

Martin, Candy are a hilarious duo

RECENT RELEASES:
Hollywood used up all its new product for the Thanksgiving weekend so now's the time to catch up on what's playing around town.

STILL PLAYING

"Baby Boom" (C-) (PG-13) 105 minutes

Diane Keaton stars in a yuppie comedy about a single business executive whose life is drastically changed by unexpected, unwanted arrival of a baby. Overly cute and very predictable with too few laughs and too many yawns. Reviewed by Kathy Guyor.

"Cinderella" (A+) (G) 74 minutes. All you mean stepmothers and jealous stepsisters watch out! Cinderella's Fairy Godmother is back in town with all of Disney's original crowd in this 1950 classic.

"Date with an Angel" (B) (PG) 100 minutes. Fanciful comedy about a nice guy (Michael E. Knight) trying to save an angel with a broken wing from greedy bad guys. Emmanuelle Beart is a perfect angel. Reviewed by Kathy Guyor.

"Dirty Dancing" (B-) (PG-13) 105 minutes. Well-done and entertaining show-biz cliché. Rich, idealistic young girl (Jennifer Grey) falls in love with working-class dance instructor (Patrick Swayze). Music, dance, and dialogue are good, but plot has more trite twists than Chubby Checker in the Peppermint Lounge.

"Dogs in Space" (D+) Unrated 105 minutes.

An offensive but well-produced look at drugs, punk rock and growing up in Melbourne, Australia, late '70s. Group of kids living together discover that the price of drug abuse, free-living and loving is very high. Heavy Australian accents don't help this sad, unconventional and disturbing movie. Reviewed by Kathy Guyor.

"Fatal Attraction" (A) (R) 110 minutes.

Michael Douglas as a family man whose one-night stand turns into a nightmare at the hands of a psychotic woman (Glenn Close) in this suspenseful thriller. Riveting performances and a strong story build to an explosive, nerve-shattering conclusion. Reviewed by Kathy Guyor.



Audiences will only laugh when Steve Martin and John Candy hurt in the hilarious comedy "Planes, Trains and Automobiles."

the movies Dan Greenberg

"Fatal Beauty" (C-) (R) 110 minutes.

Whoopi Goldberg as a narcotics cop in a slick convertible starts out fast and funny. Sam Elliott is a good adversary and eventually her boyfriend. The story delivers a strong message about drugs but ultimately a poor, unrealistic plot and an excess of violence make this an unpleasant experience. Reviewed by Kathy Guyor.

"Flowers in the Attic" (D+) (PG-13) 95 minutes.

When Dad dies, nasty mother (Victoria Tennant) imprisons children in attic of grandpa's mansion to get back into the will. Louise Fletcher is stiff and stilted as the repressed and repressive grandmother. The rest of the cast need acting lessons except for the two little kids (Ben Ganger and Lindsay Parker) who don't act, they just hang around looking cute. Unpleasant and not at all entertaining.

"Hello Again" (C-) (PG) 94 minutes.

Sister Zelda (Judith Long) magically recalls Lucy (Shelley Long) from the grave. Screenwriter Susan Isaacs should have been so lucky with her leaden script and performances to match. Only sister Zelda sparkles.

"The Hidden" (B-) (R) 98 minutes.

Cliche but well-told story of good aliens and bad aliens. Michael Nouri and Kyle MacLachlan are an OK cop-FBI agent team, but after a while the shootouts get dreary.

"Hiding Out" (A) (PG-13) 99 minutes.

Jon Cryer is excellent portraying 27-year-old stockbroker hiding out from the Mob by faking it as his cousin's (Keith Coogan) high-school classmate. Top comedy, suspense and romance as the second time through high school teaches him what's important in life.

"Hope and Glory" (A+) (PG-13) 110 minutes.

An absolutely charming and marvelous two hours of World War II in England through the eyes and from

the viewpoint of 6-year-old Bill (Sebastian Rice Edwards). Sarah Miles is his mother, and the rest of the cast, although locally unknown, are superb, in particular Ian Bannen as the crabby, cantankerous but loving grandfather. Don't miss it.

