## **MOVING PICTURES**



O&E Monday, January 1, 1990

Tom Cruise stars as Ron Kovic in "Born on the Kovic's experiences as a Mar Fourth of July," an autobiographical film about paralyzed.

# 'Fourth of July' kicks off a new decade of movies "Back to the Fature Part II" (B+)(PG) 90 minutes. All your favorite time-travelers are in other dimensions once again. "The Bear" (B) (PG) 33 minutes. Excellent nature photography but film often lacks continuity and gets pretty same at lines.

the movies

Dan

Grading the movies

Still in running for top honors B+ Pretty good stuff, not perfect

Good but notable deficiencies

Not so hot and slipping fast

Reserved for the colossally bad

D+ The very best of the poor stuff

D- It doesn't get much worse

No advanced screening

Just a cut above average

A+ Top marks - sure to please

A Close behind - excellent

A-

в.

C+

С Mediocre

C.

Z

\*

D Poor

F Truly awful

B Good

Greenberg

A very happy, healthy and peace-tail New Year to you all. Beverybody's combing through the 'Bos for their best-this-robest-that-of-the-decade, so I thought I'd spare you one more trip through other peo-ple's pleasures and tip you off to some of the coming attractions that held great promise for the new year. "Born on the Fourth of Jaby" opens next week and appears to more than "just another Vietnam film," starring Tom Cruise as Rom towice in an autobiographical work about kovic's experiences as a Ma-tione paralyzed during (Ighting in Vietnam. The traumas visited on all Viet vicesized and symbolized in Kovie's story. Based on Kovie's book of the same

thesized and symbolized in Kovie's story. Based on Kovie's book of the same name, "Born on the Fourth of July" was directed by Oliver Stone ("Pla, toon") who co-authored the script with Kovie. Willem Dafoe also ap-pears in what looks to be a major motion picture.

"Glory" and "Roger and Me" are e best bets for the week of Jan. 12. the best bets for the week of Jan, 12. Everybody's heard about Michael Moore's sardonic look at General Motors, but 'Glory' hasn't had the same level of prerelease publicity. Matthew Broderick stars as Col. Robert Gould Shaw, the command-ing officer of the 54th Massechusetts Regiment, the first black fighting unit recruited in the North during the Civil War.

The 54th Regiment's valor in bat-tle undermined Northern opposition to arming blacks who eventually to-taled more than 180,000 members of examines the questions of guilt and innocence during the Holocaust.

STILL PLAYING; "All Dogs Go To Heaven" (B+) (G) 90 taled more than 100,000 memory of the Union Army. "Music Box," with Jessica Lange, opening Jan. 19, rounds out the new films this month. Lange is an attor-ney defending her father against charges that he was a notorious and vicious Hungarian secret police offi-

vicious Hungarian secret police offi-cer during World War II. The film

Mike Laszlo (Armin Muell-er-Stahl), accused of accused of committing unspeakable crimes nearly 50 years ago, ia defended by daughter Ann Talbot (Jessica Talbot (Jessica Lango), an at-torney, in "Mu-sic Box." Lu-kas Heas plays L a s z i o ' s g r a n d s o n , Mikey.



#### **ALTERNATIVE VIEWING**

## Alternatives offered in '89

#### By John Monaghan special writer

Bydohn Monghan special writer Controversy and box office re-classics got a new IIIe. Here's a look back at some of the year's most sig-nificant alternative (lin werents: • Spike Lee's "Do the Right Thing" had a heatily new in main-stream theaters but was still the most though Lee's ambiguous moral tone tone though Lee's ambiguous moral tone to the year. Some critics though Lee's ambiguous moral tone to the year. Some critics though Lee's ambiguous moral tone to the year. Some critics though Lee's ambiguous moral tone to the team of the year. Some though Lee's and a clance, was neverthe-lee's III at Canne, was neverthe-lee's III at Canne, was neverthe-lee's film at Canne, was neverthe-by 26-year-old director Setten So-ebrogh I. It was one of the year's many rags-to-riches stores. • "Heathers," produced by which by a former video store em-ployee, poked fun at high school mores in the nasilest – and elev-erest – way possible. Some saw it as a glorification of teen suicide, but dark comedles never play by the villes anyway. • In the Soviet-made "Little

as a giorn relation or text services any by the rules anyway.

