

'Imagine:' It's home movies at their worst

RECENT RELEASES:

"Imagine: John Lennon" (D) (R) 95 minutes.

If you believe, as I do, that there's life after rock'n'roll, you'll be bored by this pedestrian documentary about John Lennon. Even if you're rockin' around the clock and think that the Beatles and John Lennon made major contributions to Western culture, you'll still be disappointed. This film is home movies at their worst, limited music, and low-quality news-reel footage taken off the tube. John and Yoko lying around in bed talking about peace may be a media event, but it ain't great culture.

"Memories of Me" (A-) (PG-13) Alan King in bravura performance as nightclub comic and "King" of the movie extras. His son, the doctor (Billy Crystal), comes to L.A. after a heart attack and tries to mend their broken relationship. King is perfect, but Crystal is just a shade miscast. On the whole, however, excellent film.

"Messenger of Death" (*) (R). Charles Bronson and more violence.

"Punchline" (B) (R) 120 minutes. Being a standup comedian is not always funny, or easy. Lila (Sally Field) is a housewife who wants to make people laugh. Eleven (Tom Hanks) is a medical student who makes laughter his life. Struggling in a New York comedy club, they learn more than how to be funny. This comedy and love story team Hanks and Field in convincing performances. Reviewed by Kathy Guyor.

"Tougher Than Leather" (*) (R). Film debut of rap group.

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. Funder), who has kicked her husband out. The two women, who start out with nothing in common, form strong bonds. Lila Falanca also appears. Reviewed by Jennifer Morse.

"Betrayed" (A) (R) 115 minutes. In the best Costa-Gavras ("Z" and "Missing") tradition, this tense film combines political thrills and personal poignancy. FBI agent Cathy Weaver (Debra Winger) goes undercover to track murderers of controversial radio talk-show host. However,



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

er, loosely based on the murder of Denver broadcaster, Al Berg, and the subsequent expose of white supremacist groups, this film will reward viewers about racism and about personal involvement vs. commitment as Winger becomes emotionally attached to the man she's investigating, Gary Simmons (Tom Berenger).

"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 Wooley (Elizabeth Suss). Some clever lines by Bryan Brown but only Cruise addicts will sail on this one.

"Crossing Delancey" (A) (PG) 95 minutes. Isabella "Izzy" Grossman (Amy Irving) is a liberated young New Yorker with her eye on author Ivan Hanes (Robert Redford). But never mind that modern stuff, Grandma Ida (Reizl Bork) hires matchmaker Hannah Mandelbaum (Sylvia Miles) to arrange things with Sam the klezmer. Don't worry about true love, but it is hard to believe the 1919 Chicago "Black" Sox threw the World Series just because Mr. Coniskey paid them poorly. There had to be more to it than that. Same goes for the movie.

"Dead Ringers" (F) (R) 115 minutes. Can identical twin gynecologists



John Lennon and his son Sean sort through snapshots in the kitchen of their home in the massive New York complex known as The Dakota. John was playing the role of househusband during this period, while Yoko

managed the business and financial affairs. Lennon's life is depicted in the new Warner Bros. presentation, "Imagine: John Lennon."

(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.

Cripping, 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 practice? It's not worth watching this boring, slow-paced, sicko film to find out.

"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 ("Mazurka," "The Brothers from Another Planet"). Tell us you didn't make a film with poorly identified characters, confusing plot, choppy editing and half-lit staccato 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. Coniskey paid them poorly. There had to be more to it than that. Same goes for the movie.

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

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

"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 berserk American gunslinger in London. John Cleese is a proper barrister, but... The whole thing is beyond words. The only solution is to see the movie.

"Gorillas in the Mist" (C-) (PG-13) 120 minutes.

Welcome to the wonderful world of gorillas. Sigourney Weaver plays it like the Magic Kingdom and the film's erratic pacing largely misses 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 (Charles 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 sound track. Reviewed by Kim Brown

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

While passing through Kansas on his way to New York, Wade (Andrew McCarthy) meets Doyle (Matt Dillon). He becomes 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 divinity 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 hitman hubby, Frankie (Alce 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 Dreyfus) 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 Strausmann (Raul Julia) can maintain control. Sonia Braga appears as the dictator's mistress, but neither she nor sulted canons by Sammy Davis Jr., Charo, Johanna 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. Storyline is developed, but the expected 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 confused, hurt wife who hangs in there in this funny and sad, but very real life story. Reviewed by Kathy Guyor.

Michigan City has sand dunes, malls

Continued from Page 1

might have been lost. If the state and federal government had not stepped in to create a state park in 1925 and a national lakeshore in the 1960s. The National Park Service has acquired 13,000 acres so far.

The visitor center of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, five miles southwest of Michigan City, will give you a quick lesson in dunes and glaciers carving out the Great Lakes and receding again, left sand dunes and glacial till behind.

There are restored homesteads and farms to visit in the park, but the dunes themselves are the greatest attraction. Walk on the hills, hike the trails, camp, or join the hang gliding enthusiasts who soar off Mount Baldy whenever the weather permits.

Weather is also the primary concern of fishermen who take advantage of the long fishing season here in lakeshore Indiana. Michigan City has the largest commercial fishing charter fleet on the lake.

You can fish for coho salmon March through May, and for chinook May to July. By mid-June a hybrid steelhead trout, called Skamania, starts running.

THE COHO and chinook come back in the fall, preparing to go upstream to spawn, so one of the best fishing seasons is now through early November. The heaviest harvest is in mid-October.

When you are tired of outdoor sporting and ready to spend some money, you will find Lighthouse Place a few blocks south of the lake. It is a large outlet store mall built on the grounds where railway sleeping cars were manufactured until the 1960s.

The five dozen outlet stores, each the district and retail shop of a specific manufacturer, draw 1.5 million shoppers from as far away as Chicago and Grand Rapids. Some of the well-known shop names include Royal Doulton, Corning, Van Heusen, Dansk, Bessie, Anne Klein, J. J. Jaymar, Orelia, Jonathan Logan and Maidenform.

There are the usual chain hotels, such as the Holiday Inn, in Michigan City. There are also four very interesting bed-and-breakfast places. Check the Chamber of Commerce.

Two of the most popular music hangouts are Cherry's, where a disc jockey plays 1950s and '60s music from a 1957 Chevy and D.J. Weston's, a popular late night hangout for the top-40 crowd.

Some of the popular downtown eateries are the Spagetti Works (inexpensive, waterfront view), Waterfront Station (moderate prices) and The Pub (Chicago prices). The best hamburgers are at Harmony Bar or Gratty's. Pizza lovers are divided between Roma's and Albano's.

IF YOU want to go to Chicago, leave your car in Michigan City and take the commuter train. It runs at least a dozen times a day and takes 90 minutes to get into downtown Chicago.

There are fruit markets and pick-your-own places all over this area, as well as in southwest Michigan. Next week we'll show you two ways home - follow the Michigan shoreline north and then turn east to Detroit, or drive east from Michigan City through South Bend, Ind., and the Amish village of Shipshewana.

Nexttime, contact the Michigan City Chamber of Commerce, 200 East Michigan Blvd., Michigan City, Ind. 46360, or call (319) 874-4221.

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