### **MOVING PICTURES**



Tim Quill stars as Brian and Stockard Chann- ous film about family and what It takes for fam-ng as Nancy in "Staying Together," a humor- ilies to grow and mature in meaningful ways.

# This week's openings: Good, bad and terrible film often lacks continuity and gets pretty sappy at times. "Black Hain" (D)- (R) 120 minutes. Unpleasant, ritle detective story stars Michael Douglas. "Bloodfils" (\*) (R). Another martial arts movie. "Crimes and Misdemeaours" (A+) (TG-13) 100 minutes. Woody Allen at his best in this romanic comedy about family life with all its joy and sadness. "Dad" (B) (FG) 197 minutes. Excellent acting by Jack Lemmon, Tred Danson, Zakes Mokae and Olympia Dukshis marred by Cliches. "Dealers" (R). Rebecca DeMornay is a brilliant securities dealer in London's financial district.

"Communion" (\*) (R) has been getting lots of press based on the book's terrific sales. Now that I've read the book — and talked to the author — I should see the movie. Unfortunately, no critic's screening was scheduled. Does that tell us the distributor lacks confidence.

confidence?
As Whitley Strieber tells his story, he was abducted by aliens and those terrifying experiences were buried in his mind and in the minds of his family. Through hypnosis the abdution experiences are gradually a called.

iamily, infouga hypnosis the abouttion experiences are gradually recalled.

Apparently, Strieber is developing
a new literary genre, the "documentary novel." Communion" purports
to recount actual experiences. Prior
to the movie, his first film work,
Strieber's highly successful career
was confined to writing.

Strieber wrote the screenplay
based on his book and is also credited to the producer along with direct
"Howling II and III") and Dan Allingham whose credits include work
"Nowling II and III") and Dan Allingham whose credits include work
on "Spiets Like Us." "Three Arnigos"
and Michael Jackson's "Thriller."
Another major motion picture,
"Old Gringo" (\* J. R. 119 minutes), is
slao opening without benefit of a
crilic's screening. This story of Mextio during Pancho Villa's revolution,
features Gregory Peck, Jane Fonda
and Jimmy Smits.

There's an unusual love triangle
here with Harriet Winslow, (Fonda),
a spinster American school teacher
revuling to Moxico where she meets
General Tomas Arroyo (Smits), one
Villa's officers. Peck is east as

General Tomas Arroyo (Smits), one of Villa's officers. Peck is cast as Ambrose Bierce, the cynical and brilliant American journalist.

Amorphe Burter, the Cylinas and Parillana American journalist.

LITLE GOOD may be said for two of the movies that, were screened this week. Fortunately, "Drugstore Cowboy" (Z. H., 100 minutes) is one of those films that schom appears on local screens. Let's keep it that way.

It's all about four unpleasant young folks who drive around robing drugstores to obtain drugs. Who are these fine folks? Bob (Matt Dillon) and his wife, Dianne (Kelly Lyoch), Rick (James Le Gros) and his wife, Dianne (Kelly Lyoch), Rick (James Le Gros) and high, Then they tend the drugs. Then they seed more drugs. Occasionally, they hasted somebody or the police of the company of the company of the police of th

four-letter words. "Drugstore Cow-boy" is cinematic pollution at its worst. Leave town until the air clears.

Just a few steps up is the boring, lepst and outrageously stupid "Limit Up" (D, PG-13, 89 minutes). Most of its action is on the trading floor of the Chicago Board of Yrade where people gesticulate frantically trad-ing commodities in hope of big prof-its. That's drama?

CASEY FALLS (Nancy Allen) is a

CASEY FALLS (Nancy Allen) is a runner for the affluent male chauvinist Peter Daks (Dean Stockwell). Casey'a dream is to become a trader herself and make it in this male-dominated career. But, as Oaks felis her, "We have clients who depend on us to protect the nation's economy. Do you really think that they'd let some potentially unstable woman take their futures home over night?"

the movies

Dan Greenberg

#### Grading the movies

his uc- re- ing en- rts ior rk, eer lay ilt- ec- rt," All- ork		
	A+	Top marks - sure to please
	Α	Close behind - excellent
	A-	Still in running for top honors
	B+	Pretty good stuff, not perfect
	В	Good
	В-	Good but notable deficiencies
	C+	Just a cut above average
	С	Mediocre
	C-	Not so hot and slipping fast
	D+	The very best of the poor stuff
re, is a ex- on, da	ם	Poor
	գ	It doesn't get much worse
	F	Truly awful
	Z	Reserved for the colossally bad
	*	No advanced screening

Enter Nike (Danitra Vance), who the producers would like you to believe is a comical, wise-cracking devil. She wasn't funny and the script is pretty simple-minded as Nike offers Casey success in return for her soul.

