



F. Murray Abraham is Bernardo Gui, the Inquisitor, in "The Name of the Rose" co-starring Sean Connery. Adapted from the International bost-seller, the film concerns doath and intrigue in a 14th-century cloister.

## 'Name of the Rose' is enthralling film

A fine movie, with some disquiet-ing elements, is Sean Connery's lat-est. The Name of the Rose' (R). It is beautifully photographed, well-acted and directed, and imbued with the essence of 14th-century medleval Europe.

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As the Catholic Church debated the issues of poverty and pagan learning, the Reformation began and William of Baskerville (Connery) arrives at a Northern Italian Monastery, which is to be the site of a disputation between his order and the Papal Legates. With him is his novice, Adso of Melk (Christian Siater).

One of the movie's greatest attractions is the medleval vistas filmed at Kloster Ederbach, an abbey in Frankfort, West Germany, which has remained unchanged for more than 800 years. Director Jean-Jaques Annaud spent three years searching for this settling for Umberto Eco's international best-setling novel.

The issues of clerical powerty and pagan learning in the early Reformation may not seem the most promising setting for a murder mystery, but Connery's William is a very logical and learned gentleman. He sets out to use his intellect to solve the murder of several monks whose untimely demise clouds the sotting of this important ecclesiastical debate.

THE FILM PROJECTS as well as

of this important ecclesisatical of-bate.

THE FILM PROJECTS, as well as I can imagine, the vistas, attitudes and essences of 14th-century Europa at the dawn of modern times. It is questionable, however, if contemporary audiences will understand the passions aroused in the 14th-century over Aristotic's writings.

While "The Name of the Rose" could have done a better job explaining those issues, it couldn't have done much better as a murder mystery imbued with the dark passions of a long-lost era. Well worth your viewing time.

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### upcoming things to do

### • 'ALONE TOGETHER'

• 'ALONE TOGETHER'
Avon Players community theater
group will present 'Alone Together,'
a comedy by Lawrence Romen, at
the Avon Playhouse in Rochester
Hills. Performances are Friday-Sunday, Nov. 7-9; Friday-Sunday, Nov.
14-16, and Friday-Satuday, Nov.
21-2. Curtain time 18 9 pm. FridaySaturday, 7:30 pm. Sunday, Tilckets
are \$6 for all performances. For
more information, call 739-4600.

e IOWA ROSE
Folktown Coffeehouse will present
the Michigan band Iowa Rose at 8
p.m. Saturday, Nov. 8, at the Southfield Clvic Center. Iowa Rose originated as a folk-bluegrast band, but
also plays classic country. Western
swing, calpin and old timey. It also
plays original music. Admission is
37. For further information, call 8559848 from 8-50 m.

● SUNDAY CONCERTS
Madeat Roth, harmonica virtuoso,
is the attraction for a concert from
2-4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 9, at Center
Court at Somerset Mail in Troy.
Other artists in the free Sunday series include the Ink Spots, in shows
at 1 and 3 p.m., Nov. 18; Marvin
Kahn, jazz trio, 2-4 p.m. Nov. 23; and
Silas Walker, piano stylist, 1:30-3
p.m. Nov. 30.

● CABARET-STYLE

Phil Marcus Esser, who opened at the Red Cedars on Aug. 1 for a seven-week stay, has returned to the restuarant in Southfeld. Esser is doing a nightclub cabaret-type show, performing many old favorites from his hit shows. Showtime is 3:20 and 10:30 p.m. and midnight Wednesdays-Saturdays through Dec. 20. Shows are in the main-floor dining room, upstains from the new comedy room, the Comedy Crossing.

\*\*DIFFERENT ROLE
Radio comedian Joe Nipote will
have a change of pace, portraying
the villainous Antonio Salieri in the
Oakland University Center for the
Arts production of "Amadeus" weekends from Nov. 7-23 at Varner Hall
at Oakland University in Rochester
Hills. Tom. Zizka stars in the lead
role of Mozart. Curtain time is 8
p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, Nov. 7-8,
14-15 and 21-22, and 2 p.m. Sundays,
Nov. 9, 16 and 25. Tickets are 37 general admission, 35 for Oil Sudonis
and senior cilizens. For reservations,
and 370-0313 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
weekdays.

# Storyline offends in silly 'Soul Man'

"Soul Man" (PG-13) takes a clever idea and turns it into a slow-moving, uncomfortable film that should of-fend blacks, whites, bigots, liberals, lawyers and everyone connected with Harvard University, particular-

with Harvard University, particularly its Law School.

Harvard folks who subscribe to the PR dictum. "As long as they spell the Pamer of the PR dictum." As long as they spell the Pamer of the PR dictum. "As long as they spell the Pamer of the PR dictum." As long as they spell the Pamer of the PR dictum. The Pamer of the Pamer of

THAT'S PRETTY tenuous and typical of the film's weak structure. While there's nothing wrong with that motivation — it has realistic potential — it is so slowly paced that the farce falls flat. Heistant drama that leaves too much time to contemplate logical gaps is generally unsatisfying.

Mark is not to be denied by his fa-ther's weird therapist, and he raises tuition money via the scholarship route. The kicker is that the Bouc-hard Scholarship is for black stu-dents. Using friend Seth's (John Da-vid Bland) experimental tanning pills, Mark crosses the color line — in an unusual direction.

Sorry, but you guys in makeup should know that dark pancake and an Afro halrpiece don't make Cauca-sians black.

Complications move in with Mark and Gordon, as their bigoted Cam-bridge landlord, Mr. Dunbar (Leslie Nielson), tries to evict them and sep-arate his daughter, Whitney (Melora Hardin), from Mark.

Whitney is obsessed with minority sex-partners. It is unclear whether this habit is to punish her father or to fulfill sociology and political-sel-ence-course prerequisites.

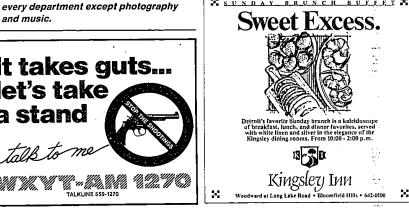
THE POTENTIAL for fast-paced fareleal commentary on American race relations is lost, with poor execution in every department except photography (Jeffrey Jur) and music (Tom Scott). Everything else is so dragged out and Ill-advised that the film is a minor disaster.

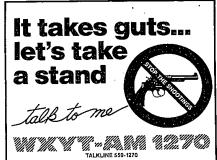
One major reason is the lack of clear direction. Is this a serious drama or a farce? Is James Earl Jones' Professor Banks a tough, no-non-sense personality teaching criminal-law students harsh legal realities or is he a ponderous buffoon?

C. Thomas Howell is Mark Watson, who pretends he is black in order to qualify for a scholarship to Harvard Law School in the comedy "Soul Man," with Rae Dawn Chong as Sarah Walker.

The film is cloudy on that and meanders aimlessly, except when it gets so obvious that it bores and embarrasses. When Mark is arrested by an overly suspicious white police ana, the film turns a comic misunderstanding into a sad and serious







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