

## Louise Okrutsky

# Movies to watch as year changes

Whether you're going to ring in the new year watching television, or just turn on the tube to recuperate from the celebration, there are a few movies worth seeing that won't require the kind of intense concentration so difficult for almost any sane person over 25 to sustain after a late night.

For those who insist that this year they're staying home but don't feel duty-bound to watch the lighted ball fall and rise in Times Square, there are a few movies available on the tube. Probably the best of the holiday movies to take you right through the new year is "One Magic Christmas" at 9 p.m. and 3 a.m. Wednesday-Thursday, Dec. 31/Jan. 1 on the Disney Channel.

You say you can't stand the thought of yet another movie about this holiday? Tune in at least to see Harry Dean Stanton turn in a very nice performance as an angel who helps a young mother, Mary Steenburgen, recapture her ability to believe in goodness. Stanton's angel was a 19th century cowboy who died trying to save a boy from drowning. He shows up in a long overcoat and a cowboy hat, looking like he'd be more at home in a frontier saloon instead of the heavenly choir. He's a laconic sort, a low-key angel on a mission from you-know-who.

Steenburgen, as the young woman worn out from caring for her family and worrying about its finances, doesn't convey a Scrooge-like meanness. Tired of fighting, she's down and out and just hoping for the count. Just as in her performance in "Cross Creek," she makes you care what happens to her character.

IF YOU'D RATHER laugh than get all teary-eyed, wait until 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 1, New Year's Day, when HBO shows "Jewel of the Nile," the 1985 sequel to the successful "Romancing the Stone." As a spoof of the adventure genre, the genre "Romancing" is a funny, on-

target romp. "Jewel" tackles the absurdities of the same type of tale, only this time we've seen it all before.

Kathleen Turner and Michael Douglas return in the lead roles as the romance novelist and adventurer who try to discover what happens after the first glow of romance fizzles. Danny DeVito, back as a sleazy, chortling bad guy, makes this Jewel sparkle. He's funny when the movie lags but don't expect this one to be as delightfully funny as the first. Not a bad way to wile away a few hours. It's shown on all the premium channels this month.

ON THE OTHER hand, don't miss "Brief Encounter" if you haven't seen this 1946 story of two married lovers who manage to conduct an affair on a few furtive afternoons. It's featured at 2 p.m., Jan. 1 on Showtime and repeated throughout the month. Directed by David Lean and written by Noel Coward, the film stars Celia Johnson and Trevor Howard. They're neither a young nor glamorous pair of lovers; they're a sympathetic middle-aged couple. Underexplored the doomed-from-the-beginning relationship is the music of Rachmaninoff. If you love "Masterpiece Theater," chances are you'll enjoy this one.

"Lost Horizon," based on a novel by James Hilton, proved to be an absolutely horrible 1970s musical. The 1937 version with Ronald Coleman and Jane Wyatt made for a fine film. Directed in the Himalayas, the survivors of a plane crash are rescued by a lost mystic civilization whose members live forever. Coleman ponders the meaning of life a lot, not a wholly inappropriate theme.

Joining the trend of showing restored versions of movies, Cinemax includes footage cut after this film's original release, directed by Frank Capra. Throw a bag of popcorn in the microwave, sit back and enjoy this one.

## upcoming things to do

### • 'ROSE TATTOO'

Tennessee Williams' Pulitzer-Prize-winning comedy "The Rose Tattoo" opens at 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 1, for a four-week run at Meadow Brook Theatre on the Oakland University campus in Rochester Hills. Jayne Houdyshell and Henry J. Jordan play the lead roles of a voluble seamstress and a clownish truck driver. For tickets, call the box office, 377-3300.

### • NIGHT OUT

Bugs Beddow, trombonist, flutist and band leader, will perform with his band throughout the evening at the Bates Street Night Out monthly gathering from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at the Community House in Birmingham. There will be dancing, and carriage rides (weather permitting). Tickets are \$5 per person. Wine, beer and liquor are available as well as simple snack food. Tickets at \$5 per person may be reserved by calling Joanne Heimstadt at the Community House, 644-5832. Tickets also will be available at the door.

### • MAGIC SHOW

Matt Jacobson, who is billed as the nation's youngest professional magician, will perform from 1-2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, at the Community House in Birmingham. Tickets at \$3 are available at the Program Department of the Community House. For more information, call 644-5832.

