

'Scrooged' is a Dickens of a Christmas movie

RECENT RELEASES:

"Buster" (D) (R) 90 minutes
Boring, clichéd British gangster film based on the 1955 great train robbery. Phil Collins fans may enjoy but the advice here is, "Miss it!"

"Cocoon: The Return" (B-) (PG-13) 115 minutes
Highly unlikely, overly sentimental-boring on the dippy-but pleasant enough family entertainment for the holiday season as all the old gang are back to save a cocoon-being.

"Scrooged" (B+) (PG-13) 90 minutes
To get you in the holiday spirit, try an updated romp thru Dickens' "Christmas Carol" starring a very off-beat Bill Murray. He's the modern-day Scrooge, Frank Cross, a television network executive who doesn't know the meaning of nice. Star-studded cast includes Karen Allen, Buddy Hackett, Mary Lou Retton, Robert Mitchum, Michael Pollard, Carol Kane, John Forsythe and Robert Goldblatt.

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 McCillis) sells out to defense, realizes her mistake and prosecutes spectators who encouraged the rape. This poignant drama about misandred rape cases is too long and slow to be effective. Rape scene is particularly horrible. Reviewed by Kim Brown.

"Child's Play" (B-) (R).
Horror story about a mother who buys possessed doll for son's birthday. Plot is a bit corny at times, but film makes up for it with great special effects and unintentional humor. Reviewed by Fred Baker.

"Clara's Heart" (PG-13).
Whoopi Goldberg in touching story of Jamaican housekeeper and her influence on life of young boy faced with harsh realities of his parents' planned divorce.

"Crossing Delancey" (A) (PG) 95 minutes.
Isabella "Izzy" Grossman (Amy Irving) is a liberated young New York City lawyer on author Iva Madsen (Jeroen Krabbe). But never mind that modern stuff, Grandma Ida (Reisi Boryk) hires matchmaker Hannah Mandelbaum (Sylvia Miles) to arrange things with Sam the pickpocket. Don't worry about true love, this romantic comedy will charm and delight everyone.

"A Cry in the Dark" (C+) (PG-13) 121 minutes.
Lindy and Michael Chamberlain



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

(Meryl Streep and Sam Nellig) are campy in Australia's Northern Territory with their three children. When the baby is killed by a wild dog. But police mania and public hysteria lead to Lindy's indictment and conviction for the child's murder. It doesn't matter that this story is true because the film fails to convince us that such an incredible story occurred. The police motivation in prosecuting the case and the generative force for public hysteria are poorly depicted and not at all convincing. Some Aussie accents are inaudible and camerawork leaves much to be desired. Despite good acting, the film is unpleasant with no redeeming quality, just a dippy halcyon ending.

"Distant Thunder" (D) (R) 110 minutes.
John Lithgow is wooden as Viet vet who can't cope with society. So he hangs out in the Pacific Northwest woods for 16 years before writing to his son. This predictable, clichéd, maudlin treatise on one aspect of our Vietnam tragedy isn't helped when son-boy (Ralph Macchio) shows up with Jersey accent he acquired while growing up in Illinois. Only good-buddy Larry (Denis Arndt) shows any signs of life. Nice scenery.

"Ernest Saves Christmas" (C+)

(PG).
Jim Varney has the role of a lifetime in "Ernest" and is wisely trying to make it pay while the market is hot. This time out there are consistent, but predictable, chuckles and a very earnest Douglas Seale as Santa Claus in search of a replacement. In age when kids flock to see a man stop bleeding by exploding gunpowder in the wound, "Ernest Saves Christmas" is a refreshing change. Ernest P. Worrell is what we used to call good, clean fun. Knowwhatimean, Vern? Reviewed by Susan Finckham.

"Everybody's All American" (A-) (R) 127 minutes.

In the best sense, a fine, sentimental, nostalgic look at a quarter century (1956-1981) of America, centering on a Louisiana football hero, the "Grey Ghost" (Dennis Quaid), his sweetheart, the "Magnolia Queen" (Jessica Lange), and his scholarly nephew (Timothy Hutton). The intricacies of their relationships and 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.

"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 Wonder, Jewel Thiel-Post as her extraordinary Kevin Kline's inspired performance as a beserk American gunslinger in London is matched by John Cleese's proper barista. The whole thing is beyond words. The only solution is to see the movie.

"Fresh Horses" (P) (PG-13)
Molly Ringwald and Andrew McCarthy as seductive rural girl and conservative college senior.

"The Good Mother" (A+) (R).
Sensitively acting by entire ensemble creates memorable film whose haunting images will remain with you long after final credits. Anna Dunoop (Diane Keaton), a single parent, is liberated, in part, from a conventional background by the love of sculptor, Leo Cutler (Liam Neeson). However, their relaxed attitudes offend ex-husband Brian (James Naughton), who sues for custody of daughter Molly (Asia Viera). Six-year-old Asia Viera 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.

