

# Sutherland, Lowe pairing is just right for 'Murder'

## RECENT RELEASES:

"Apprentice to Murder" (B) (PG-13) 100 minutes.

Donald Sutherland is effective as an unscrupulous country minister in this mystery of hexes, magic, devils and murder. Chad Lowe is excellent as his innocent young protege. This true story twists and turns to an interesting conclusion. Reviewed by *Kathy Guyor*

"Barfly" (B++) (R) 98 minutes.

Mickey Rourke and Faye Dunaway cut a desperate slice of life as Rourke wallows in the squalor of alcoholism and aggression to fuel his impassioned philosophy. Sidekick Dunaway is too polished for a drunk. Although the story is far from fully realistic and vulgar, it is necessary to tell the story of "Life in the bottle." Sharp dialogue carries painful imagery to the cutting edge. Could be unsettling to "nice people." Reviewed by *Jeff Linnatt*

"Demons" (\*\*) (R).

Another in the demonic series. I think we're being punished.

"Julia and Julia" (B) (R) 105 minutes.

Unusual story of woman caught between reality and dream world after her husband is killed on their wedding day. Julia (Kathleen Turner) is never sure what is real and the confusing plot never makes it clear. Trick ending doesn't help. Reviewed by *Kathy Guyor*

"The Last Emperor" (A-) (PG-13) 125 minutes.

Bernardo Bertolucci's stunning presentation of the epic tale of China's last emperor, Pu Yi, who at age 3, came to the throne three years before Sun Yat Sen's 1911 revolution. His fascinating story of survival through two world wars and Mao's Communist take-over of mainland China is a fine historical lesson and a gripping drama of human courage.

"She's Having a Baby" (B) (PG-13) 105 minutes.

Entertaining, slice-of-life comedy starring Kevin Bacon and Elizabeth McGovern. Bacon, the would-be writer, narrates the story from wed-ding day to the birth of their baby. Couple endures matrimony and maternity, ultimately remembering what's really important in life. Reviewed by *Mary Casey*

"The Serpent and the Rainbow"

American working for pharmaceutical firm investigates man in Haiti who is reviled after 10 years in the grave. Weak storyline and poor acting combined with macabre images make this hard to watch. Not recommended for the faint-hearted. Reviewed by *Mary Casey*

## STILL PLAYING

"Anguish" (\*\*) (R).

Zelda Rubinstein and Michael Lerner in a horror film.

"Butterfly, 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 Linnatt*

## Grading the movies

A+	Top marks - sure to please
A	Close behind - excellent
A-	Still in running for top honors
B+	Pretty good stuff, 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



## the movies

### Dan Greenberg

"Biggles — Adventures in Time" (PG).

With a title like that, time travel — of course — back to World War I France.

"Born to Race" (\*\*) (R).

Race car drivers' competition goes beyond the track and involves a beautiful engineer. Reviewed by *Kathy Guyor*

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

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

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

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

"Cinderella" (A+) (G) 74 minutes.

All you mean stepmothers and

"Good Morning Vietnam" (A) (R) 120 minutes.

Non-stop Robin Williams at his very best. Armed Forces Radio D.J. in Vietnam, Williams' comic disrepute for authority delivered in his inimitable style is perfect complement 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 the cast, although locally unknown, are superb, in particular Ian Bannen as the crabby, cantankerous and loving grandfather. Don't miss it.

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

Modern mystery teams up with sedate female psychologist with clever man. Slow-paced, low-energy story is saved by an unusual plot twist that gives it an unexpected ending. Reviewed by *Kathy Guyor*

"Moonstruck" (A±) (PG) 102 minutes.

This is truly a beautiful movie. It's

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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 connives 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 Dixon, the very funny Mary Gross and Charles Grodin giving psychiatry a bad — but funny — name.

"Dirty Dancing" (B-) (PG-13) 105 minutes.

Well-done and entertaining showbiz cliche. 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 than 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*

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

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

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Kevin Bacon and Elizabeth McGovern star as newlyweds Jake and Kristy Brigitte in Paramount Pictures' contemporary comedy, "She's Having a Baby."

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 their pure distillation of the American ethnic stick. If you only have one movie to see . . .

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"Pinocchio" and the Emperor of the Night" (C) 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 Linnatt*

"Planes, Trains and Automobiles" (A) (R) 90 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 banter and Jovable, bumbling Candy make it a pleasant outing.

"Return of the Living Dead - Part II" (B-) (R) 85 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 *Steve Nichols*

"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*

"Three Men and a Baby" (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 Guttenberg are terrific as three single men learning to care for and love a baby left on their doorstep. Reviewed by *Kathy Guyor*

"Throw Momma From the Train" (B+) (PG-13) 90 minutes.