### • LASER SHOW

"Ornaments," a laser/light concert, will be shown daily at 2:15 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, and weekends at 3:45 p.m. through Sunday, Jan. 4 at the planetarium of the Cranbrook Institute of Science in Bloomfield Hills. "I Robot," featuring music from the Alan Parsons Project, will continue to be shown at 7:30, 8:30 and 9:30 p.m. Fridays and 8:30 and 9:30 p.m. Saturdays. The holiday classic, "The Christmas Star," a planetarium demonstration, will be shown at 1:30 and 3 p.m. daily at 1:30, 2:15 and 3 p.m. Saturdays-Sundays, and at 7:30 p.m. Saturdays. Live performances of "Mr. Wizard's World," presented by John Love, will be given at 12:45 and 2:15 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, through Tuesday, Dec. 30. Laser fee is \$1.50 in addition to regular museum admission of \$3 for adults.

\$2 for students and senior citizens. Added planetarium show fee is 50 cents. "Mr. Wizard's World" presentations are included in regular museum admission. For more information, call 645-3230.

### • CONCERT BAND

The Detroit Concert Band, under the direction of Leonard B. Smith, will perform at 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 11, at Warner Recital Hall at Oakland University in Rochester Hills. Selections include Sousa's music composed for the great fairs and exhibitions of his time. Tickets are \$10 general admission and \$5 for OU students and senior citizens.

### • UNION STREET

Mary Gail and her band (John Dana on bass and Leonard King on drums) will perform Saturdays, Jan. 24 and 31, at Union Street in Detroit. hg30

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### • IN CONCERT

Rayya, vocalist-songwriter, will present a "performance art concept" at 10:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 30, at ISIS in Pontiac. Cover charge is \$5. For more information, call 332-5780.

### • JAZZ CLUB

A New Year's Eve Celebration with Koke McKesson and Eddie Russ will be held at the Bird of Paradise jazz club in Ann Arbor. Other entertainment in December includes Ramona Collins and Larry Fuller on Friday-Saturday, Dec. 26-27, and the Larry Fuller Trio on Sunday, Dec. 28. For more information, call 6762-8310.

### • CASTING CALL

Roseland Community Players will hold auditions for "Gingerbread Lady" at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7; 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9; and 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, at the Uptown in Detroit. The cast includes three men and three women. For more information, call 532-4010.

### • 'BLACK BOTTOM'

Ma Rainey's "Black Bottom," August Wilson's award-winning play with music, will open Friday, Jan. 9, at the Alt Theatre in Detroit. The production is dedicated to Sippy Wallace, blues singer who died in November. Performances run through Saturday, Feb. 8. Tickets are \$8 general admission, \$5 for students and seniors. For reservations and ticket information, call 875-8284.



Leonard B. Smith brings the Detroit Concert Band to Oakland University for a concert honoring John Philip Sousa at 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 11.

### • AUDITIONS OPEN

Shelby-Utica Workshop Theatre will hold open auditions for its production of Agatha Christie's "Mousetrap" at 7 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, Jan. 14-15, at Eppler Junior High School in Utica. For more information, call 739-0399.

### • PLAY PREMIERES

"Escape to Freedom" by Osie Davis, the story of young Frederick Douglass, will premiere Friday, Jan. 16, at the Detroit Center for the Performing Arts. Performances run through Saturday, Feb. 22. Tickets are \$8 general admission, \$5 for students and seniors. For more information, call 925-7138.

### • 'CHRISTMAS CAROL'

Its radio-dramatized version of "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens will be rebroadcast by WDET-FM (102.1) Public Radio at 1 p.m. Dec. 24, Christmas Eve. The dramatization catches the Dickens' flavor with the help of Livonia Sound, which created some ghostly effects in its studios.

### • NEW YEAR'S

Rumors of Westland will hold a New Year's Eve Party beginning at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31. Admission is \$6 per person in advance, \$8 at the door. The party, which runs till 4 a.m., includes a split of champagne, favors, munchies and continental breakfast at 2 a.m. For reservations, call 728-6740; for information, call the Holiday Hotline at 728-6400.

