

MOVING PICTURES



Lt. John Dunbar (Kevin Costner) returns the injured Stands With a Fist (Mary McDonnell) to her camp in a scene from "Dances with Wolves."

'Dances with Wolves' is a Thanksgiving delight

There'll be no time to eat turkey this Thanksgiving week as Hollywood has lined up 10 new movies for your viewing pleasure. While you may decide to skip a few in favor of cranberry sauce and family dinners, don't miss Kevin Costner's sensitive and touching look at America's western frontier during the Civil War.

Costner directed himself in "Dances with Wolves" (A, PG-13, 130 minutes) as Lt. John Dunbar, a Northern Army cavalry officer who receives the post of his choice for bravery in action against the Confederates. He picks a distant outpost, Fort Sedgewick, on the western frontier in order to see the wilderness "while it's still there." It's strange that an officer would desire to be away from the "real action" during the Civil War but Dunbar is a thoughtful, battle-weary veteran in search of himself.

"Dances with Wolves" opens with much of the wilderness grandeur associated with John Ford westerns but quickly turns into something very different and very special: an epic poem to humanity and brotherhood.

Like great paintings hung in museums, the vast panoramas depicted in Dean Semler's cinematography are worth seeing for their intrinsic beauty. But they serve as well to emphasize the ultimate insignificance of individuals facing the overwhelming power of social and natural forces. One has only to see a small wagon with a few lonely souls to understand the great bravery of those who crossed the western plains on horseback or in Conestoga wagons.

LT. DUNBAR becomes friendly with a nearby Sioux tribe. Much to the film's credit, the problems of inter-cultural contact are not minimized or taken lightly. It is a slow process as Dunbar and the Sioux learn each other's languages, customs, feelings. There is a white woman, Stands with a Fist (Mary McDonnell), who had been captured as a young girl and had grown up in the tribe. She married the Indian who had captured her.

When Stands with a Fist's husband died, she went into mourning and is reluctant to speak English or try to translate for Dunbar. This is a very slow process of inter-cultural accommodation, handled delicately, and is at the heart of the emotional appeal of "Dances with Wolves." This atmosphere is reinforced by the vast visual pleasures of the scenery.

"Dances with Wolves" is a remarkably fine-textured film, a movie to make one feel eloquent and poetic about human courage and about the brotherhood of man. Ordinarily, sequels of hit films don't pass muster when the basic plot is simply rehearsed for those who loved the original. That's exactly the case in "Three Men and a Cradle" (B+, PG, 105 minutes), a very funny look at parenthood from a very different point of view.

In the original "Three Men and a Cradle," the American remake of the successful 1955 French film, "Three Men and a Cradle," the three were bachelors. Jack Holden (Ted Danson), Peter McLeell (Tom Selleck) and Michael Colum (Steve Guttenberg) care for and raise a baby left in their care.

NOW, FIVE years later, the baby, fathered by one of the swinging bachelors, is the adorable and precocious Mary, played with engaging sweetness by Robin Williams. The plot thickens, as they say, when her mother, Sylvia Bennington (Nancy Travis), an actress, returns and moved in. It's quite a menage and "Three Men..." plays it to the comic hilt.

Further complications arise when

Sylvia's boyfriend, Edward, an English theatrical director offers a part on the London stage — and a permanent part as his wife. The three bachelors fathers are devastated but quickly summon up a number of clever strategies to avoid that terrible fate. Not since "The Graduate" have viewers been treated to such a comic wedding-chase scene. But there's much more.



the movies

Dan Greenberg

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
C-	Not so hot and slipping fast
D+	The very best of the poor stuff
D	Poor
D-	It doesn't get much worse
F	Truly awful

The film's only drawback is its failure to explain the background for those who missed the original. That, however, shouldn't spoil your fun.

There's no truth to the rumor that Sylvester Stallone goes in a roomful of mirrors in "Rocky XXXV" and beats himself up. But it is true that Stallone beats viewers over the head in "Rocky V" (C+, PG-13, 100 minutes) with the same stuff that made "Rocky I-IV" successful.

As "V" opens, Rocky loses everything because his brother-in-law, Paulie (Burt Young), had him sign a power-of-attorney to an accountant who used Rocky's wealth in a real estate deal that went sour. Rocky thought he was signing some IRS documents. It also turns out that the accountant hadn't paid Rocky's taxes for six years.

THAT'S ALL pretty thin for a major plot device. It's hard to believe such a widely known celebrity could dodge the IRS for six years while living on the top of the heap. There are similar plot flaws later on as the four of them — Paulie, Rocky, Adrian (Talia Shire) and their son, Rocky Jr., played quite well by Sylvester's son Sage — return to the old neighborhood and settle in together.