Nike ollers Casey success in return for her soul.

Nike, courtesy of the special effects department, zaps an occasional waiter or two, but the main disapearing act was by wise members of the audience who couldn't sit through this foolishness. There's no need for you to either.

"Staylun Together" (A, R, 95 minutes) is a warm, sensitive and humorous film about family and what it takes for families to grow and matric in meaningful ways.

Jack McDermott (Jim Hayne) doesn't want to grow old and die cooking chicken so he sells the family chicken restaurant in Ridgewdy, S.C., buys a motor home and starts traveling.

traveling.

IT TURNS out that everybody in flown knew that Jake was selling, everybody that is except his three sons. Brian (Tim Quill), Kit (Dermot Mulroney) and Duncan (Sean Astln). The boys thought the restaurant was their (uture and are stunned when they realize what dad did to them.

Because it's a small town, there aren't many career options. Brian goes to work for the new developers, Kit finds a job in a small department store and 17-year-old Duncan sows some wild oals.

Eventually, after a painful but often humorous process — just like flower than the state of the control of t

STILL PLAYING:

"After Midnight" (\*) (R).
Young girl takes class about psychology of fear. Instructor is myste-

'lous. "Baiman" (C+, (PG-13) 120 min-

Michael Keaton is a dud in the title role but Jack Nicholson's Joker

time in the world of electronic video maybem.
"When Harry Met Sally" (A+) (R) 90 minutes.
Fine comic, romanile story of an unlikely couple — Billy Crystal and Meg Ryun — and well directed by Boh Reiner.
"Worth Winning" (C+) (PG-13) 95 minutes. is terrific.
"The Bear" (D-) (R) 120 minutes.
Excellent nature photography but

#### SCREEN SCENE

CENTER POR JAPANESE STUDIES, Lorch Hall, 500 Money, Ann Arbor. Call 764-5307 for information, (free) "The Crucilled Lovers" (Japan — 1954), 7 pm. Nov. 17. Kenji Mikoguchi's tragle story of a wife accused of adultery with her man-servant, based, strangely enough, on an 18th century marionetle play. As part of the center's ambilious tribute to rare Japanese films.

ptay. As part of the center's amountum introductor are dapanese films.

CINEMA GUILD, various locations on the University of Michigan campus. Call 994-0027 for information. (#13.0 single. 33.0 double feature) rance. — 1921). The control of the co

DETROIT FILM THEATHE, Detroit Institute of Arts, \$200 Woodward Ave. Detroit, Call \$32,2230 for information. (\$3)

"The Lucklest Man in the World" (USA — 1989), 7 and 9:30 p.m. Nov. 17. Pulliter Pitz-winning author Frank D. Gilroy (The Subject Was Root') conexcited this less New York garment king trying to turn over a new leaf.
"La Marzellistic" (France — 1928), 7 and 9:30 p.m. Nov. 18. Jean Renoit's stir-

ring depiction of the French Revolution, in a new print struck for the event's bi-centennial.

"The 400 Blows" (France — 1599), 5 and 7.15 p.m. Nov. 19. Francois Trui-fout's autoblographical tale of a young boy named Anioleo Donlet, growing up the hard way in Paris. The director used his young star (Jean-Pierre Leaud) is a series of illms, tracing the character from age 10 into his mid-30s. Shown here in wide screen.

HENRY FORD CENTENNIAL LI-BRAIRY, 16301 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. Call 943-13300 for information. (Free) "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (USA — 1939), 7 pm. Nov. 13. An atmospheric compilation of several Holmes stories— the second (and best) is a long stories—the second (and best) is a long with Nigel Bruce as the harumphing Dr. Watson.

LIVONIA MALL CINEMA, 29415 Seven Mile, Livonia, Call 476-1166 for Information, (Free)

10 January 1

MADONNA COLLEGE, Krerge Hall, 36500 Schoolcraft, Livonia. Call 591-5197 for information. (free)
Indians — "The Foregotten American" and "Ruming Breve." 130-3 and 730 pm. mod "Ruming Breve." 130 pm. mod Ruming Breve. 130 pm. mod Ruming Breve.

