

# Killing off Momma: It's really a funny movie

"Blue Monkey" (R)  
When a kid feeds growth-promoter to a mysterious insect, it's time to leave town — or at least pick another film.

"Empire of the Sun" (A) (PG) 130 minutes  
Pivotal, riveting Spielberg story of interned English boy separated from parents during World War II Japanese invasion of China. Brilliant photography, ethereal sound and excellent acting add up to a winner.

"Overboard" (R) (PG)  
Goldie Hawn, the spoiled heiress, falls from her yacht and suffers amnesia. Opens Wednesday, Dec. 18.

"Stacking" (C-) (PG) 95 minutes  
Maudlin, murky melodrama. What do you expect from a film about Montana hay-farming in 1954? Excellent photography is not worth this trek down home.

"Throw Momma From the Train" (B-) (PG-13) 90 minutes  
Clever comedy has Danny DeVito and Billy Crystal trading murders: a bossy mother and a nasty ex-wife are the targets. DeVito and Crystal are terrific together. Reviewed by Kathy Guyor.

"Wall Street" (D+) (R) 125 minutes  
Sophisticated mediocrity with high cholesterol cast in bland expose of Wall Street shenanigans. Michael Douglas, Martin and Charlie Sheen, Terrence Stamp, Hal Holbrook, Sean Young, Sylvia Miles and Daryl Hannah perform only slightly better than Oliver Stone's screenplay and direction which have all the appeal of dead marshmallows.

**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 stepdaughters 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 Béart 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.

"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 (Glen Close) in this suspenseful thriller. Riveting performances and a strong story build to an explosive, nerve-shattering con-

## the movies Dan Greenberg

clusion. Reviewed by Kathy Guyor.

"Fatal Beauty" (C-) (R) 110 minutes  
Whoopi Goldberg as a narcotics cop in a pink convertible starts out fast and funny. Sam Elliot 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.

"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 Ivey) 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.

"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.

"Home Is Where the Hart Is" (C) (PG-13)  
A romantic comedy.

"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 searching for their identities on Beverly Hills' fast track.

"Like Father Like Son" (B-) (PG-



Danny DeVito, Billy Crystal and Anne Ramsey star in "Throw Momma from the Train," a movie based on that classic comedic theme of men who wish to murder their mothers and ex-wives.

## Professor Dan grades the movies

A+	Top marks - sure to please
A	Close behind - excellent
A-	Still in the running for top honors
B+	Pretty good stuff but not perfect
B	Good
B-	Good but notable deficiencies
C+	Just a cut above average
C	Mediocre
C-	Not so hot and slipping fast
D+	The very best of the poor stuff
D	Poor
D-	It doesn't get much worse
F	Truly awful
Z	Reserved for the colossal bad
No advanced screening	

13) 96 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 Dreyfuss, 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.

"Pig Pong" (C) 110 min.  
How a man's will affects his family and friends. An interesting, unique story set in London's Chinatown but not much action. Reviewed by Kathy Guyor.

"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 lovable, 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, Wesley (Cary Elwes), and Princess Buttercup (Robin Wright). They encounter miracles, villains, the swamp-fire-forest and "the pit of de-

spair" in a land long ago and far away. Chivalry and swashbuckling suspense intercut with slashing wit, but "true love" conquers all. Reviewed by Jeff Limatta.

"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 as 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 Limatta.

"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) 99 minutes  
Jason Bateman is Michael J. Fox's cousin in more of the same "Wolfman" series. 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 comic situations and a good story equal a very funny movie. Selleck, Danson and Gutterberg are terrific as three single men learning to care for and love a baby left on their doorstep. Reviewed by Kathy Guyor.

"The Trouble With Spies" (C) (PG)  
An incompetent spy endangers the British Empire. Starring Donald Sutherland, Ned Beatty and Ruth Gordon.

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