Seems doubtful that the brother-in-law who just lost the family fortune would be welcomed into the family's bosom with everything forgiven and forgotten. Even Rocky isn't that punch-drunk. Nor is it reasonable that Rocky would quickly come to his senses after alienating his son in favor of a new young boxer, Tommy Gunn (Tommy Morrison). The latter had come to Rocky for training in the old gym, which, incidentally, is inhabited by the ghost of Rocky's trainer, Mickey (Burgess Meredith).

Just a few words from Adrian and father and son quickly reconcile. Despite doctors' orders, Rocky fights again and neither his brain nor his vision are strained. Viewers who

aren't "Rocky" fans will find their patience strained by the title and repetitive plot development and by Stallone's exaggerated, nervous rendition of uneducated street talk.

ON THE OTHER HAND, "Rocky" fans will be pleased to see their hero bash the opposition in flashbacks as well as in the present. Me, I've taken enough beatings from "Rocky. I'm punch-drunk... rocky, you might say.

"Home Alone" (B, PG, 100 minutes) is a fairly engaging comedy that is at its best when Kevin McCallister (Macaulay Culkin) is left alone to do his thing — that is protect his home from intruders with the mature cleverness children often display.

The McCallister family is vacationing in Paris and accidentally left Kevin behind when they rushed off to catch their plane. Some of the

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ALTERNATIVE VIEWING

Glover shines in 'Anger'

By John Monaghan
special writer

"To Sleep with Anger" is unusual for a couple of reasons. First, for giving Danny Glover the chance to act in a film where he's not a sidekick for some popular white star.

More importantly, it offers a take off on family life that you'll never see on "The Cosby Show."

Gideon and Susie are hardworking senior citizens, farmers transplanted in Southern California. Today, their crops consist of a small plot of corn

and sunflowers; their livestock a few chickens and pigeons.

When Harry (played by Glover) shows up on the doorstep one day and is invited to stay, you can see through the heavy smile and laughter almost immediately.

"He plays the part of the colored gentleman," a friend says. "He shows a polite side, but the other is black and evil."

HARRY'S SHADY past is hinted at throughout — something about a lynching and knifing of three men

that Harry was certainly mixed up in. He brings superstition with him, tossing salt over both shoulders when a boy accidentally sweeps over his feet.

He also escalates the problems of the family, definitely teaching his evil ways to the youngest son, Balc. Brother, and perhaps putting Gideon in the hospital. Old friends sum it up best: "Anyone been around Harry ends up with pennies over their eyes."

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SCREEN SCENE

DETROIT FILM THEATRE, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Call 833-3323 for information.

"Driving Me Crazy" (USA — 1990), 9:30 p.m. Nov. 23. Director Nick Broomfield captures the behind-the-scenes turmoil of a stage spectacular. (\$4/auditorium)

"The Emperor's Naked Army Marches On" (Japan — 1988), 7 and 9:30 p.m. Nov. 24. A controversial documentary about Kenzo Okuzaki who waged a one-man war against Japan's Emperor Hirohito. (\$4/auditorium)

"Gates of Heaven" (USA — 1978), 3, 5 and 7 p.m. Nov. 25. Errol Morris ("The Thin Blue Line") made his first film on a bet with director Werner Herzog. The film that

couldn't be made traces the story of two pet cemetery owners. A funny, moving film. (\$4/auditorium)

"Vampyr" (France — 1932), 1 p.m. Nov. 21, 23-25. Carl Dreyer's first sound film is a bizarre takeoff on the Dracula legend. In one of the screen's most bizarre sequences, a man witnesses his own burial from inside the grave. With incredible, otherworldly cinematography by Rudolf Mate. (\$2.50/recital hall)

DETROIT SCIENCE CENTER, 5029 John R., Detroit. Call 577-8400 for information. (\$5 adult admission, \$2-4 children)

"To the Limit" (USA — 1990), through April 1991. The latest Omnimax spectacular interests amazing

athletic feats with an analysis of how muscles and blood work. Not intended for people with claustrophobia, the movie becomes a first-person "Fantastic Voyage" into the human body.

HENRY FORD CENTENNIAL LIBRARY, 13671 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. Call 943-2330 for information. (Free)

"E.T., The Extra-Terrestrial" (USA — 1982), 7 p.m. Nov. 19. Steven Spielberg's most popular film finds a 10-year-old boy befriending a space alien.

LIVONIA MALL, Seven Mile at
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VIDEO VIEWING

By Dan Greenberg
special writer

It's really quite remarkable how talented people sometimes assemble with good ideas and produce mediocre motion pictures.

Telly Savalas in "The Hollywood Detective" (1985, color, PG, 88 minutes) and "Eternity" (1990, color, R, 122 minutes) with Jon Voight, Armand Assante, Lennie Kazan, Kaye Ballard and Wilford Brimley are two examples of this unfortunate situation. Both hit video racks Nov. 15.

