particularly for someone with Alda's track record, is pretty high. Alda wrote and directed "Sweet Liberty," which also stars Michael Caine and Michelle Pfeiffer.

For all you film fans, the coming weeks will provide plenty of new viewing opportunities so keep your eyeballs polished for the latest releases.

**Kurt Russell** as Jack Burton, along with his friends, confronts danger in "Big Trouble in Little China," coming in July from 20th-Century Fox.

# Here's a quiz on wine trivia

Time to again test your knowledge about wine. In the absence of any common theme among the questions we will just call this a study in trivia. Answers are below.

- 1) What do these names all have in common: Jeroboam, rebobon, salmanazar and balhazzer?  
a) all are Biblical names  
b) all are bottle sizes  
c) all are hard to spell  
d) all of these
- 2) Which term does not belong with the others?  
a) Las-Cases  
b) Poyferre  
c) Baron  
d) Barton
- 3) The descriptors "crisp," "tight," "dry" and "clean" would all most usually be associated with which?  
a) your dental hygienist  
b) a Macon chardonnay  
c) a California chardonnay  
d) a White Burgundy
- 4) The term "disappate" is usually associated with which?
- 5) What do these wineries all have in common? Oberhelman, Cyprus Valley, Chateau Montgolfier and Ste. Genevieve  
a) all are bonded wineries in Texas  
b) all make fruit wines  
c) all make wines from the Pinot Blanc grape as a varietal  
d) all are secretly owned by Richard Nixon
- 6) What do the numerals 152, 29, 99 and 22 have in common?
- 7) In the world of wines, what does the term "Ah-So" reference?  
a) a cork puller  
b) the responses of a satisfied wine drinker  
c) the houseboy on Falconcrest  
d) the metal clasp that holds in the cork in a champagne
- 8) If you were touring the wine region of the Marches by automobile, what kind of car would you be most apt to be driving?  
a) Fiat  
b) Volkswagen  
c) Peugeot  
d) Oldsmobile
- 9) Three of these are legitimate "valley" wine-growing regions in California. Which one is not?  
a) Anderson Valley  
b) Alexander Valley  
c) Santa Cruz Valley  
d) Shenandoah Valley
- 10) Only one California winery annually makes a varietal issue from the great wine grape, the Folle Blanche. In turn, it is regularly available at only one Detroit-area restaurant. What are the first names of the founder of that winery and of the present owner of that restaurant?  
a) Irving and Charles  
b) Louis and Joseph  
c) Peter and James  
d) Martin and Luther
- 11) What is Michigan's least-known wine-growing region (and there are good reasons for it)?  
a) Berrien County  
b) the Leelanau Peninsula  
c) Zug Island  
d) Kalkaska Mountain
- 12) Some wines seem to blend together extremely well, others not so. From the pairings below, which is the least likely combination?  
a) Petit Verdot-Malbec  
b) Semillon-Sauvignon Blanc  
c) Pinot Noir-Pinot Blanc  
d) Shiraz-Gamay



wine  
**Richard Watson**

And I don't know many of your friends. Wine disappate only mildly. As described above, not as the only one of the three usual. But mine isn't (except clean), a flat of wine road state highways, the first two in California, then Oregon. Only last known on Kalkaska Mountain. Estimate Zug Island is the only one of the three usual. 10) Louis Martin and Joseph. 11) There is no viticultural valley in the Marches. Only a few vineyards, presumably drive a Fiat. 12) The first three combinations were a lot lately and "Short Circuit," her latest, which opens Friday, May 9, looks interesting. It co-stars Steve Guttenberg in a fantasy about a sophisticated robot with hundreds of features, including nuclear capability. When the robot decides he's human and goes in hiding, military scientists and security agents mount the chase.

## These are the answers to wine quiz

Here, in compressed narrative form, are the answers to the wine quiz above. Do not let your ultimate score on all this affect your self-judgment. These are indeed frivolous pieces of information, one even grossly inaccurate.

1) Jeroboam, rebobon, salmanazar and balhazzer are all bottle sizes. 2) Barton does not belong with the others. 3) The descriptors "crisp," "tight," "dry" and "clean" would all most usually be associated with which? a) your dental hygienist b) a Macon chardonnay c) a California chardonnay d) a White Burgundy

## Concert pairs with art show

A lunch hour filled with music and art is being offered at the Center for Creative Studies ArtVue Concerts in Detroit's Cultural Center.

## ON THE TOWN

### Players offer old mystery

Woods Players will present Agatha Christie's mystery, "The Unexpected Guest," at 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, May 16-17 and 23-24, at the new theater on Oakland Community College's Detroit Campus.

The free concerts will be from noon to 1 p.m. on the lawn. Concertgoers may bring their own lunch. Concert attendance may be combined with a visit to the annual Student Exhibition at the center's College of Art and Design.

### Fort celebrates 'Civil War Days'

Historic Fort Wayne, Detroit's original Civil War site, will host hundreds of authentically uniformed troops from midwestern Civil War reenactment regiments from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, May 3-4.

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