In the Soviet-made "Little Vera," a young woman longs for extractions of the service of the s

diences begging for more — and they got it. Almodovar's "Matado" (1968), a steamy satire of sexism, provoked women's groups to protest in front of the Detroit Film Theatre. If anyone figured out that "Dark Habits" (1984) was about a seet of drug-erazy nuns, there would have been trouble, too, but it played in relative ano-

### SCREEN SCENE

periment.

LIVONIA MALL CINEMA, 29115 Seven Mile, Livonia, Call 476-1166 for information, (Free) "Eimer Gantry" (USA - 1960), 10 am. Jan. 2 Burt Lancester shines in this heavy-handed adaptation of Sinclait Lewis' novel. He plays the unscrupulous title character who joins a charismatic womar's (Jean Simmons) traveling salvation show. Part of the mal's month-long tribute to Lancester

MICHIGAN THEATRE, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. Cali 668-8397 for information. (34 regular, 33.25 students and senior citizens) "Laputa" (Japan — 1988), 5:15 p.m. Jan. 2. 45 and 5 p.m. Jan. 3. A new animated feature about a wom-

often lack continuity and gets pretty sppy at times. "Black Rain" (D-) (R) 120 minutes. "Black Rain" (D-) (R) 120 minutes. Unplexant, this detective story stars Michael Douglas. "Black" (A) (R) 110 minutes. Superb Paul Newman portrayal of Loudiana Governor Earl K. Long with Loudistina Governor Earl K. Long with Loudistina Governor Earl K. Long with Loudistina Governor Earl K. Long with Pauli Da, Boytch excellent as stripper "Crimes and Mindemeasors" (A +) (PG-13) 100 minutes. "Dead" (B) (PG) 119 minutes. "Earcellost acta by Jack Lemmon, Ted Data States Minde and Glympia Da-lastismeated States With an and Glympia Da-lastismeated States With States and Glympia Da-lastismeated States States and Glympia Danew animated feature about a wom-an chased around the galaxy for the magical amulet around her neck. With a mystical floating world, roughly based on a chapter from 'Guilliver's Travels."

### VIDEO VIEWING

"Family Business" (D-) (R) 120 min-utes. Crever idea and good performances she down by weak script about father, son and grandson in robery business "Itarien Nights" (D) (R) 100 minutes Niec cors and nify sails but all that Resec - can't save this slow paced 1930s Harlem gangter story. "The Little Mermaid" (A) (G) 80 min-tice. By Dan Greenberg special writer

Danson, Zakes Mokae and Comment kakis marred by cliches. "Drugstore Cowboy" (Z) (H) 100 min-

"Preparent sectors about as unpleasant as it gets Four young folks steal and use drugs. "Family Business" (D-) (R) 120 min-

Disney animation of Hans Christian Andersen tale of mermaid in love with

"Look Who's Talking" (C+) (I'G-13) 97

taminy is okay for relational Lapoons "Parenibood" (A-yik) 120 minutes. Large, iakenetic cast in complex but en-tertaining story about a family that in-takes. Jawn (Boards, Sieve Marint, Term Holee, Martha Pilmpion and Diane Went, among others. Went, among others. Deliphilal story of 9-year-old girl who Inds an injured reindeer just before Christmas. "Sea of Low" (C) (R) 110 minutes. Al Pacino as a burned-out detective disch noting to the cliche nor does a very weak script. She-Deul" (D +) (PG-13) 90 minutes. Meryl Streep is marvelous as the cari-cutres a romanic newlist who heaves the wrath of her lover's wile (Roseance Bar).

Bart). "Shocker" (B) 107 minutes. Wes Cravan does It again, this time in the world of electronic video mayhem. "Steel Magnolias" (B-) (PG) 110 min-

"Steet Alagnonas (1977) 2017 utes. Talented cast, led by Shirley Mac-Laine's performance, fails short in de-picting problems of air Southern women. Thebolous Monk: Straight, No Chaser" (D)(PG-13) 35 minutes. Poor testimonial to great jazz planist.

