

GRADING THE MOVIES

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EVEN SHIRLEY MacLaine can't save "Waiting for the Light" (C, PG, 95 minutes) from its heavy-handed and simple-minded satire of human gullibility. She's Aunt Z (Zena) to Kay (Teri Garr)'s two children, Emily and Eddie (Hillary Wolf and Colin Baumgartner). A semi-retired vaudeville performer, Aunt Z does children's birthday parties and has a mischievous sense about her role in life, primarily as a prankster-keeping the pompous honest.

Despite an occasional sparkle, for the most part, MacLaine's a worn and wearisome Auntie Mame-like character. She and Teri Garr, as well as all the other competent performers, deserve better material than this script, essentially a one-line gag suitable for a half-hour sitcom. There just isn't enough here for a 90-minute feature film.

"Tune in Tomorrow" (C+, PG-13, 100 minutes) is this season's second older woman-younger man film. Unfortunately, it lacks the tension and excitement generated by "The White Palace" and turns out to be a disjointed, loosely structured comedy about radio soap operas in the '50s.

Peter Falk is always a pleasure to watch and this is no exception. Here, he's Pedro Carmichael, an eccentric but successful scriptwriter who, it turns out, is just copying life — "Oh, there's a

lot of really impacting here" is his favorite comment.

HIS RADIO scripts are visualized on the movie screen while being read by radio actors, a technique which helps really impact on viewers, but however clever, without tight editing and directing, is not enough to make me tune in again. Much of the comedy is flat.

In addition to his scriptwriting duties, Pedro takes it upon himself to play cupid to a young radio news writer, Martin (Keanu Reeves), and his "Aunt" Julia (Barbara Hershey). Martin loves Julia, 15 years his senior, who is a free thinker and radical type, at least by 1951 standards in New Orleans. The focus of their affair and Pedro's antics are not mixed as well as they should have been.

Despite considerable potential, "Tune in Tomorrow" is too loosely structured and scattered to take advantage of its strengths. It winds up in the "wait-for-dollar-night" category. Check your video cassette racks, it won't be long.

What would Halloween be without Frankenstein? Roger Corman has filled the bill with "Frankenstein Unbound" (*, R) which involves time travel as well as Dr. Frankenstein's original creator and John Hurt, the time-traveling scientist.

STILL PLAYING:

"Avalon" (A+, PG, 128 minutes).



Michael (Matt Craven) is one person who offers an explanation as to why Jacob (Tim Robbins) is plagued by terrible visions in "Jacob's Ladder."

Excellent film chronicles an immigrant family's successes and failures in America.

"Duck Tales: The Movie — Treasure of the Lost Lamp" (A, G, 70 minutes).

Scrooge McDuck from daytime TV in an entertaining and exciting animated feature that owes a great debt to Indiana Jones.

"Fantasia" (A+, G). Excellent restoration of Disney's 1940 masterpiece.

STREET SENSE

Make an educated choice

Dear Barbara,
Recently, a doctor prescribed the drug Prozac to my husband for the mild depression he was feeling. I told him that I had heard that Prozac has harmful side effects and that it would be crazy to take it. What do you think?
Jane

Dear Jane,
Whether or not to take a drug is a question between a doctor and patient. This is a controversial subject at present and so I thank you for giving me the opportunity to address it. When deciding whether or not to take a medication, one must consider:

- (1) How debilitating the present condition is.
- (2) The degree to which one will improve on the medication.
- (3) The possible negative side effects.

When Prozac was first released as a drug to combat depression, it was hailed as a "wonder drug" because it answered the second two questions positively. It was thought to stimulate great improvement with very few side effects, certainly fewer side effects than other antidepressants. It had the additional positives of only needing to be taken once a day and being safer, if large amounts were ingested.

That, however, was a short-lived honeymoon. On July 17, a 40-year-old woman filed a \$150 million lawsuit against Eli Lilly and Co., charging that Prozac, their drug, had made her slash her wrists more than 150 times. The media has jumped on this case and many others who have taken the drug have also begun lawsuits.

Two million people worldwide have taken Prozac. The controversy rages. Is this a wonder drug or a suicide pill? There are many glitches in trying to ascertain the truth. Among them is that the rate of suicide for depressed patients has been reported as high as 22 to 36 times that of the general public.

Further, suicidal ideation is stronger in patients as they are improving. In the severest stages of their depression, they are too incapacitated to act on their thoughts. Therefore, suicide would be more likely after a person started taking Prozac than before.

