



Professor Dexter Cornell (Dennis Quaid) gets help from student Sydney Fuller (Meg Ryan) in Touchstone Pictures' "D.O.A."



'D.O.A.' has too much syndrome

RECENT RELEASES

"D.O.A." (C) (R) 100 minutes.
Professor of English Dexter Cornell (Dennis Quaid) is poisoned and has to track down his killer to get the antidote. . . I think. Occasional slick excitement can't overcome slow start, enough plot complications for two years of "Dynasty" and too many loose ends.

STILL PLAYING:

"Action Jackson" (C) (R) 90 minutes.

Action movie set in Detroit pits police Sgt. "Action" Jackson (Carl Weathers) against corrupt auto magnate. Vanilly is the sexy sinner caught between them and an abundance of drugs, violence and wild car chases in this predictable film.

"As Revolver Les Enfants" ("Good-Bye Children") (A±) (PG) 103 minutes.

Louis Malle's ("Atlantic City") intensely personal memories of the Holocaust is Oscar-nominated as Best Foreign-Language Film. In 1944 three young Jewish boys were hidden from the Gestapo at the Catholic school Malle attended near Fontainebleau. Malle's quiet film of schoolboy life is all the more significant in the way its understatement emphasizes the Nazi horror without rhetoric or bombast. Superb performances. At the Detroit Film Theater, Detroit Institute of Arts for eight weekend performances March 25-27, 1988.

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

Spielberg's latest release features extraterrestrials plus Jessica Tandy and 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."

"Cry Freedom" (A) (PG) 154 minutes.

Fine, evocative, thoughtful presentation. True story of white South African journalist Donald Woods (Kevin Kline), who became committed to the Black Consciousness Movement through his friendship

the movies

Dan Greenberg
with the movement's leader, Steve Biko (Denzel Washington). Excellent character studies directed by Sir Richard Attenborough ("Gandhi"), but the film is curiously "cool" and too intellectual for such a passionate subject.

"The Dead" (A) (PG) 80 minutes.
John Huston's last film is superb characterization of a turn-of-the-century Irish family. Based on James Joyce's story of the same name from "The Dubliners." Warm, evocative camera work and Huston's fine direction make this a lovely cinematic moment.

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

Michael Douglas, family man, and his one-night stand that turns into a nightmare at the hands of a psychotic woman (Glenn Close) in this suspenseful thriller. Reviewed by Kathy Guyer.

"Frantic" (B) (R) 110 minutes.

Mrs. Walker (Betty Buckley) is abducted upon arrival in Paris and her husband, Dr. Richard Walker (Harrison Ford), chases her kidnappers with help from hippie-smuggler Michelle (Emmanuelle Seigner). Trite old story but well-told in an exciting entertainment.

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

"Hairpray" (C-) (PG) 88 minutes.

Tasteful parody of teenage life in Baltimore during the early '60s centers on local TV dance show. Dance sequences are interesting, but overall effect would have been more appealing without introducing subject of racial prejudice. More offensive than funny. Reviewed by Mary Casey.

"Hope and Glory" (A±) (R) 120 minutes.

An absolutely charming and marvelous two hours of World War II in England through the eyes and from the viewpoint of six-year-old Bill

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 colossal bad
*	No advanced screening

(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 and cantankerous, but loving grandfather. Don't miss it.

"Ironweed" (B) (R) 140 minutes.

The down-and-out world of an aging alcoholic (Jack Nicholson) closes in and crumbles as ghosts from his past surface and friends fade. Meryl Streep and Tom Walls bolster the cast in this potent story of life turned sour. Reviewed by Jeff Limatta.

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

Bernardo Bertolucci's stunning presentation of the epic tale of China's last emperor, Pu Yi. At age 3 he 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 takeover of mainland China is a fine historical lesson and a gripping drama of human courage.

"Masquerade" (F) (R) 95 minutes.

Unimaginative story of heiress (Meg Tilly) and three fellows after her money. One of them is Rob Lowe, but even his handsome visage can't save this film from reaching a record low in dullness. It is so boring . . .

"Moonstruck" (A±) (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 shick. If you only have one movie to see . . .

"School Daze" (D) (R) 120 minutes.

