DFT to open 15th season with 'Murmur'

New films for '89 won't be along for a week or two, but the Detroit Film Theatre at the DIA opens its 18th season with a Very special vecan, the re-release of Louis Malles "Murrams of the Head of the Season with a teenage both of the Season with the Season with

STILL PLAYING:

"The Accused" (C) (R) 109 min-

"The Accused" (C) (R) 109 minutes.

Sara Tobias (Judy Foster) is gang-raped by three men, but Deputy D.A. Kathryn Murphy (Kelly McGillis) sells out to deleuse, realizes her mistake and procedutes spectator who encouraged the rape. This polgand drama about mishandled rape cases is too long and slow to be effective. Rape seene 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.

"Cocoon: The Return" (B-) (PG)

"Cocon: The Return" (B-) (PG)
115 minutes.
Highly unlikely, overly sentimental.
Highly unlikely, overly sentimental.
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Highly unlikely, overly sentimental.
Highly unlikely between
the old gang are back to save a cocoon-being.

"Crossing Delancy" (A) (PG) 95

"Crossing Delancy" (A) (PG) 05 Inlutes. Isabella "Izzy" Grossman (Amy Irving) is a liberated young New Yorker with her eye on author Anton Maes (Jerone Krabbe). But never mind that modern stuff, Grandma Jda (Reita Boxyl) hires matchmaker Hannah Mandlebaum (Sylvia Miles) to arrange things with Sam the pickleman. Don't worry about true love, it takes care of itself and this is a charming comedy.

'A Cry in the Dark"(C+) (PG-13)

"A Cry in the Dark" (C+) (PG-13)
120 minutes.
Lindy and Michael Chamberlin
(Meryl Streep and Sam Neill) are
camping in Australia's Northern
Territory with their three children
when the baby is killed by a wild
dog. But police mania and public
bysteria 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 storry occurred. The police motivation
in prosecuting the case and the generative force for public bysteria are
poorly depleted 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 haileitjala ending.

"Dirky Rotten Scomderie" (B-4)



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

D Poor

C. Not so hot and slipping fast

D+ The very best of the poor stuff

skull with a bizzare cast.

"Mystic Pizza" (A) (R) 102 min-

"Mystle 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 paln of love and
friendship. Reviewed by Kathy
Guyor.

"Naked Gun" (D) (PG-13) 90 min-

"Makeu was ", ", " when we will be a come to the work of the come of the week of the week

"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 muste to boot. Reviewed by Patrick Harris.

"Rain Man" (A+) (R) 130 minutes.
Tom Cruise and Dustin Hoffman
star as brothers—one a fast-talking
sports car salesman, the other an autistle savani. Cruise looks young
again, he's ditched the unseemly fai
that slowed him down in "Cocktail."
More important, however, he demonstrates forcibly that he can act.
We all knew Hoffman could and together they present a sometimes
sad, sometimes funny, but always
touching story of two very diverse
characters who become brothers in
every sense.

"Scrooged" (B+) (PG-13) 90 min-

D- It doesn't get much worse

F Truly awful

Z Reserved for the colossally bad

No advanced screening

con-man on the Riveria while Sieve Martin only seems to bumble through the game of parting rich women from their money. Despite the obvious twists and turns as the woott-manuever one another, the film is polished and funny with very few slow moments.

"Ernest Saves Christmas" (C+)

"Persets Saves Carastimas" (FG).

Jim Varney has the role of a life-time in "Ernest" and is wisely trying to most it pay within the market by the save of the save that the save of the sa

"Everybody's All American" (A-)
(R) 127 minutes.
In the best sense, a fine, continuental, nostalgic look at a quarter central, nostalgic look at a quarter central continuental, nostalgic look at a quarter central continuental continuental

"Hellbound — Hellraiser" (R).
A cast of unknowns in torment and terror. Do you wonder why I skipped the screening?

"I'm Gonna Get You Sacka" (C+)
(R) 85 minutes.

The satire is not as swift nor as fronny as "Rollywood Shuffie," but it is rewarding that Keenen Ivory Wayans was able to spin Gof from that film and do his own feature. Plot is seed-up of a million "B" movies, this time from the Black point of view, but the pacing is too slow and much of the acting unconvincing.

"Scrooged" (B+) (PG-13) 90 milo-utes.
Get in the boilday spirit and try this udated romp through Dicken's "Christmas Carvil" starring a very off-beat Bill Murray. He's the mod-en-day Scrooge, Frank Cross, a tele-vision network executive who doesn't know the meaning of nice Star-studed cast includes farence Star-studed cast includes farence ton, Robert Mitchum, Michael Pol-lard, Carol Kane, John Forsythe and Bobcat Goldthwalt. "Dirty Rotten Scomdrels" (B+)
(PG) 100 minutes.

"Lair of the White Worm" (R)

"Re Russell's out there with the "Tequila Sunrise" (C+) (R) 115

Silck, glib production gets lost trying for high-concept, bl-tech hook in an old-fashloned, hard-bolled detective story. Retired drug dealer, Date McKussic (Mel Gibson), and best friend, Li Nick Frescia (Kurt Russell) of L.A. Narcotics Squad, the control of the "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. "My Stepmother Is an Allen" (B+)/PG-13) 108 mhoutes. A bloated Dan Aykroyd slows pace, particularly at opening, but once extra-terrestrial Celeste (Kim Basinger) touches down, this comedy takes off. Basinger's sery visitor from another galaxy saves production from its own silliness and her performance is well worth the trip.