The flood of videos for home view-ing pleasure continues unabated as the New Year dawns. In case you missed a few of the less publicized once, let's start the new year by looking back over some interesting tapes that appeared unheraided the last fow monts. Contrived, poorly structured scory of Contrived, poorly structured scory of pregnant CPA (Kiratic Alkey) and ker search for a perfect father for her baby. Pruce Willie is the baby's volce. "National Lempoon's Christmas Yaca-tion" (B-)(PG-13) 80 minutes. Christmas vacation for the Grisvold family is okay for National Lapoon's fans.

looking back over some interesting tayes that appeared unheraided the last (ew monts. HBO presented six films from 'lagendary Sichis'. This collection has something for everyone - two warabucking adventures. "The Thief of Bagdad" (133 minute) with Douglas Fairbanks an "The Fagle" (81 minutes) with Nudolph Valentino, and three comedies. "Our Hospitall of Tainautes) with Nudolph Valentino, and three comedies." "Our Hospitall of Tainautes) with Nudolph Valentino, and three comedies." "Our Hospitall of Tainautes) with Nudolph Valentino, and three comedies." "Our Hospitall of Tainautes) with Nudolph Valentino, and three to the Streng Man" (Keas-tures), starting Harry Langdon. Beging gradi success during the si-tent era. Then he was raneed with Chaplin, Keaton, Harold Lloyd, Fat-y Arbucki can Ben Turpin although sound era began. He has not been re-vived as widdy as the others. In "The Strong Man", the stars as Pair Bergot, a Belgian World War fug for the young girl Whose letters during the war helped houy his spir-tus. "The Strong Man" was directed by Frank Capra, better known at this time of year for "It's a Wonderful life" as well as his other sound tims, including "Mr. Smith Gees to Washington" with Jimmy Stewart.

THE SITH? I of these solutions needs a railroad locomotive in the south certainly desrives the leasts' are during the Crill War. Keaton is its programmer solution of the south of the solution of the south of the solution o THE SIXTH of these silents most certainly deserves the classic tag. D. W. Griffith's "Broken Blossons" (§5 minutes), the sad and poignant story of a young girl (Lillian Gish) who is brutalized by her drunken fa-ther (Donald Crisp). Yes, Virginia, he did play nasty roles in his earlier days.



Steven Soderbergh's "sex, lies and videotape," which won ac-claim at the Cannes Film Festival, stars Peter Gallagher, Laura San Giacomo, Andle MacDowell and James Spader.

screen films this past fall. Poor attendance may have led to the up-coming winter season having just a small handful of vintage titles. It's still the best screen in town.

The Tele-Arts, meanwhile, kepi plugging away in Grand Circus Park, bringing in decent premicres such as "The Navigator" and "Al-ice." It's a great place to see movies, though insiders wonder how it's sur-vivent the large wonder how it's sur-

ite's a great place to see movies, though insiders wonder how it's survived this long.
 Senlor clitznes continue to flock to the Redford and free morning screenings at Luonia Mall.
 Certainly, the most talked-adult lim hocally continues to be fluctuated with the second screening at Luonia Mall.
 Certainly, the most talked adult lim hocally continues to be fluctuated with the second screening at Luonia Mall.
 Method and the second screening at Luonia Mall.
 Certainly, the most talked adult lim festivals. Moore was courted look at hard limes in Pilit was a hit at film festivals. Moore was courted by several studios before decling to tel Warner Bros. distribute it.
 Think about it: a grainy, how-budget documentary about is yoffs in a Michigan auto town given the big push by a major film company. I can't think do a more encouraging sign for filmmakers – local, alternative or otherwise – in the new decade.

"Mr. Skeffington" (USA - 1944), 7:30 p.m. Jan. 4. Epic Warner Bros. soap opera stars Bette Davis as a flat-broke socialite who marries a wealthy stockbroker (Claude Rains) only to realize her real love for him wear blave. at times extremely moving, film ex-periment. "Dangerous Linisons" (USA 1980, 9:10 puri Jan 2, and 4:40 puri Jan. 3 John Malkovich, Mi-helle Pfleffer und Gieng (Disse team up in this frantic story of sexual poli-tics in 18th century France. Directed by Stephen Frears. "The Rainbow" (Britain – 1989), Jan. 5-11 (call for show times). Ken Uusself's highly acclaimed adapta-tion of the D.H. Lawrence novel is a voung woman (Sammi Davis) delites social convention to corne alive in-relicetually and sexually in Victori-an England. Glenda Jackson co-stars. يەن love for him years later. Shown on large screen video.

TELE-ARTS, 1540 Woodward, De-trolt, 963-6690, (22) "Drugstore Cowboy" (USA – 1989), Jan. 48 (call for show linnes). Matt Dillon leads a quartet of lar-cenous junkies in the cariy 70s. In-stead of simply depicting the horrors of drugs, the film also shows their appeal – a subversive thought in-deed for the late '80s. – John Monaghan

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