"Less Than Zero" (C-) (R). Andrew McCarthy, Jami Gertz and Robert Downey are three friends searching for their identities in Beverly Hills' fast track.

"Like Father Like Son" (B-) (PG-13) 98 minutes.

Rigid father (Dudley Moore) and laid-back son (Kirk Cameron) transfer brains, courtesy of an old Indian potion. Despite plot flaws, Moore's antics are entertaining.

"Made in Heaven" (A-) (PG) 102 minutes.

Drama gives unique view of life, death and love when young man (Timothy Hutton) dies, goes to heaven and meets perfect soul mate (Kelly McGillis). She's sent to Earth to begin life, and he follows, determined to find her. This unusual story has array of stars, beautiful photography and good music highlighted by top performers in cameo roles. Reviewed by Kathy Guyor.

"Nuts" (A+) (R) 120 minutes.

Barbra Streisand is superb as expensive call girl charged with killing an abusive client. Streisand's acting is the icing, but the cake includes top performance by Richard Dreyfus, Maureen Stapleton, James Whitmore, Karl Malden, Eli Wallach, Robert Webber and Leslie Nielsen.

"Penitentiary 3" (C-) (R).

Another Cannon epic action picture, this time they're back in the slammer, where they belong.

"Planes, Trains and Automobiles" (A) (R) 90 minutes.

Strangely enough adversity, pain, suffering and misfortune can be funny — when they happen to someone else. In this hilarious outing it's Steve Martin and John Candy traveling by misadventure from New York

to Chicago during the holiday rush. Martin's tantrums and loveable, bumbling Candy make this a holiday treat.

"The Princess Bride" (A-) (PG) 98 minutes.

Rob Reiner's delightful fantasy, based on William Goldman's novel, involves farm-boy-turned-hero, Westley (Cary Elwes), and Princess Buttercup (Robin Wright). They encounter miracles, villains, the swamp-fire-forest and "the pit of despair" in a land long ago and far away. Chivalry and swashbuckling suspense intercut with whimsy wit, but "true love" conquers all. Reviewed by Jeff Litnatta.

"The Running Man" (B) (R) 105 minutes.

Futuristic action set in police state in 2017. Arnold Schwarzenegger is game show contestant fighting for his life. Good guys win, bad guys lose. Lots of action, violence and droll groaners delivered by only Schwarzenegger can. Reviewed by Kathy Guyor.

"Sign O' The Times" (C) (PG-13) 89 minutes.

Combination concert-video features Prince and Sheila E. Sexually

suggestive rock in stereo. Should prove entertaining to Prince fans but offers very little to the rest of us. Reviewed by Jeff Litnatta.

"Suspect" (A) (R) 120 minutes.

Top thriller of the year! Cher is excellent as a public defender assigned to an accused murderer (Liam Neeson), a violent, indigent, deaf-mute. Nicely set with Washington, D.C., providing the backdrop for twin struggles for power in government and survival in the streets. Dennis Quaid is engaging as high-rolling lobbyist summoned for jury duty.

"Teen Wolf Too" (D-) (PG) 90 minutes.

Jason Bateman is Michael J. Fox's cousin in more of the same "Wolfman." Makes the first one look like a classic. Reviewed by Brian Nichols.

"Three Men and a Cradle" (B+) (PG) 100 minutes.

One pretty baby, three handsome men, many comical situations and a good story equal a very funny movie. Selleck, Damon and Guttenberg are terrific as three single men learning to care for and love a baby left on their doorstep. Reviewed by Kathy Guyor.

Phone services let customers dial-a-date

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don't have to say anything. You can just listen. You don't have to be alone.

So you dial the number. It rings and rings, but no one answers. Did you dial correctly? You try again, but again, no answer.

You feel relieved, but also a little deflated after expending all that emotional energy to psych up for the call. You're still curious, so you decide to wait awhile and try again later.