Clever comedy has Danny DeVito and Blyl Crystal trading murders: a bossy mother and a nasty ex-wife are the targets. Will the killers accomplish their evil deeds? Story keeps you guessing and laughing until the end. DeVito and Crystal are terrific together.

"Wall Street" (D) (R) 125 minutes.

Sophisticated melodrama with high cholesterol cast in bland expose of Wall Street shenanigans. Michael Douglas and Daryl Hannah, Terrence Stamp, Hal Holbrook, Sean Young, Sylvia Miles and Daryl Hannah perform slightly better than Oliver Stone's screenplay and direction, which has all the appeal of dead marshmallows.

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## Ondaatje: A seeker of truth in 'Slaughter'

By John Killeen  
special writer

Every year hundreds of books are published. Some are immediately forgotten. Often with good reason. Others move on to best-sellerdom for reasons that are unfathomable. Most, however, go on to modest sales. They have almost non-existent advertising budgets. Their authors lack a "name." Their print runs are small. These books are, in many cases, the best of the publisher's lists. It is my intention in this space, to bring some of these books to your attention.

Michael Ondaatje is a name not known to a large number of people in this country. He was born in Sri Lanka in 1943 and moved to Canada in 1962. He has made documentary films and written several books. He is also the winner of the Governor-General's Literary Award. Mighty impressive track record for an "unknown," wouldn't you say?

"Coming Through Slaughter" was published in Canada in 1976. It was called "a spectacular breakthrough" by the *Globe and Mail*. When it was published in this country it was called "a masterpiece" by *Time* and "stunning" by *Publishers Weekly*. Penguin Books has a paperback edition of the book available in a handsome, quality size.

"COMING THROUGH Slaughter" deals with the life of Buddy Bolden, a cornet playing jazzman, who gained fame in the early 1900s and died in the East Louisiana State Hospital in 1931. He was one of those hard-living, hard-playing characters that, had they not lived, would have been forgotten. Mr. Ondaatje did extensive research into Buddy Bolden's life.

"He was the best and the loudest and most loved jazzman of his time, but never professional in the brain. The way the side of his

## books missed or forgotten

and the whole Storyville/Jazz scene to present this work. He, Buddy, is a seeker of truth. One in the truth of fiction, and the other in the truth of his music.

The lead character, Charles "Buddy" Bolden was probably born in 1876. Manuel Hall lived with his mother and taught him the cornet. Bolden was never legally married although he had two children, a girl and a boy, by two women. He played in New Orleans at the Masonic Hall, the Globe and the Jackson Hall. In April 1907, while playing with Henry Allen's Brass Band, he went mad. In June of that year he was placed in an asylum, diagnosed as suffering from "dementia-præcox-type." Twenty-four years later, in 1931, he died. These are the facts. The truth.

Michael Ondaatje takes these facts and plays them in a way that is masterful. Themes appear in faded glory, only to weave in again before the reader is aware of their return. Characters dart in and out, laying down part of Buddy's life, defining and refining and expanding. And Buddy Bolden. The main line. The center. Holding the various parts in orbit. Playing out his life. Searching for the music that drove his life.

"He was the best and the loudest and most loved jazzman of his time, but never professional in the brain. The way the side of his

mouth would drag a net of air in and dress it in notes and make it last and last, yearning to leave it up there in the sky like air transformed into cloud. He could see the air, could tell where it was freshest in a room by the colour."

AND IN THE midst of it, leaving. Going off with another man's wife. Living with them. Hiding out. Thinking the music. Returning. Back to the world of his music. Others hearing that he is back. Back to play. Changing plans to hear the great Bolden. Traveling to see Buddy play. Play in a parade.

"Then silent. For something's fallen in my body, and I can't hear the music as I play it. The notes more often now. She hitting each note with her body before it is even out so I know what to do through her. God this is what I wanted to play for, if no one else I always guessed there were others, this, this mirror somewhere, where she closer to me and her eyes over mine tough and young and compact friend knows where . . . this is what I wanted, always, loss of privacy in the playing, leaving the stage, the rectangle of hand on the street, this hearer who can throw me in the direction and she whished like an angry shadow."

Then silent. Mad. Locked in a mad silence. Caught in the dying echo of that last pure note. The echo that Buddy Bolden and Michael Ondaatje hear through the last years. Hear in the silence of a body. The stories of his friends, his women. The hospital records. The transcripts to the Tijuana trolley. The echo of a man caught in the music in his mind. The echo of truth that remains when one finishes "Coming Through Slaughter."