

'The King' does wonders in this 'Heartbreak Hotel'

RECENT RELEASES:

"Elvira, Mistress of the Dark" (D-) (PG-13) 96 minutes.

This hodge-podge tries everything and fails because you need a lot more talent than this crowd has to pull off a satiric-comedy-horror-acc film. Timing is off, pacing is erratic and everything is flat except Elvira.

"Gorillas in the Mist" (C-) (PG) 120 minutes.

Welcome to the wonderful world of gorillas. Sigourney Weaver's lisp performance and film's erratic pacing largely miss the point of Dian Fossey's life and her obsessive reverence for gorillas living freely in their natural habitat.

"Heartbreak Hotel" (B) (PG-13).

Picture this: Elvis fans: Taylor, Ohio, 1972. Dad's gone, Mom's alcoholic, her boyfriend's abusive and she lives in a rundown hotel with her two kids. To the rescue, son Johnny (Charlie Schlatter), who gets mom (Tuesday Weld) a date with Elvis (David Keith) because the "King" can fix anything. He does in an entertaining, amusing film with 12 original Elvis songs on a great soundtrack. Reviewed by Kim Brown.

"The Year My Voice Broke" (D) (PG-13) 105 minutes.

Maudlin little arthouse-crafty Australian film about coming of age. Australian diction is hard to understand and after a while one tends to give it up. Nice cinematography, but too much of it.

STILL PLAYING:

"Bagdad Cafe" (B) (PG) 91 minutes.

Except for a confusing opening, this is a wonderful comedy about friendship, love and understanding. Jasmine (Marianne Sägebrecht) leaves her husband in the middle of the Mojave Desert and winds up in Bagdad where she rents a room from Brenda (C.C. Pounder), who has kicked her husband out. The two women, who start out with nothing in common, form strong bonds. Jack Palance also appears. Reviewed by Jennifer Morse.

"Bambi" (A) (G) 70 minutes.

Short but good animated story of young fawn growing up. Great for kids and adults on a nostalgia trip.

"Betrayed" (A) (R) 115 minutes.

In the best Costa-Gavras ("Z") and



the movies
Dan Greenberg

"Missing" tradition, this tense film combines political thriller and personal poignancy. FBI agent, Cathy Weaver (Debra Winger) goes undercover to track murderers of controversial radio talk-show host. However, loosely based on the murder of Denver broadcaster, Al Berg, and the subsequent expose of white supremacist groups, this film will make you nervous about fascism and about personal involvement versus commitment as Winger becomes emotionally attached to the man she's investigating, Gary Simmons, (Tom Berenger).

"Ball Durkan" (A-) (R) 105 minutes.

Wonderfully wacky, but slightly overdone summer in the minor leagues. Veteran catcher Crash Davis (Kevin Costner) is brought in to steady hotshot young pitcher Nuke Lalooch (Tim Robbins). Susan Sarandon and Jenny Robertson complicate matters. Film is as explicit as possible while remaining an "R."

"Cocktail" (C-) (R) 110 minutes.

Adolescent fantasy, populated with overdone, soapy melodrama about a high concept bartender, Brian Flanagan (Tom Cruise) and assorted "chickies" led by Jordan Mooney (Elisabeth Shue). Some clever lines by Bryan Brown, but only Cruise addicts will sail on this one.

"Coming to America" (B-) (R) 120 minutes.

Hollywood and sexist view of Africa, but Prince Akeem (Eddie Murphy) rebels against an arranged marriage and visits New York City to find his own bride. The good news is Murphy plays a character instead of playing Eddie Murphy and has some touching scenes with his American girl, Lisa (Shari Headley). The bad news is, despite some funny stuff, there's too much adolescent humor.

"Crossing Delancy Street" (A) (PG) 95 minutes.

Isaiah "Irzy" Grossman (Amy Irving) is a liberated young New Yorker with her eye on author Ivan Mase (Jerome Kribbe). But never mind that modern stuff, Grandma Ida (Re-

id Boryk) hires matchmaker Hannah Mandelbaum (Sylvia Miles) to arrange things with Sam the pickie-man. Don't worry about true love, this romantic comedy will charm and delight everyone.

"Dead Ringers" (F) (R) 115 minutes.

Can identical twin gynecologists (Jeremy Irons and Jeremy Irons) find happiness sharing girls, pills, patients and their practice? It's not worth watching this boring, slow-paced, sicko film to find out.

"Dear America" (A) (PG-13) 85 minutes.

Gripping, touching, horrifying, sad and finally, the inspiring story of our Vietnam tragedy told with actual footage shot by television newsmen, armed forces cameramen and everyone else. It is the men, their courage and their high regard for comrades that make this documentary an inspiring, must-see event. Voice-over narrators reading soldiers' letters home include Robert DeNiro, Michael J. Fox, Robin Williams and Kathleen Turner.