"High Spirits" (P) (PG-13)
Another supernatural jumble that didn't make it in time for Halloween. This time it's a romantic comedy with Daryl Hannah, Beverly d'An-



'Scrooged' stars Bill Murray and Carol Kane.

gelo, Peter O'Toole and Steve Guttenberg.

"Iron Eagle II"
Soviet-American strike team pitted against terrorist forces.

"Land Before Time" (A) (G) 75 minutes.

Touching story of a group of young dinosaurs and their journey to the promised land. Excellent animation combined with many heart-warming scenes make this film great entertainment for all ages.
Reviewed by Fred Baker.

"Last Rites" (C-) (R) 95 minutes.
Father Michael Pace (Tom Berenger) is incredible as a priest trying to rescue his brother-in-law's mistress, Angela (Daphne Zuniga), from the Mafia. What kind of priest smokes, drinks and sleeps with the girl? Confusing and disturbing violence and sexuality.

Reviewed by Kim Brown
"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 Chowdhury). 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 sexual impulses focusing on a slightly shopworn singer, Jenny (Twiggy).
"Mythic Pizaz" (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.

"Oliver and Company" (A) (G) 70 minutes.

Wide range of voices — Billy Joel, Bette Midler and Cheech Marin for example — place this film with the best of Walt Disney animation. It's sensitive, heart-warming and entertaining with good music to boot.
Reviewed by Patrick Harris

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

Mediocre monster movie with Ed Harley (Lance Henriksen) summoning up evil to punish bikers who killed his son.

"Punch Line" (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. Stephen (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. Comedy-love story teams Hanks and Fields in convincing performances. Reviewed by Kathy Guyor.

"Split Decisions" (P) (R).
Gene Hackman's latest with Jennifer Beals examines three generations of a New York family and the corrupt world of boxing.

"They Live" (P) (R).
Allen Ghouls manipulate subconscious with high-tech. And a very happy Halloween to you, all-year-round.

"U2: Rattle and Hum" (C) (PG-13) 101 minutes.

This is not a film about the inside, personal views of U2 and their lives off-stage. It is a movie about music, a combination of some very 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.

This is a potter's market

By Louise Okrutsky
staff writer

Give enough clay to 120 advanced pottery students and the result will probably resemble Oakland Community College-Royal Oak's 13th Potter's Market.

"It has everything. From whimsical pieces to functional stoneware," said Charles Blossert, in charge of the ceramics program at Royal Oak.

Set for Friday-Sunday, Dec. 2-4, the show's housed in Building D on the Royal Oak campus, 739 S. Washington between Main and Washington at Lincoln. The show opens at 10 a.m. Friday-Sunday and closes at 8 p.m. Friday, 6 p.m. Saturday and 5 p.m. Sunday. Parking is available on the south side of Lincoln, across from the campus.

Small items, jewelry and Christmas ornaments are sold for \$3-\$10, according to Blossert. Functional pottery, such as bowls and pitchers, are marked in the \$10-\$15 range. Larger pieces and sculpture can sell for as much as \$250. One room is devoted to mugs, candlesticks and goblets.

"We have 1,200 pots on display at one time," Blossert said. "The show's continually renewed all day long. There are new things on the floor every two hours." On the average

6,000-7,000 people walk through the three-day show, he said.

Fans of raku, a popular technique, won't be disappointed. "Raku is used for non-functional pieces. The end result is very very difficult to control. You get what you happen to produce. It's a complicated firing process," Blossert said.

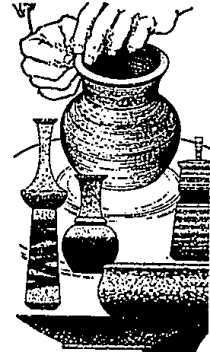
OPEN TO advanced students who can produce marketable work, the show reflects the goals of the school's ceramics program. "This is a vocational program. We're aiming at helping students work full or part time. We teach our students to be self employed. Most vocational programs teach people to work for others," Blossert said.

Pottery as taught by Blossert is a craft, not an art. "In art, God has to

give you a little help when you walk through the door. In a crafts program, we teach by repetition. It's practice, practice, practice until you (get) good enough at it. If you have talent it will show up eventually. We teach craft skills rather than art," Blossert said.

"It's difficult to find an art fair in Michigan (that) doesn't include one of our students," he said. "We're in our 15th year teaching pottery. The Detroit area is a real hotbed of pottery. A lot of good work is being done here."

Proceeds from the sale are split between the students and the college. Students pocket 80 percent of the proceeds with the other 20 percent going toward OCC's ceramics lab to cover the costs of equipment and supplies.



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