

Jump-start needed for weak movie 'Batteries'

RECENT RELEASES:

"Batteries Not Included" (C+) (PG) 100 minutes

Spiegelberg's latest release features extraterrestrials. Jessica Tandy and Hume Cronyn are an elderly couple who, along with several others, face eviction from their beloved city apartment. Unusual relationship develops between the ETs and humans. Does have some humorous scenes, but in the final analysis — it's bland. (Jeff Litman)

"Dark Eyes" (A) 115 minutes
Marcello Mastroianni is a masterful turn-of-the-century romantic ne'er-do-well. Rich, sensuous cinematography compliments superb rendition of screen play based on Anton Chekov stories.

"Eddie Murphy Raw" (A+) (R)
Eddie Murphy, the stand-up comic, footage taken from live concerts.

"House of Games" (R)
Modern mystery teams up with sedate female psychologist with clever con man. Slow-paced, low-energy story is saved by an unusual plot twist that gives it an unexpected ending. (Kathy Guyor)

"Howling III" (PG-13)
Terror stalks the earth. Watch out for the full moon.

"Leonard Part VII" (A+) (PG)
Superspy Bill Cosby is tired out of retirement to save the world.

"Overboard" (D-) (R) 110 minutes
Marginally clever story with some good comedy is marred by overly rapid transition of super-snooty rich lady (Goldie Hawn) to sensitive, caring mother of four boys living in slovenly surroundings. Their daddy (Kurt Russell) is unbelievably sensitive for such a crude fool. He's not at all convincing.

"Weeds" (A) (R) 115 minutes.
Nick Nolte is superb as prisoner who rehabilitates himself — first by reading and then by writing a play about prison life. Their performances attract attention of critic (Rita Taggart) who campaigns for Nolte's release. It's all very well done but Nolte's acting is the very best.

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 arrival of a baby. Overly cute and very predictable with too few laughs and too many yawns. Reviewed by Kathy Guyor.

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

"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.

"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.

"Empire of the Sun" (A) (PG) 150 minutes.
Poignant, 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.

"Fatal Attraction" (A) (R) 110 minutes.
Michael Douglas, family man, and his one-night stand which 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.

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

the movies
Dan Greenberg



Nick Nolte, the playwright, in 'Weeds.'

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 regressive 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 Agala" (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.

"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 8-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" (*) (R)
Andrew McCarthy, Jami Gertz and Robert Downey searching for their identities on Beverly Hills' fast track.

"Like Father Like Son" (B-) (PG-13) 95 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 (Keti 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

"Nuis" (A+) (R) 120 minutes.
Barbra Streisand is superb as ex-

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 colossally bad
No advanced screening	

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

"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 Litman.

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

"Suspect" (A) (R) 120 minutes.
Top thriller of the year. Cher excellent as public defender assigned violent, indigent, deaf-mute (Liam Neeson) accused of murder. Nicely set with Washington, D.C. providing backdrop for twin struggles: 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, 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 Wild Pair" (A+) (R)
Beau and Lloyd Bridges team with Bubba Smith in this story of murder and mayhem as an undercover cop and an FBI agent get together.

GET ON THE RIGHT TRACK

with the
Observer & Eccentric
NEWSPAPERS
CROSS-COUNTRY SKI SCHOOL!

Cross-country skiing is a fun, exciting and healthful way to enjoy the outdoors this winter. You can learn to cross-country ski at the Observer & Eccentric Ski School at several neighborhood locations in Oakland and Wayne Counties. Clinics begin in January (weather permitting).

\$10 includes equipment rental and 1 1/2 hour ski lesson
\$5 (with your own equipment)

Due to limited space availability, pre-registration is required. For complete registration information, call any nearby site listed below, Monday through Friday, at least one week in advance of lesson.

Observer & Eccentric Cross Country Ski School locations:

<p>ADDISON OAKS COUNTY PARK 1480 West Romo Road Oxford, MI 48051 693-2432</p>	<p>INDEPENDENCE OAKS COUNTY PARK c/o Oakland County Parks & Recreation 9501 Sashabaw Road Clarkston, MI 48016 625-0877</p>
<p>BEECH WOODS RECREATION CENTER c/o Southfield Parks & Recreation 22200 Beech Road Southfield, MI 48034 354-9603</p>	<p>MAYBURY STATE PARK c/o Northville Community Recreation 303 West Main Street Northville, MI 48167 349-0203</p>
<p>HERITAGE PARK c/o Farmington Hills Parks & Recreation 31555 Eleven Mile Road Farmington Hills, MI 48018 473-9570</p>	<p>WARREN VALLEY GOLF COURSE c/o Wayne County Parks & Recreation 33175 Ann Arbor Trail Westland, MI 48185 291-1990</p>

SOME GIFTS ARE REMEMBERED LONG AFTER THE Holidays

Ladies' 18 kt. gold ring with 3 marquise diamonds - \$1,560

14 kt. gold earrings with 33 diamonds, 1 ct. TW - \$1,388

14 kt. gold ring with 3 brilliant-cut diamonds - \$1,800

Men's 18 kt. gold ring with 3 brilliant-cut diamonds - \$1,800

Ladies' 18 kt. gold diamond ring with 6 brilliant-cut diamonds - \$875

Ladies' 18 kt. gold ring with .63 ct. diamond - \$2,465

Ear strap jackets with .74 ct. diamond stud earrings 1W 18 brilliant-cut diamonds with jackets in 18 kt. gold. Jackets - \$1,185. Earrings - \$258

Ladies' 14 kt. gold ring with fresh water pearl and diamond - \$260

WACHLER
David Wachler & Sons
Jewelers



Goldie Hawn and Kurt Russell play the couple in 'Overboard.'