

'The Good Mother' scores as memorable film

RECENT RELEASES:

"The Good Mother" (A+) (R).
Superb acting by entire ensemble creates memorable film whose haunting images will remain with you long after final credits. Anna Dunlap (Diane Keaton), a single parent, is liberated, in part, from a conventional background by the love of sculptor Leo Cutter (Liam Neeson). However, their relaxed attitudes offend ex-husband Brian (James Naughton), who sees for custody of daughter Molly (Asia Vieira). Six-year-old Miss Vieira is a talented charmer in her film debut. Jason Richards, Ralph Bellamy and Teresa Wright are excellent in supporting roles. Based on Sue Miller's best seller of the same name, with fine direction by Leonard Nimoy.

"Everybody's All American" (A-) (R) 127 minutes.
In the best sense, a fine, sentimental, nostalgic look at a quarter century (1955-81) of America. Centering on a Louisiana football hero, the "Gray Ghost" (Dennis Quaid), his sweetheart, the "Magnolia Queen" (Jessica Lange) and his scholarly nephew (Timothy Hutton). The intricacies of their relationships and the social change in that period are nicely blended. Excellent acting carries this long film past soap opera and should cause a lot of sighs for the good old days.

"Spellbinder" (*) (R).
Woman tries to escape devilish cult.

"They Live" (*) (R).
Alien ghouls manipulate subconscious with high tech. And a very happy Halloween to you.

"U2: Rattle and Hum" (C) (PG-13) 101 minutes.
This is not a film about the inside, personal views of U2 and their lives offstage. It is a movie about music, a combination of some brief, but poor documentary work and footage derived from two shows. For a band with such a social conscience, I expected more than two hours of MTV. Reviewed by Kim Brown.

STILL PLAYING:

"The Accused" (C) (R) 109 minutes.
Sara Tobias (Judy Foster) is gang-raped by three men, but Deputy D.A. Kathryn Murphy (Kelly McGillis) believes it's impossible to "win" because of Sara's background. She sells out to defense, realizes her mistake and prosecutes speculators who encouraged the rape. This poignant drama about how our judicial system mishandles rape cases is too long and too slow to get the point across effectively. Rape scene is particularly horrible. Reviewed by Kim Brown.

"Alien Nation" (R).
Science fiction thriller with 300,000 immigrants from another planet.

"Bat-21" (B+) (R) 100 minutes.
True story of Air Force Colonel Icahn Hamilton (Gene Hackman) and the 12 days he spent on the ground behind enemy lines in Vietnam. Film's unique characteristic, the enemy is not an impersonal monster. Our heroes and theirs, they all suffer together and learn what it means to be human. Good action film as well.

"Betrayed" (A-) (R) 115 minutes.
Tense film combines political thrills and personal poignancy as FBI agent, Cathy Weaver (Debra



Ann Dunlap's (Diane Keaton) idyllic world is shattered when her ex-husband Brian (James Naughton) sues for custody of their daughter Molly (Asia Vieira), a battle that ultimately forces the

single mother to face many difficult questions about her life, in Touchstone Pictures' "The Good Mother."



the movies
Dan Greenberg

of Jamaican housekeeper and her influence on life of young boy faced with harsh realities of his parents' planned divorce.

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

Isabella "Irzy" Grossman (Amy Irving) is a liberated young New Yorker with her eye on author Ivan Maes (Jeroen Krabbe). But never mind that modern stuff, Grandma Ida (Reizl Borky) hires matchmaker Hannah Mandelbaum (Sylvia Miles) to arrange things with Sam the piker. Don't worry about true love, this romantic comedy will charm and delight everyone.

"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 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) 95 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-cult-sex film. Timing is off, pacing erratic and everything is flat except Elvira.

"Feds" (*).
Rebecca Demornay and Mary Gross as two young FBI recruits.

"A Fish Called Wanda" (A) (R) 110 minutes.
A very funny film with the whackiest gang in town. Principals include Jamie Lee Curtis as Wanda the Wonderful, jewel thief extraordinaire. Kevin Kline's inspired performance as a beserk American gunslinger in London is matched by John Cleese's proper baronist. 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.

"Halloween 4" (*) (R).
It must be that time of year again.

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

If you believe, as I do, that there is life after rock'n'roll, you'll be bored by this pedestrian documentary about John Lennon. Even if you're

rockin' round the clock and think that the Beatles made major contributions to western culture, you'll still be disappointed. This film is home movies at their worst, with limited music and low quality newsreel 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.

"Madame Sousatzka" (A) (PG-13) 122 minutes.
Lush, sensuous photography, inspired music and brilliant acting plus John Schlesinger's fine direction equal an excellent film. This touching portrait of Madame Sousatzka (Shirley MacLaine) and her obsessive piano-teaching techniques also tells the story of a young genius, Manek Sen (Navin Chowdhry). His desire to please his mother (Shabana Azmi) and his teacher, Madame Sousatzka, tears at him as does his desire for success and his awakening

Grading the movies

A+	Top marks - sure to please
A	Closely 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

sexual impulses focusing on a slightly shopworn singer, Jenny (Twiggy).

"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 Los Angeles 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.

"Mystic Pizza" (A) (R) 102 minutes.

Warm, wonderful comedy about three young women dealing with life's unpredictable experiences in a pizza restaurant where they work, sharing the joys and pain of love and friendship. Reviewed by Kathy Guyor.

"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 are lacking. Even "Nightmare" fans will be disappointed. Reviewed by Jennifer Morse.

"Pumpkinhead" (C) (R) 86 minutes.

Mediocre monster movie with Ed Harley (Lance Henriksen) summoning up evil to punish bikers who killed his son. Low-level lighting keeps the gore impact down, but this limited, unimaginative morality tale is right on time for Halloween. Too bad Pumpkinhead doesn't have a pumpkin head.

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