Any drug has risks associated with it. There will always be documented side effects as well as idiosyncratic responses. The TV, newspapers and magazines are full of stories about this pill.

As with any illness and treatment about which you have a question, you should become as educated as is possible for you and then find a doctor



Barbara Schiff

whom you trust. You can never be 100 percent sure of a course of action, but you can make an educated choice.

Barbara

If you have a question or a comment for Barbara Schiff, a trained therapist and experienced counselor, send it to Street Sense at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

STREET SEEN



Denise Susan Lucas

Our intrepid Street Scene reporter is always looking for the unusual and welcomes comments and suggestions from readers and entrepreneurs. Send those to this column in care of this newspaper, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or call 591-2300, Ext. 331.



Paw Pourri

Dawgone it, if the Michigan Humane Society doesn't have gifts ideas for your favorite animal lover. The new MHS Paw Pourri Gift Shop at 817 N. Main St., Royal Oak, has a selection of whimsical holiday greeting cards, hand-painted paw print sweatshirts, placemats, pet bowls and books, not to mention lots of T-shirts. The T-shirts come in large and extra-large sizes only and cost \$15. Matching sweatshirts are \$25. The shirts are also available at the MHS shelters in Detroit (872-3400), Auburn Hills (852-7420) and Westland (721-7300).



Decorative art

Since the beginning of time, man has worked with clay. Today, ceramic clay bowls in pastel washes make beautiful accent pieces, enhancing any room decor. Charles Furniture Warehouse, 22 E. Harrison, Royal Oak, has textured ceramic bowls in customized colors priced at \$80.

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SCREEN SCENE

Continued from Page 2

show times. (\$5.50 general, \$3.50 (willight))

"Henry and June" (USA — 1990). The first film to receive the controversial NC-17 rating is the story of writer Henry Miller (Fred Ward) and his bizarre relationship with his wife (Uma Thurmond). Directed by Phil Kaufman.

"Miller's Crossing" (USA — 1990). Joel and Ethan Coen have created a stylized portrait of a mob boss' right-hand man (Gabriel Byrne). The most accomplished work so far from the talented young filmmakers.

"Fantasia" (USA — 1940). The 50th anniversary of the Disney classic, which teamed the studio's best animators with well-known classical music performed by Leopold Stokowski.

TELE-ARTS THEATRE, 1540 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Call 963-8690. (\$4, \$2.50 students/senior citizens)

"Book of Days" (USA — 1990), 7 and 9 p.m. Nov. 9-10, 6 and 8 p.m. Nov. 11. Performance artist, Meredith Monk makes her feature film debut in a story set in a small town in medieval Europe. A young Jewish girl suffers frighteningly clairvoyant images that link modern and medi-

eval sections of the film. "8 1/2" (Italy — 1963), 3:30 p.m. Nov. 4. The Federico Fellini classic is the semi-autobiographical story of a middle-aged director struggling for the inspiration to create another film. Marcello Mastroianni plays the director in this long but brilliant film.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN — DEARBORN, Recreation Center, 4901 Evergreen, Dearborn. Call 593-5390. (Free)

Science Fiction — a trio screens this week, each starting at 7:30 p.m. "Blade Runner" (USA — 1982) on Nov. 5. "Creature from the Black Lagoon" (USA — 1954) on Nov. 6 and "Total Recall" (USA — 1990) on Nov. 7-8.

— John Monaghan



Leo (Albert Finney) defends himself during an attack on his house in the gangster drama "Miller's Crossing," now playing at the Maple Theater in Bloomfield.

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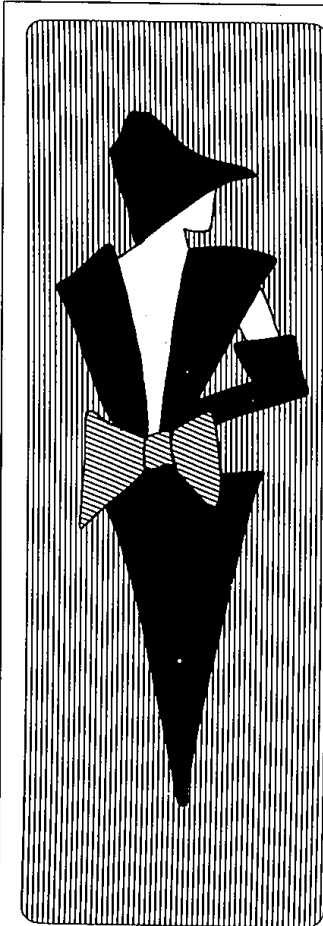
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