"Twins" (B+) (PG) 95 minutes.
Danny DeVito is super-funny. Annoid Schwarzenegger ain't bad cither in this happy, but improbable
story — do you believe they're
winst Well, they are and the film is
marred only by occasional slow pacing and an unconvincing villalin who
is out of step with the rest of the
movie.

"Working Girl" (B) (R) 115 min-

urorang GHP (b) (ft) 115 mintics. McGill (Melane Griffiths)
indis a few obstacles on the road to
success in big business. After boss
(Sigourney beaver) steals her ideas,
Tess grabs them back and collects
Sigourney's boyfriend, Jack Trainor
(Harrison Ford), in the process. Wellwritten, nicely acted and occasionally humorous story of the little person
beating the system. Reviewed by
Kathy Guyor.

Malle film sees life

in its comic aspect When Louis Malle's "Murmur of the Heart" was released in 1971, it was expected to generate a great deal of indignation in France and around the world. The uproar was expected over scenes in the movie depicting in-cest between mother and son in a humorous and sympathetic man-ner.

ner.
Aside from a preliminary skirmish with French censors, who recommended the movie be totally banned and later relented to letting it be shown to only those 18 years and older, the picture was acclaimed rather than condemned.

was accumined ranger than codemned.

It was a hit at the Cannes, New York and. San Francisco Film Festivals and critics lauded it as a richly comic, touching and incisive portrait of a young man's maturing." (Variety's Paris correspondent 'Moak")

"Murmur of the Heart" is the story of 15-year-old Laurent Chevaller's coming of age and his first experiences with sexuality, first with his mother and later with a young patient at a health

spa where he is recovering from

Lea Massari and Benoit Ferreux star as

mother

mur of Heart."

son ir Malle's

spa where he is recovering from scarlet fevet. In 1954, also relects the changes that took place in France that year. There are numerous references to French political events of the year, including the siege and fall of Dien Blen Phu and the end of a national dream of being a colonial power.

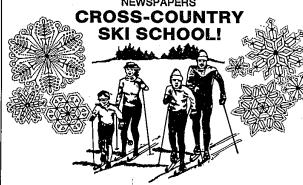
er.

"Murmur of the Heart" was the first original screenplay conceived and entirely writen by Malle. He later admitted that much of the film was based on his own adolescence — he had a heart murmur at age if and his brothers took him to a prostitute at 14½. However, he was quick to point out that the incest incident was not autobigraphical.

The film stars Lea Massaria Clarat, the mother, and Benoit Fereux as Laurent, with Daniel Gelin and Marc Winocourt as his older brothers Marc and Thomas. "Murmur of the Heart" opens the Detroit Film Theater's 15th year at the Detroit Institute of Arts with English subtities. er.
"Murmur of the Heart" was the



Observer & Eccentric **NEWSPAPERS**



Cross-country skling is a fun, exciting and healthful way to enjoy the outdoors this winter. You can learn to cross-country skl at the Observer & Eccentric Ski School at several neighborhood locations in Oakland and Wayne Counties. Clinics begin in January (weather permitting).

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Series samples Jewish humor

If you would like a sampling of Jewish humor — Hollywood style — then circle Jan. 8, 15 and 29 on your calendar. Those are the dates for the seventh annual Adat Ballom Jewish Film Series, which lightlights Jewish humor in the movies, will resume "The Frisco Rid," "The Froducers" and "Play It Again, Sam," will commentary by Obeserver & Eccentric movie critic Dan Greenberg, The movies will be shown at the Adat Sahlom Synagone in Farmington Hills.

Released in 1970, "The Frisco Rid" pairs up Geow Wilder and Harrison Ford in an offbeat story of a palver Polluh rabbi, who develops a friendship with a young bank robber while crossing the United States in 1850.

The film, which will be shown at 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 8, aboze that there is a wortable middle ground between heritage and necessity, Greenberg said.

THE FILM series continues at 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 15, with "The Producers," starring Gene Wilder and Zero

This 1968 film is about a hard-luck Broadway pro-lucer (Mostel) who cons a meek accountant (Wilder)

ducer [Mostel] who cons a meek accountant (Wilder) into helping him with an outrageous scheme — selling 25,000 percent of a play that's certain to flop, then heading to file with the excess cash.

The film, highlighted by the legendary "Springtime

for Hitler" production number, couples broad farce as a defense mechanism with a representation of Nazi ob-scenities as totally absurd, Greenberg said.

THE PROGRAM concludes at 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 29, with "Flay it again, Sam," starring Woody Allen and Diane Keaton.
This 1972 film is an adaptation of Allen's own play about a film buff, ocached by the ghost of Humphrey Bogart in fumbling attempts to meet a woman after his wife divences him.

wile divorces him.

The film shows a modern Jewish intellectual, searching for a place in society and using self-deprecating laughter as his vehicle for survival, Greenberg said.

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