MOVING PICTURES



ryt Streep plays Julia and Albert Brooks is

'The Marrying Man' lacks oomph of a Simon script

"The Marrying Man" (C+, R, 110 minutes) should be a lot better than it is given a Neil Simon script about a millioniare toothpaste helr, Charley Pearl (Alce Baldwin), who goes ga ga the first time he sees sexy Las Vegas singer Vicki Anderson (Kim Basinger).

Vegas singer Vicki Anderson (Kim Basinger).

Despite the fact that Vicki is gangster Bugsy Siegel's girl and Charley's great love for his flances, Addle Horner (Elisabeth Shee). whose father, Lew (Robert Loggia) is Hollywood's biggest producer, Charley quickiy fails in bed with Vicki.
Bugsy doesn't appreciate that, nor does Lew Horner, particuarly after yield. Their tempetuous life together (and apart) begins But it never turns out to be the sophisticated comedy expected from that story line or from the pen of Nell Simou.

Instead "The Marrying Man" will have a supplied to the production of the supplied to the su

Charley's four friends, all on the Charley's four friends, all on the way to Hollywood success, should (and could) have been a cornic counterpoint to Charley's obsession with the lovely Vicki. Instead the four of them mouth smart-alrecky lines, occasionally famps, but usually just there as filters.

Basinger, as usual, lights up the screen with her sex appeal and its sensational singing sensuous, smokey, nightclub ballads.

ey, nighticlub ballads.

CHARLEY'S OBSESSION with Vicki is in the forefront but in the background is his own identity problem as the playboy who must mature. He does so when his father dies. But what might have been a touching scene — Father Pearl (Clarke Gordon) awaking from a coma to die happily having finalty seen and accepted his daughter-in-law — is turned in to a crude joke as Vicki agos potty just as Dad wakes up. Naturally, be dies before she returns, skirt hiked, from the tollet. That farcical moment falls flat, adoes much of "The Marrying Man." If the murky metaphysics of "Defending Your Life" (C. PG, 55 minutes) is any indication, Albert Brooks has plenty to answer for.

has plenty to answer for.

Despite its immodest billing as "the first true story of what happens after you die," "Defending You Life" meanders around this unusual conception of the afterlife when Janiel Miller (Brooks) suddenly finds himself forced to justify hilfe. If successful, he moves on to the next tevel. One milght ask, it his justifications are unconvincing, does he fall to pass Go and collect \$2007 While vindicating his life in the rather pleasant surroundings of Judgment Clift, Danny-boy meets Julia (Meryl Streep). You guessed it, he falls in love, it's the metaphysics not the plot that's murky.

the plot that's murky.

APPARENTLY, THE major criteria in rationalizing one's life in Judgment City is courage. Writing screenplays, directing films, starring in movies — each is a major undertaking, so doing all three at once, as Brooks has bere, proves he got more courage than smarts. "Defeeding Your Life" is pretty weak the started in the started

the movies

Greenberg

Grading the movies

| | A+ | Top marks - sure to please |
|--|----|-----------------------------|
| | A | Close behind - excellent |
| | Α. | Cill in semina for ton hone |

B+ Pretty good stuff, not perfect

B Good B- Good but notable deficiencies

C+ Just a cut above average .

C Mediocre

Not so hot and slipping fast

D+ The very best of the poor stuff

D Poor

D- It doesn't get much worse

Truly awful

Z Reserved for the colossally bad

No advanced screening

better. That stays in your unconscious all your life and getting intrough danger to the other side is the goal.

"The offective horror film breaks through defenses in the conscious mind and reaches unconscious fears, a catharsis which releases some portion of childhoof fear."

That, as well as the joy of the adrealin rush, are the usual justifications for horror films. Me, I'm the designated wimp and prefer quieter pleasures.

"Awakenings" (B, PG-13, 121 minutes). Robin Williams and Robert DeNiro as doctor and catatonic patient call to minute too many other films. The doctor's spe-cial care and sensitivity lead to tempo-

rary recovery but illm lacks spark ex-pected from these talented actors. "Cadeace" (C+, PG-13, 95 minutes). Unrealistic, cliched story about unruly sollder (Charlie Sheen) in the stockade.

sollder (Charlie Sheen) in the stockade.

"Career Opportunities" (*, PG-13).

The might-abilit at a Target Store is Jim's last chance. Whoople!

"Class Action" (C. R. 100 minutes).

Father-daughter attorneys, Gene Hackman and Mary Elizabeth Mastrantocko, are not a team.

"Dancer With Wolves" (A. PG-13, 180 minutes).

"Dances With Wolves" (A. P.G-13, 180 minutes).

Kevin Costner's magnificent ode to brotherbood and brutality on America's western frontier during and after the Civil War.

Il War.

"The Doors" (C, R, 135 minutes).

