

Penn hits his low in the offensive, insulting 'Colors'

RECENT RELEASES:

"Appointment with Death" (*) (PG).
Agatha Christie's master sleuth, Hercule Poirot, is back in this all-star cast, featuring Peter Ustinov, Lauren Bacall, John Gielgud, Haley Mills and Piper Laurie to name a few.

"Colors" (F) (R) 120 minutes.

Trite, racially offensive film about veteran cop (Robert Duvall) breaking in hotshot rookie (Sean Penn) as they confront Los Angeles street gangs. Our two stalwart heroes, of course, are white while all the bad guys are black or Hispanic. Besides insulting stereotypes, the film rambles on and on while Sean Penn's acting reaches new depths of ineptitude. Even the normally excellent Duvall is wooden and uninspiring.

"Return to Swamp River" (B) (PG).

Classic, but almost trite story of rugged young adventurer (Tom Burlinson) returning home to claim his land and his love. Naturally, her father (Brian Dennehy) prefers another suitor. Magnificent scenery and more than 250 horses make this an attractive, entertaining film.

"Stand and Deliver" (D) (PG) 100 minutes.

Sit and be bored. Aside from slow pace and a half dozen unexplained plot complications, this story of a math teacher in an underprivileged school is tedious.

STILL PLAYING:

"Above the Law" (C-) (R) 97 minutes.

A ragged story filled with holes. Former special forces member good guy, Nico Tassoni (Steven Seagal), is now a street-wise Chicago cop. To thwart an assassination attempt he employs violence, martial arts and "tough guy talk." More action than substance. Reviewed by Jeff Limatta.

"Au Revoir Les Enfants" (A+) (PG) 103 minutes.

Louis Malle's Oscar-nominated film of intensely personal memories of the Holocaust. Three young Jewish boys are hidden from Gestapo in Catholic school. Quiet film emphasizes Nazi horror with masterful understatement.

"Bad Dreams" (B) (R) 85 minutes.

The Return of Freddie? No, just a new horror film about hallucinations and haunting dreams, rehabbing stale ideas with just a couple of fresh ones. Good splatter for those with good stomachs. Reviewed by Brian Nichols

"Biloxi Blues" (B+) (PG-13) 105 minutes.

Eugene Jerome (Matthew Broderick) learns about life, Army and otherwise, in this nice period piece set in Biloxi (Mississippi) boot camp, 1945. Good performance by Christopher Walken as tough, but sensitive sergeant, whipping raw recruits into shape.

"Bright Lights, Big City" (B+) (R) 110 minutes.

Jamie Conway (Michael J. Fox) shows the dark side of a young man's life. Cocaine, alcohol and New York at night are his diversions to escape the pain of life and death. Fox finally appears in a mature role and does it well.

"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.

"D.O.A." (C-) (R) 100 minutes.

Professor of English Dexter Cornell (Dennis Quaid) is poisoned and sets out to get his killer before he dies.

"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).

"The Fox and the Hound" (A) (G) 80 minutes.

Animated Disney film about unusual friendship between young fox and hunting hound. An array of talking forest creatures make this a typical, enjoyable Disney film. Reviewed by Kathy Guyon.

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

Non-stop Robin Williams at his very best as Armed Forces Radio D.J. in Vietnam.

"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 6-year-old Bill



the movies

Dan Greenberg

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

(Sebastian Rice Edwards), Sarah Miles is his mother and the rest of the cast, although locally unknown, are superb.

"Johnny Be Good" (D-) (PG-13) 85 minutes.

Anthony Michael Hall as high school football superstar faced with ethical choices as college recruiters descend en masse. Not even worthy of dollar night.

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

Bernardo Bertolucci's stunning presentation of the epic tale of China's last emperor, Pu Yi. A fascinating story of survival through two world wars and Mao's Communist takeover of mainland China.

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

Unimaginative story of heister (Meg Tilly) and three fellows after her money.

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

Cher 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 shtick.

"A New Life" (A) (PG-13) 100 minutes.

Alan Alda's latest is a frank, intelligent romantic comedy about divorce, love and remarriage and all the other problems middle-aged people face.

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

Director-Writer Spike Lee ("She's



Col. Carbury (John Gielgud) greets his old friend Hercule Poirot (Peter Ustinov) and fellow traveler Dr. Sarah King (Jenny Seagrove) upon their arrival in Palestine in "Appointment with Death."

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"A Time of Destiny," a rich combination of romance, suspense and drama, is the story of the Larraneta family, played by Stockard Channing (second from left), Concha Huidago, William Hurt, Melissa Leo and Megan Follows.

Got'ta Have It") tries to do it all in two hours with a comic-spoof-satire-musical mockery of black college life.

and his recent bride, Reva Shwayder. The lives of these two elderly artists testify to human courage at its very best.

"Anna" (*) (PG).

Czech actress in New York whose life changes when a young and ambitious fan enters her life.

"Beetlejuice" (*) (PG).
Michael Keaton and Geena Davis in a ghost story with a twist — the

ghosts are nice quiet folks and the people are noisy and pretentious.

"18 Again" (*) (PG)
George Burns in another one of those personality exchanges — this time it's 18 — and 81-year-olds.

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