"Die Hard" (*) (R).

Bruce Willis and Bonnie Bedelia in story of hostages trapped in L.A. building seized by terrorists on Christmas Eve.

"Eight Men Out" (D) (PG) 115 minutes.

Say it ain't so, John Sayles ("Matewan," "The Brothers from Another Planet"). Tell us you didn't make a film with poorly identified characters, confusing plot, choppy editing and half-lit starcasto images. But I guess you did. Music track is nice, but it is hard to believe the 1919 Chicago "Black" Sox threw the World Series just because Mr. Comisky paid them poorly. There had to be more to it than that. Same goes for the movie.

"A Fish Called Wanda" (A) (R) 110 minutes.

A very funny film with the whackiest gang in town. Principals include Jaime Lee Curtis as Wanda the Wonderful, jewel thief extraordinaire. Among her colleagues are Kevin Kline in an absolutely inspired performance as a beserk American gunsel in London. John Cleese is a proper barrister, but... The whole thing is beyond words. The only solution is to see the movie.

"Into the Fire" (*) (R).

The press agents describe this one



Anthropologist Dian Fossey (Sigourney Weaver) finds herself mesmerized by the mountain gorillas of Rwanda in Warner Bros. and Universal Pictures' "Gorillas in the Mist."

as a "seductive thriller" which probably means sex and violence.

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

While passing through Kansas on his way to New York, Wade (Andrew McCarthy) meets Doyle's unwilling accomplice in a bank robbery and while running from the law saves life of governor's daughter and becomes unwilling hero. Resolution of all these problems makes an interesting movie. Reviewed by Kathy Guyor.

"The Last Temptation of Christ" (B-) (R) 164 minutes.

Controversial portrayal of Christ as a disturbed person who struggles with his duality and tries to reject his divinity. Well-photographed and has fine acting, but choppy editing in complex rendition makes this one questionable.

"Married to the Mob" (B) (R) 110 minutes.

Enjoyable and cute film; as Angela (Michelle Pfeiffer) is widowed when mob boss Tony "The Tiger" Russo (Dean Stockwell) loses her hit-

man hubby, Frankie (Alec Baldwin). She figures that's her ticket out of the mob but Tony wants her and so does FBI agent, Mike Downey (Matthew Modine), in more than one way. Reviewed by Jennifer Morse.

"Moon Over Parador" (C) (PG-13) 104 minutes.

Director Paul Mazursky ("Bob and Alice...") and "Unmarried Woman" is so busy playing Jack Noah's (Richard Dreyfuss) mother that there's nobody left to tend the store. Despite some funny stuff, this comedy falls flat as Noah is forced to impersonate the late and unlamented dictator of Parador, so police Chief Strassmann (Raul Julia) can maintain control. Sonia Braga appears as the dictator's mistress, but neither she nor stilled camoes by Sammy Davis Jr., Chaco, Jonathan Winters and Fernando Rey get this dud off the ground.

"Nightmare on Elm Street Part 4 - The Dream Master" (C) (R) 90 minutes.

Looks like Freddie's power is weakening and so's the series. Story line is developed, but the expected

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

suspense and gore is lacking. Even "Nightmare" fans will be disappointed. Reviewed by Jennifer Morse.

"Patty Hearst" (*) (R).

Based on Patty Hearst's book, "Every Secret Thing," this film stars Natasha Richardson as Ms. Hearst. You've read the book, now...

"Sweet Hearts Dance" (B-) (R) 95 minutes.

Bittersweet comedy of middle-aged man (Don Johnson) uncertain about his life and marriage. Jeff Daniels is excellent as the understanding, sensible friend who helps him. Susan Sarandon is strong as confuse, hurt wife who hangs in there in this funny and sad, but very real life story. Reviewed by Kathy Guyor.

"Tucker: The Man and His Dream" (A) (PG).

Excellent production that really looks like the '40s. Soft-focus filters and lots of dusty old shots make this story of Vesilanti machine tool shop owner, Preston Tucker (Jeff Bridges), and his dream of the car of the future. Bridges, Joan Allen as Mrs. Tucker and Martin Landau as his financial adviser deliver fine performances. Entire supporting cast adds to production. Too bad Mr. Tucker tried to take on the Big Three.

"War" (*) (unrated).

Tourists crash-land on island and fight terrorists to survive.

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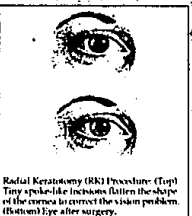
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