MICHIGAN THEATRE, 16301 E. LIb-

erty, Ann Arbor. For information, cal 659-8397. (\$4 regular and \$3.25 students

689-8397, (if regular and \$3.25 students and senior citizens)

"The Searchers" (USA — 1956), 7 p.m. Nov. 14:13, bith Wayne sets out after niece Natalie Wood, stolen as a child by Indiana. Ills journey, set over several years and thousands of miles, reversel years and thousands of miles the westmen how the dark of the westmen how the wes

TELE-ARTS, 1540 Woodward Ave. Detroit. Call 963-3918 for information (\$3.50 for adults, \$2.50 students and sen-

(\$3.50 for adults, \$2.50 students and senter citizens)
"Let's Get Lost" (USA — 1989), Now.
15-19 (call for show times). Photographer
Bruce Weber caught a dark and shattering Image of the late jazzman Chet.
Baker, shown here in interviews and performance. Majorly depressing and definitely worth seeing.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-DEAR-BOIN, Recreation Center, 4901 Evergreen, Dearborn. Call 5375-539 for Information. (free)
Tequila Sunrae (fixe) 1939, 7.10
Tequila Sunrae

#### **ALTERNATIVE VIEWING**

## Baker 'cooks' in 'Lost'

By John Monaghan special writer

cial district.
"Erik the Viking" (\*) (PG-13) 104

act. "Gross Anatomy" (C-) (PG-13) 105 Bland, slow, weakly structured ro-mantic comedy about five, first-year med students.

small.
"Immediate Family" (B+) (PG-13) 95 minutes.
Childless couple adopting baby from young mother and her boy-friend who love, but cannot afford,

the baby.
"An Innocent Man" (B-) (R) 90

"Lethal Weapon II" (B+) (R) 115 minutes. Glover and Gibson do it again in high, albeit violent, style. "Look Who's Talking" (C+) (PG-13) 97 minutes. Contrived, poorly structured story

13) 97 minutes.
Contrived, poorly structured story
of pregnant CPA (Kirstle Alley) and
her search for a perfect father for
her baby. Bruce Willis Is the baby's

olce. "Parenthood" (A-) (R) 120 min-

Wes Cravan does it again, this time in the world of electronic video

He had the startling good looks of James Dean. His smooth trumpet playing reportedly caused Charile Parker to warn his colleagues, "there's this little white cat who's going to give you guys a lot of trou-ble."

That was 1954. Last year, just before he took a final fatal dive from a hotel window in Amsterdam. Che Baker could still hit the high notes—when he wanted to. His body, however, had deterforated from decades of misuse as a heroin addict.

Director Bruce Weber revels in such high contrasts. Not surprisingly, his documentary account of Baker's life, "Let's Get Lost," is shot in sharp haket and white. It in laws at

"Erik the Viking" (\*) (143-13) 104 initiates.
John Cleese, Terry Jones, Mickey Rooney and Eartha Kitt in a tongue-in-check tale of the good ole days.
"The Fabulous Baker Boys" (R).
Two brothers — Jeff and Beau Bridges — add Michelle Pfeiffer to their cocktall lounge plano playing act. in sharp black and white. It plays at the downtown Tele-Arts Theatre this med students.
"Halloween 5".
Donald Pleasence and others in more of the same,
"Honey, I Shrunk the Klds" (B+)
(PG) 105 minutes.
It's fun, but it ain't easy to be

the downtown recents meant and weekend.

Weber, a respected fashion and art photographer, first shot Baker for an exhibition in 1986. Weber had been fascinated with the Jazzman's music and mystique ever since the age of 16.

16. Even harder than locating Baker's original recordings, Weber found, was getting him in condition to shoot. Baker's unrealistic streak pops up throughout the film, either displayed by the musician himself or related by the people who know him best.

best.
"IIE WAS, he was trouble and he
was beautiful," relates one of a
handful of ex-wives. None of the
children from those marriages can
recall a single day when their father

minutes.

Tom Selleck is unjustly imprisoned and must come to grips with the vicious penitentlary world.

"Lethal Weapon II" (B+) (R) 115 was home.

An unflinching Weber shows Baker at his most zoned out and charming self, which often occurs simultaneously.



Director Bruce
Weber documents the life
of jazzman
Chel Baker in
"Let's Get
Lost," playing
at the TeleAris Theatre
this weekend.

"You could never tell from one moment to the next whether he was going to get up and leave, hau off and slug you, or if he was going to sit and be as charming as could be,"

and be as charming as could be, weber said.