An hour elapses before you dial back, and your pulse quickens as the ringing stops. Your call is answered electronically by a bubbly, female voice that delivers a brief tape-recorded greeting: "Hi, welcome to the Adult Party Line. Teens call (the Teen Party Line number is given). Good luck."

If you want the Teen Party line, you have to hang up and dial the number given.

If you want the Adult Party Line, just keep listening. You're automatically connected. In seconds, you're on the line.

YOU'RE JUST listening, but it's quiet. And then, a soft, sultry voice breaks the silence.

"Hello... Hello... Hello... Hello, ladies. Are there any ladies out there tonight?"

It sounds like the voice of a slightly desperate, pleading young man.

You freeze. You don't want to talk yet. You don't even want to be heard, so you inhale deeply and withhold the exhalation.

Finally a woman's voice is heard. She says hello, and a male voice echoes her cordial salutation. They chit-chat. Exchange names and ages.

AS YOU EAVESDROP, you learn Tony is 28 from Belleville and Mary is 21, but it becomes apparent that she is not a caller.

She's a telephone line employee, called a monitor. She introduces herself as MTM — Mary, the Monitor.

She'll talk to you if there's no one else talking, but she would prefer you converse with other paying customers. If there are callers on the line just listening — and she knows if there are — she'll try to coax a conversation.

"Hey ladies, there's a guy here who wants to talk to you," says MTM. But if there are any women on the line, they're keeping quiet.

All you hear is Tony trying to get MTM's phone number or trying to persuade her to call him at the number he gladly volunteers.

AS YOUR three-minute time limit expires, you hear another hello, but this time it's a woman, and it's not MTM, and you're to call back to see how Tony fares.

You call right back, but now there are two different male voices com-

peting for the woman's attention. Time must have run out on Tony or maybe he got a phone number and is awaiting a more private call from the woman.

But she is busy, collecting the phone numbers of the other two men, politely refusing their requests for her number.

You decide her dance card is probably full, and as another three minutes expires, you still haven't uttered a word. But now you're hooked.

You wait an hour and call again, but by this time, your phone bill is mounting, and you're intent on breaking your silence.

Mark, 19, is now talking to MTM, and after he runs out of time, she says hello, knowing there are seven callers on the line. No one responds, and you seize the opportunity.

You say hello to MTM. While chatting with her, you learn she is in the middle of a 6-10 p.m. shift as monitor. An unidentified male voice takes advantage of a brief pause in the conversation to make about the absence of female voices.

"Earlier, I had Gina, Lisa, Pam and Colleen on the line," says MTM to keep your hopes alive. "There are seven of you out there."

THE MONITORS presumably sit at a switchboard, which indicates how many callers are connected, like a conference call, to the Adult Party. A maximum of eight callers

can be connected to the party line at any one time.

But imagine, eight people, or even four, trying to carry on separate conversations at the same time. That's a drawback. First you have to be ready and aggressive to initiate a conversation when the opportunity presents itself, and then you must sustain a conversational monopoly to discourage competition.

The callers use only first names, and the women rarely give their telephone numbers to pleading men. They will ask the men for their phone numbers and indicate they might call.

But one unidentified party-line regular admitted he has been calling for a few weeks and given his number to several women, but had not heard from any of them.

"If they don't call, that's it," he said.

LATER, AFTER the midnight hour, two lucky guys, vying for the attention of the same female voice, hit the jackpot. She gave each of them her phone number or at least it was a phone number.

For some, telephone dating may represent a much easier, less stressful approach to the dating game, even if it means gambling on a blind

date.

So you are successful and get a date. You still have to deal with the nervous anticipation of that first date, and if you are attracted to your telephone escort, you still face the horror of ultimate rejection.

And now you've got a whole new set of problems to confront.

Where do you go? How should you dress? No worry. You can always call and cancel.

(Those phone numbers are Adult Party Line, 1-876-1818; Teen Party Line, 1-876-2233; and 1-876-MEET.)



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