Oliver Stone's overly long, repetitious story of Jim Morrison and the rock group. "The Doors." Excessive attention to Morrison's drug, boore and sex problems are nether attractive mor entertaining. Doubtful, as well, that it will serve as a cautionary (1850).

ing. Doubtin, as well, that it will serve as a cautionary lesson.

"The Flve Heartbeats" (A-, PG-13).

Good entertainment and excellent music in story of fletitious black singing

group.
"Gbost" (A. PG-13, 105 minutes).
Banker's ghost (Patrick Swayze) hangs around after life to protect loved one (Denni Moore). Spiritualist (Whoopl Goldberg) helps him and this romantic comedy/thriller.

dy/thriller.

"Good/Clata" (B+, R, 145 minutes).

Martin Scorace's inlense, compelling sags of three mobiters returns after receiving half-dozen Oscar nominations. Despite good sciling and fine technical values, the film is to be condemned for glorifying viclous and violent gangaters.

"Gallity by Sauplelon" (A, PG-13, 100 minutes).

Ganty by Saspicion" (A, 19613, 100 minutes).
Robert DeNiro's superb performance energizes this blend of fact and fiction describing the terrible pain anti-communist hysteria inflicted on Hollywood in the '50s.

"The Hard Way" (B, R, 105 minutes), James Wood as tough eop doing come-dy doesn't match Michael J. Fox's excel-lent spool of movies and movie people in this entertaining unusual buddy film.

"He Said, She Said" (B, PG, 110 min-

"He Sald, She Sald" (B. P.G. 110 min-utes). A simple story about symboling and the same (Ellzabeth Perkins and Kevin Hacon) with condusing structure detracting from viewing experience. "Home Aloase" (B. P.G. 100 minutes). Engaging, cornedy about young boy (Macaulay Culha) left at home by accident Joseph Charles (B. P.G. 100 minutes). High achool student fluinks French but winds up living the life of James Bond.



ALTERNATIVE VIEWING

Filmmaker to introduce his 'Chameleon Street'

William Douglas Street etched a bizarre footnote in Detroit history. The wiley con man impersonated a foothall player, Time magazine re-porter, medical student and lawyer before police finally caught up with him.

porter, medical student and sary up which before police finally engist up with birn. It is the same to the first sage in the newspaper, has spent the past swent years bringing that story to the screen. His resulting film, "Chameleon Street," plays a benefit preview for the Detroit Film Theatre this Wednesday before opening wide at Showcase Theaters on the weekent this Wednesday before opening wide at Showcase Theaters on the weekent Street who is seen in the late 1970s as a bored young man working for his father's burglar alarm company. A pilot to blackmail baseball for the street with the Tigers.

an unsuccessful tryout with the Tigers.

Spurred by his wife's desire for more money, Street poses as a Time magazine reporter and later a Harvard medical student. He lands a Joh at Detroit hospital and in one especially wild scene, actually performs a hysterectomy (in real life, Street dld 35 such operations).



Filnt Filmmaker Wondell B. Harris Jr. spent the past seven years bringing of the story of con man extraordinaire William Douglas Street to the screen.

HARRIS, WHO also wrote the film, marvels at the "success quotient" of Street's various impersona-

"He was never exposed for shoddy work," Harris noted in a phone inter-

SCREEN SCENE

CINEMA GUILD, Angell Hail Auditorium A. 1035 S. Main, Ann Arbor. Cail 994-0027 for information. (33 single; 34 triple feature April 12. Three unique foreign films make up this triple feature April 12. "Anatomy of a Marriage Part 2: My Nights with Francoise" (France — 1964) at 7 p.m. Investigates an eight-year-old marriage from but male and female perspectives. "Le Corbeau" (France — 1943) at 9 p.m., by the great Henri-Georges Cluzof, Indis a mystery writer revealing skeletons in the closel in his providal Freich town. "Los Olvidados" (Mextro — 1951) at 10.30 p.m. is Luis Sunel's scathling portrait of street children in Mexico.

DETROIT, PILM SOCIETY, Detroit Public Library, \$201 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Call 933-4048 for information, 425 membership or \$4\$ membershi

DETROIT FILM THEATRE, 5200 coodward, Detroit, Call 832-2730

for information. (\$5)

for Information. (#5)
Chameleon Street" (USA — 1989),
7 p.m. April 10. The true-life story of
Douglas Street, a Detroit-born conman who successfully impressonated
a Time magazine reporter, a surgeon, a student at Yale and a lawyer
before ending up back in Jackson
Prison. Written, directed by and
starring Filnt filmmaker Wendelb y
And
starring Filnt filmmaker Wendelb y
benefit screening for the DFT. The
film opens at several Showcase The
atters on Friday. (#5/auditorlum. #4
students)

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