Director-Writer Spike Lee ("She's Gotta Have It") tries to do it all in two hours with a comic-spoof-satirical musical mockery of black college life. He also tries to shirt-tackle apartheid but, at best, this poorly produced film is a slap in the face to both institutions, particularly the student body. Reviewed by Jeff Limatta.

"The Serpent and the Rainbow" (D) (R).

American working for pharmaceutical firm investigates man in Haiti who revived 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.

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

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

"Shoot to Kill" (B±) (R) 100 minutes.

This gripping film is marred by a few inconsistencies at the end, but should hold you to your seat as FBI agent Sidney Poller and his faithful mountain guide (Tom Berenger) track a killer whose hostage (Kirstie Alley) just happens to be Berenger's gal.

"Switching Channels" (B-) (PG) 110 minutes.

Modernized remake of "The Front Page." This time it's cable news network reporter (Kathleen Turner) and her ex-husband (Bud Reynolds) as news editor. Henry Gibson is excellent as escaped killer, but film's satiric view of newscap is overdrawn and it regularly loses itself in an uneven flow. Some good comedy, but . . .

By John Killeen
special writer

The South has a long and honored tradition of storytelling. As in many areas of the country, the foundation of this tradition had its roots in the limited educational opportunities available to the earliest settlers there.

The need to pass on orally, instead of in writing, the stories and histories of the region also allowed the development of a rich and varied use of language. Words were savored and nurtured. Nuance was explored to its fullest. Time was given to develop the complete story.

In 1984, the Lyndhurst Foundation gave the Center for Documentary Photography at Duke University a grant for the development of a five-book series on the South. One stipulation was that the written word must be given equal weight along with photography.

The first of the series was published last year, "A World Unsuspected: Portraits of Southern Childhood," edited by Alex Harris (University of North Carolina Press, \$8.95).

THERE ARE many people who, at this point, are thinking that the last thing one needs is another book about the South, or by Southern writers. The best of regional writing, however, is regional only in the setting or in the geography of the author. It has the ability to transcend location and speak to the universal. That is the attraction in all good writing. And this is some of the finest writing to come along in a long time.

Harris set out to read up on the works of younger Southern authors. People who have not been read by an entire generation of readers. Never

books missed or forgotten

voices speaking in an older tradition. Eventually, 11 writers were selected — Shella Bosworth, Robb Forman Dew, Barry Hannah, Josephine Humphreys, James Alan McPherson, Bobbie Ann Mason, T.R. Pearson, Padgett Powell, Dave Smith, Ellsase Southerland and Al Young.

Some of the authors may be familiar to readers. Others may be unknown. They represent a wide range of writing, from fiction to poetry to essays to scripts. However, their work for this volume is non-fiction.

For a few of them, it is a venue they had not explored before. The freshness in their work is a treat. They were asked to submit family snapshots from their childhood along with a prose piece. The photographs are the starting points for their stories. The writings are the journals of those trips.

PADGETT POWELL, in his piece, "Hitting Back," said, "One's personal history, it seems dangerously obvious to me, is ordered precisely as a drawer of family snapshots. It is not ordered; it is lost. It is illogically duplicate. . . It is finally random. To recount a history, you open a drawer."

All authors dug deep into that drawer. Not all of the histories are pleasant. Shella Bosworth's "Didn't Mean Goodbye" tells of the last time she saw her uncle, Jamie, before his death from a brain tumor. However and the piece is, there is a warmth

and gentleness about it that one brings to certain memories.

James Alan McPherson writes lovingly of his father in his piece, "Going Up to Atlanta." The man was a master at being an electrician and, because, he was black, was never

granted a master's license. He was never to reach his goal of going up to Atlanta and having his own shop.

The little he silently, waged caused his son to hate him. Years and experiences later, McPherson wrote: " . . . I found that I had learned, emotionally, every previously hidden dimension of my father's life. I love him now for what he had to endure."

FOR THE sake of space, not all the pieces can be covered here. That is not to say that any of them is unworthy of notice or praise. "A

World Unsuspected" is as fine a book as one is likely to discover. It has warmth and truth and richness and, most of all, the shared experience of growing older and wiser.

For those who keep books to dip

back into time and again, it is a joy to have a well made, well written and reasonably priced book. One can only anxiously await publication of the remaining four volumes in this series.

WARNING: Children and teenagers should not use this medicine for chicken pox or flu symptoms before a doctor is consulted about Reye Syndrome, a rare but serious illness.

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