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### • FAMILY THEATER

Ann Arbor Goodtime Theater will present a live production of "Sleeping Beauty," at the Family Dinner Theater on Tuesday, Jan. 13, at the Maplewood Community Center in Garden City. Pizza and a drink will be served at 6 p.m., followed by the musical, a humorous version of the classic tale. The play is geared for children 4-12 and their families. Tickets are \$3.50, available in advance only. For more information, call 525-8846.

### • MURDER/MYSTERY

"Murder Takes the Stage" will be presented by the Plymouth Theatre Guild on Friday-Saturdays, Jan. 30-31 and Feb. 6-7, at Central Middle School in Plymouth. Bob Weibel will direct the murder mystery. Tickets at \$5 for adults, \$4 for students and seniors will be available at the door. For more information, call 451-0037.

**Fonte d'Amore**  
RESTAURANT  
30300 Plymouth Road  
LIVONIA  
422-0770  
CATERING FOR ALL SPECIAL OCCASIONS  
Make Your New Year's Eve Reservations  
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Expires December 29, 1986  
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SORRY NO DISCOUNTS APPLY  
DINNER FOR 2  
Choice of:  
Tenderloin Steak  
Breaded Boston Scrod  
Veal Parmesan  
Chicken Cacciatore  
All above include soup, tossed  
salad, bread-and-butter, fresh  
garlic sticks, potato or pasta  
**\$11.95**  
With Coupon Good thru December 30, 1986  
16385 Bloch Daily  
Just South of Grand River  
REDFORD  
537-0740  
27770 Plymouth  
1 1/2 miles W. of Water Rd.  
LIVONIA  
427-1000

## table talk

### Turkey takeout

Turkeys to go are being offered by the Troy Hilton Inn. The 10-12-pound roasted turkey, with dressing, mashed potatoes, country gravy, cranberry sauce and vegetable, is \$19.95. Orders must be placed and prepaid by Monday, Dec. 29, for New Year's Day.

### Special meals

Brunch with Santa is served each Sunday at the Troy Hilton, priced at \$12.95 for adults, \$11.95 for seniors and \$7.95 for children under 12. A Christmas Day Buffet will be available at the Haymarket restaurant, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$14.95 for adults, \$12.95 for seniors and \$8.95 for children under 12.

*On the Town*  
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GREAT FOOD - GREAT PRICES  
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ALL YOU CAN EAT  
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IF YOU HAVEN'T HAD  
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PRESENT THIS COUPON  
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NOT GOOD  
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DISCOUNTS  
OPEN  
NEW YEAR'S EVE  
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NEW YEAR'S DAY  
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Japanese Dinner 5-9:30  
Fri. & Sat. 10:30-11:30  
CLOSED MONDAY  
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**NEW YEARS EVE  
CELEBRATE  
IN  
STYLE**  
At The Farmington Hills  
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Wednesday December 31, 1986  
**\$185.00** Per  
Couple  
(Includes All Tax and Gratuities)  
**PACKAGE  
INCLUDES**  
• Deluxe Accommodations  
• Full Course Dinner  
• Open Bar 8:30 p.m. - 1:30 a.m.  
• Continuous Live Entertainment  
and Dancing  
• Champagne Toast at Midnight  
• Hat, Noisemakers, & Streamers  
• Early, Early Morning Continental  
Breakfast at 1:30 a.m.  
**RESERVATIONS  
REQUIRED**  
313 477-8800 EXT. 110  
Payment in Full Required by 12:15 p.m.  
Cancellation Deadline 12:15 p.m.  
**Holiday Inn**  
FARMINGTON HILLS  
38193 W. 10 Mile Road at Grand River  
Farmington Hills, MI 48024 (313) 477-4000

**Gala New Year's Eve Party**  
7:30 P.M. - 2:30 A.M.  
**The Karas House**  
23632 Plymouth Road  
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\$75 per Couple Includes:  
Champagne at Midnight, Hors d'Oeuvres & Dinner  
OVER 25 KINDS OF HOT & COLD HORS D'OEUVRES  
PATE & CHEESE TABLE  
DESSERT TABLE  
--- CARRYING AND SEATING TABLES ---  
Roasted Prime Rib, a Beef Loin, Fried & Mar. Shrimp, Scallops, Crab  
meat in new sauce, with French onion, Brie, Potato Gratin, Swiss  
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**OPEN BAR**  
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**\$19.87** per person total  
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