Of the two, "The Hollywood De-

tective" is a far better choice for an evening's entertainment. Its occasional moments of action and humor are complemented by the pleasure of seeing Telly Savalas satirize his role as Kojak.

Now a washed-up drunk, Harry Powell (Savalas) is still remembered for his starring role in a once successful TV series, "John Crown, Private Eye." He has kept in touch with his agent, his writer and the police lieutenant who was the show's technical consultant. Everybody still loves Harry, but his drinking makes it impossible for him to get acting

assignments.

"The Hollywood Detective" is fun, however, because of the play on the Kojak character that Savalas does so well. Re-runs of the "John Crown" series shown in "The Hollywood Detective" clearly satirize "Kojak" and Savalas.

A young girl (Helene Udy) appears at Harry's door. She has a sad story about a missing boyfriend. She also has \$10,000 and mistakes Harry for a real private eye.

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JOIN US!

It's Max & Erma's Third Annual Jingle Bell Run for Arthritis. Bring family and friends, neighbors and co-workers to join you for this unique holiday event. You will receive a complimentary pair of Jingle Bells for your shoelaces and the first 1200 pre-registered entrants will receive the official Max & Erma's Jingle Bell Run T-shirt.

THE EVENT

It's a 5K course. (Erma says that's a little over three miles.) Starting and finishing at the Oakland University in Rochester, this course runs through campus and is for serious or amateur athletes—young or old, tall or short, lit or fat, runners or walkers!

RACE DIVISIONS

10 and under	30-39	60+
11-17	40-49	Wheelchair
18-29	50-59	

AWARDS

The top three male and female finishers overall will receive trophies and a \$20 Max & Erma's gift certificate. The top three finishers in each race division will be presented with plaques. The awards ceremony will immediately follow the race at Meadowbrook Village Mall. Although walkers will not be eligible for trophies and plaques, they are able to participate in the costume competition and the pledge incentive program.

HIT THE STREET WITH BELLS ON YOUR FEET!

(A Fun, Festive Event Guaranteed to Put You in the Holiday Spirit!)

Sunday, December 2, 1990
10:00 A.M.

PACKET PICK-UP

Entrants may pick up their race packets or register November 28th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Meadowbrook Village Mall in Rochester (Adams and Walton).

Registration and packet pickup can also be done on race day from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the Lepley Sports Center on the Oakland University Campus.

DON YOUR HOLIDAY DUDS!

Don reindeer antlers or elf's garb, dress as a Snowman, Santa, or Good King Wenceslas! (Don't be a Scrooge, at least wear your holiday colors and get festive!)

Judging will begin one hour before the start of the race. Judged by a celebrity panel, and the costume competition will be based on originality/holiday theme, humor and skill.

The overall winner will receive a wealth of prizes and a \$100 gift certificate to Meadowbrook Village Mall plus a \$100 gift certificate to Max & Erma's. A \$100 gift certificate to Max & Erma's will also be awarded to the best group costume.

THANK YOU

Your entry fee donation (and your pledge) all go to support the programs and services of the Metro Detroit Branch of the Arthritis Foundation, an agency of the United Way of Michigan.

CRITENTON **Observer & Eccentric** **Meadowbrook Village Mall**

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

\$10 Pre-Registration • \$12 after 1/28/90

Make check payable to The Arthritis Foundation and send it to:

The Arthritis Foundation
23999 Northwestern Highway—Suite 250
Southfield, MI 48075

OR, register race day at the Lepley Sports Center on the Oakland University Campus from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Information Hotline is... 330-3030

In submitting this entry I understand to be legally bound to myself, my heirs, executors and administrators waive, release and agree to hold harmless Max & Erma's Restaurants Inc., The Arthritis Foundation, Oakland University, Meadowbrook Mall, event sponsors, event volunteers and their officers, directors, agents, successors and assigns from and for all injuries suffered by me at this event while traveling to and from the Jingle Bell Run and while participating in the event. I understand that I am physically fit and voluntarily trained for the competition of this event. I understand that I am hereby releasing and agreeing to allow my photo, video or film to be used for any legitimate purpose by the aforementioned parties.

NAME FIRST _____ MIDDLE INITIAL _____ LAST _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE (daytime) _____

SEX _____ M _____ F SHIRT SIZE _____ LARGE _____ EXTRA LARGE _____

CORPORATION NAME (if participating as a corporate team) _____

IF Please send all five entry forms together!

CONTACT PERSON _____

DATE _____

DID YOU PARTICIPATE LAST YEAR? ☐ YES ☐ NO

WINNER'S SIGNATURE OR SIGNATURE OF GUARDIAN IF PARTICIPANT IS MINOR IN