

# Commercial makes film look hotter than it is

In addition to showing nauseous and disgusting images, filmmakers seem to take great stock in boring their audiences.

TV spots for "Hot Pursuit" (PG-13) are attractive, but don't be fooled. They've packed all the film's excitement into one 60-second television commercial.

Dan Bartlett (John Cusack) tumbled through a predictable series of misadventures while trying to catch up with his girl, Lori Cronenberg (Wendy Gazelle), who is vacationing with her family in the Caribbean.

Bartlett teams up with an eccentric sea-captain, MacLaren (Robert Loggia), to destroy drug-running gangsters whose leader, Victor Honeywell (Jerry Stiller), has kidnapped Lori and her family.

**THERE'S VERY LITTLE** heat in the pursuit, which has two speeds, slow and stop. When the film fails to bore viewers with its tedious pace and childish predictability, it falls back on that old reliable technique: "Mix in everything."

The film has adolescent romance with intimations of steamy sexuality, drugs, kidnapping, murder, travel and romantic locales. Top it off with the old standard, a salty captain helping the young hero mature at sea while the storm batters their boat. That's "Hot Pursuit" — 90 minutes of dreary, childish clichés.

For more sophisticated doldrums, try "L'Anée Des Meduses" ("The Year of the Jellyfish" — unrated). For almost two hours the Jellyfish is becalmed on the Riviera while the 18-year-old Chris (Valérie Kaprisky) parades naked. Most of the other gals on the beach, in the beds and on the slick yachts also are naked, as are some of the guys, but that's not the problem. The problem is that Chris is mentally unbalanced. Apparently it all stems from the death of her dog, Howard.

This terrible trauma leads Chris down the road to degradation, depravity and other nasty things. She has a lesbian roommate, Tani (Hedwige Thabuis), at boarding school. Tani covers for Chris while she is getting pregnant by Vic (Jacques Perrin). That was in a

flashback and we're spared the agony of her abortion while her other depravities are paraded across the screen.

**CHRIS HAS** an affair with a German couple and the husband is so disgusted he leaves his wife, who

Chris panders to Vic's father. Meanwhile, Chris' mother is getting it on with Romain (Bernard Giraudeau), the local pimp, for whom Chris has the hots. She seems to be the only girl in the region that Romain disdains.

Now, the motivation for all this has to be more than the death of the

dog, Chris' father is a workaholic? Vic's wife is drowning in ennui?

So is the audience. What is truly remarkable about this film is that it packs so much activity into two well photographed hours that are so monotonous. Apparently the message of "Jellyfish" is that life is decadent, boring and tedious. So's the movie.



the movies

Dan Greenberg

If you're not snoring after hotly pursuing Jellyfish, try "Ishtar" (PG-13). Best of the three, it's still no bargain. This Elaine May film about a never-has-been songwriting team, Rogers and Clarke (Dustin Hoffman and Warren Beatty), falls pretty flat on its satiric face.

Surprisingly, Elaine May's talented sense of comedy is poorly realized in this elaborate film about two losers who find fame and fortune singing in a Moroccan nightclub, the Chez Casablanca. In their spare time they entangle themselves in Middle Eastern politics and an Arab revolution led by Isabel Adjani.

**"ISHTAR" IS GREATLY** faulted in structuring a comedy around the Middle East's tragic problems. That topic just is not funny, particularly the way it's handled. This inappropriate subject is compounded by a one-dimensional, stereotypical bad guy, the Emir, and his CIA supporter. There's plenty to satirize, but it takes more than foolish caricatures to make points about international coniving.

If the central motivation for the chase, the map, were more clearly drawn, the film would have been fleshed out. As presented, the situation is a weak, one-line signal for revolution. It's hard to believe the map stimulated any passion or violence. If the characters don't care, why should the audience?

None of this would matter if events were a simple backdrop for enlightened nonsense by Hoffman and Beatty. While there are occasional moments of hilarity, for the most part the comedy fails to strike a spark.

Lots of energy and personal charisma lead to "Ishtar's" downfall. The film may not be as dull as "Hot Pursuit" and "Jellyfish," but it's close behind.



