

## ALTERNATIVE VIEWING



Nobuko Miyamoto stars in Juzo Itami's "A Taxing Woman's Return," being shown at the Michigan Theatre this weekend.

**DETROIT FILM THEATRE**, Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave. Detroit. Call 832-2730 for information. (\$3)

"The Little Thief" (France — 1978), Nov. 24-26 (call for show times). Francois Truffaut's final screenplay, brought to the screen by director Claude Miller. In it, a rebellious 16-year-old girl learns about life and love in provincial France. A companion piece to the late director's "The 400 Blows."

**HENRY FORD CENTENNIAL LIBRARY**, 16301 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. Call 943-23300 for information. (Free)

"Santa Fe Trail" (USA — 1940), 7 p.m. Nov. 20. Errol Flynn stars in this jumbled Western as Jeb Stuart of the trail of John Brown (Raymond Massey). With Ronald Reagan as George Armstrong Custer.

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

"Tunnel of Love" (USA — 1958).



## VIDEO VIEWING

By Dan Greenberg  
special writer

Mickey Rourke is a pretty good actor but seems to be specializing in unpleasant roles about characters you'd just as soon not meet. "9½ Weeks" and "Angel Heart" are two grim, unsavory Rourke films that have garnered major attention recently.

"Homeboy" (R, 1988, color, 168 minutes), an International Video Entertainment release due Nov. 22, is another example, but not what you want to grace your Thanksgiving feast.

The package is mis-marked at 158 minutes running time. Fortunately "Homeboy" is 50 minutes less than that — which is enough grime, grit and gore for any holiday palate.

Johnny Walker (Rourke) is a broken-down club fighter who has a tremendous inner rage — why is never explained — and the film opens as he comes to town looking more like a cowboy than a fighter.

There's a pretty interesting scene in a bar by the bus station while he waits for his manager. Soon Johnny is deeply involved in the seamy world of club fighting. One of the hangers-on, Wesley Pendergast (Christopher Walken) tries to get Johnny involved in a life of crime. Wesley is about as rotten as they come and Walken's portrait is well done.

On the brighter side, Johnny meets Roby (Debra Feuer), a gal who runs a seaside amusement park. She's the stereotypical sweetheart who stands as a symbol of good amidst all the sleaze. This phase of the film is not as drippy as it could be, but pretty close.

ON THE WHOLE, despite a good performance by Rourke, this unpleasant film with increasingly brutal fight scenes, culminating in Johnny's last fight, is something to pass up during the joyous holiday season.

Almost three months ago VHS Plus Video released the first of their quarterly offerings of "Classics" titles never before released on video. In September it was "Sword and Sorcery," "The Egyptian," "Indiscretions and the Gladiators," "David and Bathsheba" and "Satanstoe and Giovanni."

For Nov. 22, the package is the old west at its best, four films from Twentieth Century Fox: "The Red Badge" (1938, 99 minutes), "Broken Lance" (1934, 96 minutes), "Buffalo Bill" (1944, 90 minutes) and "Western Union" (1941, 85 minutes). None are rated, but all are acceptable by today's standards.

"The Red Badge" features Gregory Peck as a grim stranger seeking vengeance for the rape and murder of his wife Joan Collins, Stephen Boyd, Albert Salmu and Henry Silva also are featured.

"Broken Lance" is set in late 19th century Arizona with Matthew Devereaux (Spencer Tracy) as the cattle baron in conflict with his sons, played by Richard Widmark and Hugh O'Brian. There's another son in this all-star cast, Joe (Robert Wagner) whose mother (Kathy Jurado) is Indian.

Jurado was nominated for best supporting actress in 1954 for this role. Jean Peters and E.G. Marshall also appear in this film which won the 1954 Oscar for best original story.

"Buffalo Bill" stars Joel McCrea in the title role with Maureen

O'Hara as his wife, Louisa. Thomas Mitchell is journalist/press agent Ned Hamilton who encouraged Bill to join his famous Wild West Show after years as Indian fighter and scout.

Finally, RANIMOLPI Scott, one of the most famous stars of classic Hollywood westerns, appears in "Western Union," a story of Vance Shaw (Scott), the guide hired to provide the men stringing telegraph

wires from Omaha to Salt Lake City. Like so many of these westerns, it sums up the nostalgia for the Old West and the interest in that formative period in American culture, the settling of the frontier from the Mississippi to the Pacific from 1810 to 1890.

Shaw and Richard Blake (Robert Young) are entangled romantically with the chief engineer's sister. "Western Union" was directed by noted German director Fritz Lang.

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