The film really cooks during the live performances. Much of the recent footage was shot in Europe, where Baker – like many American Jazz artists – found the respect he arealy received at home. His loose group performs "My One and Only Love." "Imagination" and "You're My Thrill."

Most invitograting are flashes of

My Thrill."

Most invigorating are flashes of his early work. Baker was part of the Los Angeles "cool" sound in the "50s. He's seen playing with saxophonist Gerry Mulligan and his own ensembles on "The Steve Allen Show." He was also a sideman for

Charlie Parker.

THERE ARE also rare clips from his minor movie career — in Italian and American produced B movies with titles like "Hell's Horizon" and "Love at First Bite."

A deep sadness underscrores the images and the stories. It took Baker several years to learn how to play with false teeth (thugs wrenched out his natural ones when he fell behind on drug payments). Some think that his death — at age 56 — was also linked to drugs.

The definitive jazz biography, "Let's Get Lost" would be a cliche if it wasn't so true Director Weber captures perfectly the tragedy and effortless glamour he found in that one unforgettable face.

#### VIDEO VIEWING

By Dan Greenberg

special writer

"Out of the Darkness" (1985, color, R, 95 minutes) is a half-way decent police melodrama about the Son of Sam serial killings in New Yord at the video counter on Nov. 15 and the Video Counter of Nov. 15 and the Video Counter of Nov. 15 and 15 and

"Parenthood" (A.) (IX) complex utes
Large, talented cast in complex but entertaining story about a family that includes Jason Robards, Steve Martin, Tom Hulee, Martha Pilmpton and Dlane Wiest, among others.
"Phantom of the Opera" (\*) (R),
Preddy (Robert Englund) is back newly disguised in an old story. newly disguised in an old story.

"Sea of Love" (C) (R) 110 minutes.
Al Pacino as a burned-out detective adds nothing to the cliche nor does a very weak script.

"Second Sight" (\*) (PG).
Detective with psychic and partner save kidnapped cardinal.

"Sex, Lies, and Videouspe" (R).
Everyone's talking about this romantic comedy with James Spader.

"Shirley Valentine" (A+) (R) 110 minutes.

Superb, comic, romantic, lovely statement about human worth.

"Shocker" (R) 107 minutes.

Wes Cravan does it again, this

this is one of the eight inhibit true stories about New York and all its crailess.

And the stories of the stor

The family friend and priest (Hec-tor Elizondo), a marine biologist (that is stretching things with the un-derwater imagery), further under-lines the concept of family. That, more than psychotic killings, is what this film is about.

ALBEIT SOMEWHAT soapy and episodic, "Out of the Darkness" is decent entertainment because it concentrates on the personal side of the detective who solved this major New York Carlotte on the personal side of the detective who solved this major New York Carlotte on the personal side of the detective who solved this major New York Carlotte on the personal side of the personal side of the detective who solved the detective who wild the graphic violence so widespread in contemporary Hims. Bather, "Out of Dankness" concentrates on the copie involved. The dark side of Landly is opparent as Zigo interviews Guido Pressano (Val Avery), a Maila-type, whose son was a Son of Sam victim. In the final sequence Zigo interviews Berkowitz, and the impact of the Son of Sam's psychotic imbalance is frightening when considering that urban, industrialized culture creates such monsters. The seene is reminiscent of Peter Lorrés psychotic confession at the conclusion of "M."

"Out of the Darkness" may not win any awards, but it is entertaining and a bit different as serial killing films go these days.

There's also a lot of entertaining, older films that have been released in recent weeks, far more than any one column can mention. Of particular note, one of my favorites with some great, brawura acting, "The Man Who Would Be King" (1975, color, P.G. 128 minutes).

Directed by John Huston, "The Man Who Would Be King," stars Scan Connery, Michael Caine and Christopher Plummer in an action-filled and extravagant story about two boisterous 19th-century Hritish soldiers on the loose in India Based on Rudyard Kipling's story, "The Man Who Would Be King" became king and his buddy the Lord of the Treasury in an isolated, primitive Indian mountain kingdom. Courage, camaraderie, greed and gallanty mix well in this two hour entertainment.

talament.

AN UNUSUAL rote for Lucille
Ball is as a private eye's secretary in
"The Dark Corner" (1946, not rated,
black and while, 36 minutes). This
film about a man being framed for
murder also stare Giltion Webb, William Bendix and Mark Stevens.
Best Actress at the 1969 Academy
Awards went to Maggie Smith as a
fine and thoughtful, but eccentric
school teacher in "The Prime of
Mits Jean Brodie" (1869, PG, color,
116 minutes).