

the movies
**Dan
 Greenberg**

Norris returns for more MIAs in 'Braddock'

RECENT RELEASES:

Hollywood's record-setting box office (\$4.2 billion) in 1987 paves the way for continued production. They also picked up a few bucks from video cassette sales and rentals: \$7.6 billion.

That means there's plenty of money up front with the pre-production sale of ancillary rights — overseas, cable, T-shirts and broadcast — but mostly for cassette rights.

This week look for these new films on your local marquee:

"Braddock - Missing in Action III" (*) (R).

Guess who's returning to Vietnam? (Hint: It's not Robin Williams.)

"Demons II" (*) (PG).

A nightmare in every sense of the word.

"Housekeeping" (*) (PG).

Christine Lahti stars in a unique story of two young orphan girls, living with their aunt.

"Nest" (*) (R).

This terror-trip from Cannon Films stars a cockroach. Don't say we didn't warn you.

"Prison" (*) (R).

Supernatural happenings in an old penitentiary.

STILL PLAYING

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

Spielberg's latest release features extra-terrestrials plus Jessica Tandy and Hume Cronyn as an elderly couple who, along with several others, face eviction from their beloved city apartment building. Unusual relationship develops between the e.t.'s and the humans. Too bland despite some humorous scenes. Reviewed by Jeff Limatta

"Broadcast News" (A-) (R) 135 minutes.

Entertaining and well-done, albeit contrived, story of life in the network news fast lane. Holly Hunter, Albert Brooks and William Hurt revel in all the glitz and sham of contemporary newscasting. It makes you wonder about "film at 11."

"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.

"The Couch Trip" (A) (R) 105 minutes.

Dan Aykroyd convives to get transferred from jail to a mental institution. You only think you heard this one before as Aykroyd gives new and humorous meaning to the term "devious." Walter Matthau is no slouch in that department either. Then there's the lovely Donna Reed as the very funny Mary Gross and Charles Grodin giving psychiatry a bad — but funny — name.

"Dark Eyes" (A) 115 minutes.

Marcello Mastroianni is a masterful turn-of-the-century romantic ne'er-do-well. Rich, sensual cinematography complements superb rendition of screen play based on Anton Chekhov stories.

"Deadly Illusion" (*) (R).

Morgan Fairchild, Billy Dee Williams and Vanity in something about dead people who aren't — or maybe they are.

"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.

"Eddie Murphy Raw" (*) (R).

Eddie Murphy in footage taken from live concerts.

"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.

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

When Dad dies, nasty mother (Victoria Tennant) imprisons children in attic of grandpa's mansion. Louise Fletcher is stiff and stilted as the repressed and repressive grandma. The rest of the cast needs acting lessons except for the two little kids (Ben Ganger and Lindsay Parker) who don't act, they just look cute. Unpleasant and not entertaining.

"For Keeps" (D-) (PG-13) 100 minutes.

Maudlin teenage romance goes nowhere very slowly. Parents will be offended, decent people appalled and Molly Ringwald fans will cure their insomnia with this one.

"Good Morning Vietnam" (A) (R) 129 minutes.

Non-stop Robin Williams at his very best as Armed Forces Radio D.J. in Vietnam. Williams' comic disrespect for authority delivered in his inimitable style is perfect comment on war's madness and obscenity.

"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



Robin Williams stars as Adrian Cronauer, an irreverent disc jockey who is shipped to Saigon on the eve of the Vietnam war to

boost morale among the troops in the new comedy-drama, "Good Morning Vietnam."

the cast, although locally unknown, are superb, in particular Ian Bannen as the crabby, cantankerous but loving grandfather. Don't miss it.

"House of Games" (C+) (R) 100 minutes.

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).

"Leonard Part VI" (*) (PG).

Superspy Bill Cosby is lured out of retirement to save the world.

"Moonstruck" (A+pp) (PG) 102 minutes.

This is truly a beautiful movie. It's filled with laughter and tears and all the joys of life. Cher is magnificent as a 37-year-old Italian widow in Brooklyn about to remarry. She's

terrific and Nicolas Cage, Vincent Gardenia and Danny Aiello are great in this pure distillation of the American ethnic schtick. If you only have one movie to see . . .

"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.

"Overboard" (B-) (PG) 110 minutes.

Marginally clever story with some good comedy is marred by overly rapid transition of super-spotty-rich lady (Goldie Hawn) to sensitive, caring mother of four boys living in slovenly surroundings. Their daddy (Kurt Russell) is unbelievably thoughtful for such a crude lout — and not at all convincing.

"Pinocchio and the Emperor of the Night" (C) (G) 90 minutes.

Original story embellished and animation computer-enhanced but end result is flat. Some images are dull and moral has been complicated far

beyond childhood comprehension.

Reviewed by Jeff Limatta

"Planes, Trains and Automobiles"

(A) (R) 98 minutes.

Strangely enough adversity, pain, suffering and misfortune can be funny — when they happen to someone else. This time it's Steve Martin and John Candy misadventuring from New York to Chicago during holiday rush. Martin's tantrums and lovable, bumbling Candy make it a pleasant outing.

"Positive ID" (*) (R) 96 minutes.

Women victim of brutal crime seeks vengeance.

"Return of the Living Dead - Part II" (B-) (R) 89 minutes.

The dead have risen again in more gruesome form. Good entertainment for those who like the macabre. Great overacting adds to the comedy. Reviewed by Brian Nichols

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

Rob Reiner's delightful fantasy, based on William Goldman's novel, involves miracles, villains, the swamp-fire-forest and 'the pit of despair' in a land long ago and far

away. 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

"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.

"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. Seltick, Danson and Guttenberg are terrific as three single men learning to care for and love a baby left on their doorstep. Reviewed by Kathy Guyor

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	

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