Valerie Kaprisky is Chris, a sexually provocative 18-year-old summering in the south of France, in "L'Anée Des Meduses." The French film with English subtitles is unrated.



John Cusack is Dan Bartlett, a young student who follows his girlfriend to a Caribbean island and misadventure, in "Hot Pursuit." Also in the film are Wendy Gazelle, Robert Loggia, Monte Markham, Shelley Fabares and Jerry Stiller.

## table talk

### Chef's Fest

Eighteen restaurants, caterers and shops will participate in "Chef's Fest '87," from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Friday, May 22, at the Community House in Birmingham. The event is sponsored by the Birmingham-Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce. For tickets at \$10, phone the chamber 644-1700.

Participants include the four Machus restaurants and bakery, Ap-

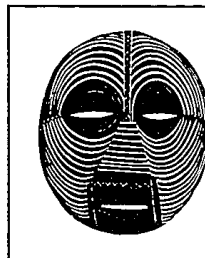
peteaser and Panache — both for the first time, Punchinello, Norman's Elton Street Station, 220 Merrill, Phoenixia, Alban's, Peabody's, Kingsley Inn, Richard and Reiss, Midtown Cafe, Bates Street Catering Company, Merchant of Vino and Monchelle Lamore.

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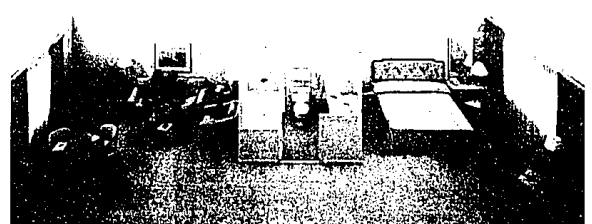
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Beginning with the May Super Lottery drawing, the Michigan Lottery will feature a Super Lottery drawing. The following information is about the drawing.

Q: What is this bonus drawing all about?

A: The May 1987 Super Lottery drawing will feature a bonus drawing. The bonus drawing will be held on May 19, 1987, at 10:00 p.m. at the Michigan Lottery headquarters in Lansing, Michigan.

Q: What can I win in this Super Lottery?

A: The Super Lottery drawing will feature a bonus drawing. The bonus drawing will be held on May 19, 1987, at 10:00 p.m. at the Michigan Lottery headquarters in Lansing, Michigan. The bonus drawing will feature a cash prize of \$1,000,000.

Q: What is the deadline for entries?

A: Entries must be received at the above address no later than 11:59 p.m. on May 18, 1987.

Q: Are there any restrictions for entries?

A: Yes. Because each subscription includes extra drawings without charge, Super Lottery subscriptions will not be entered in the drawing. Multiple subscriptions can be entered only after all drawings on the ticket have been conducted. All entries become the property of the Michigan Lottery and cannot be returned.

Q: How will the Super Lottery drawings work?

A: A series of random drawings will be conducted by a Lottery drawing machine from among all subscriptions. Six drawings will be drawn on July 15 and they will be notified by Lottery officials no later than July 15.

Q: What happens next?

A: The six winners will participate in a half-hour television special with one million new fans, for the \$100,000 prize as well as smaller cash prizes.

Q: When will that program be shown?

A: The program will air at 7:30 p.m. on August 1 on the statewide Lottery television network which regularly broadcasts the Lottery drawings.

Q: What television stations are part of the network?

A: WHTV-TV in Detroit, WOTV-TV in Grand Rapids, WLTX-TV in Lansing, Jackson, WJIM-TV in Saginaw, WLU-TV in South St. Mary, WWTW-TV in Calhoun, and WLTW-TV in Marquette and numerous cable outlets make up that network.

Q: What if I match three Super Lottery numbers after the daily deadline for entries?

A: Entries received after that date will be included in drawings for a second "Match 3 of 3" Super Lottery. Tentatively plans during the month of November as part of the Lottery's 15th anniversary celebration.

For submitting a question which led to this column, B. L. Lasker of Warren will receive \$100 for the Lottery's current instant game, "Winning Numbers."

If you have a question not yet covered in these monthly columns, send it to "Winners Circle," Michigan Lottery, P.O. Box 39077, Lansing, MI 48909.