SCREEN SCENE

E CENTER FOR JAPANESE STUD. this newly struck print.

IES
Larch Hall, University of Michigan,
Ann Arbor. Call 764-6307 for more
information. (Free)
"Summer Vacation 1999" (Japan
— 1989), 7 p.m. July 24. The spirit
of a dead boy comes back to visit
his schoolmates, who are both overjoyed and terrified by the experierror. Completions a science in the ence. Concluding a series of Japanese chost stories.

■ DETROIT FILM THEATRE

Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit, Call 832-2730 for information. (\$5)
"Night on Earth" (USA - 1991),

"Night on Earth" (USA — 1991), 7 and 9:30 pm. July 24-25 and 4 and 7 p.m. July 26. The latest from Jim Jarmusch, the director of "Mystery Train" and "Stranger thon Paradise." Gena Rowlands, Winona Ryder and Roberto Benigni star in this comedy set in five diff-ferent taxis in five different citles on one ordinary, yet profoundly eventful night.

M FOX THEATRE

■ FOX THEATRE
2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Call
567-6000 for information. (\$10)
"Casabianca" (USA — 1942),
through Aug. 2 (call for show
times). The 50th anniversary ediphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman never looked better as Ilsa and Rick, lovers with a past in Paris, in

■ JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER
15110 W. Ten Mile, Oak Park. Call
967-4030. (Free)
"Jolly Paupers" (USA — 1937),
10 a.m. July 21. A musical comedy
about two men who plan an oil awindle to escape their misfortunes. Shown on video with subtitles as part of an ongoing Yiddish-lan-guage film series.

MAPLE THEATRE

4135 W. Maple, Bloomfield. Call 855-9090 for information. (\$5.50;

"Howard's End" (Britain — "Howard's End" (Britain — 1992). A romantic tale of two families and the inheritance of a beloved ancestral bone. In the tradition of "A Room With a View," the producer/director team of Ismail Merchant and James Ivory turn to another E.M. Forster novel with completely winning results.

MICHIGAN THEATRE

■ MICHIOAN THEATRE
GOG E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. Call
668-8397 for Information. (45; 34
students and senior citizens)
"Fist of the North Star" (Japan
1931), July 22-25 (call for show
times). An animated feature set in
the future about Ken, a martial arts
student, whose belief in nonviolence is tested in bia search for
instice.

justice.
"Frida Kahlo: A Ribbon Around

a Bomb" (USA --- 1991), July 24-20 a Bomb (USA — 1991), July 24-24 (call for show times). This portrait of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo weaves together Interviews with students and friends and excerpts from the play "The Dlary of Frida Kahlo," and looks at her intensely

M REDFORD THEATRE

madpund 7HEATRE
17390 Laher, Detroit. Cali 5371133 for information. (42.50)
"Superman" (USA-1977), 8 p.m.
July 24-25 (Organ overture begins at
7:30 p.m.). Christopher Reeve stars
as the caped crusader in the first of
the popular movie series.

M STATE WAYNE THEATER

m STATE WAYNE THEATER
5510 Michigan Ave., Wayne. Call
326-4600 for information. (\$2; \$1
atudents and senior citizens)
"On the Waterfront" (USA-1954),
July 22-20 (call for show times).
Mackon Resenda could be an hora-

on ne watertront: (USA-1984), July 22-26 (call for show times). Marlon Brando could have been a contender in this bilatering account of a would-be prize fighter who goes up against a harbor mob. Ella Kazan directed.

"A Streetear Named Desire" (USA — 1981), July 22-26 (call for abow times). Brando again in the role that made him famous on Brandway, He plays the slobby Stanley Kowalski, who forces his sister-in-law (Vivien Leigh) to face a harsh reality. Ella Kazan directed this flawless adaptation of the Tennessee Williams' play.

— John Monaghon

Jarmusch and Rafelson lose their touch with latest films



Two of America's most idiosyncratic directors have new movies out this week. And both, for the most part, flop at the very quirkliness that made them famous. them famous.

Jim Jarmusch's
"Night on Earth," playing for a sec-ond weekend at the Detroit Film

ond weekend at the Detroit Film Theatre, revolves around an irresistible premise. Five stories are set in five different taxic cabs in five different taxic cabs in five different taxic can one ordinary night. The first segment, set in Los Angeles, stars the film's most recognizable performers. Winnona Ryder and Gens Rowlands. It's also the least implired, a hackneyed story about a movie casting agent who thinks she has found something real in the tomboy tast driver who shuttles her from the airport. Rowlands is great as usual as a woman completely controlled by her high-powered position. "Of course, I'm bysterical," she says to her colleague over her everpesent cellular phone. "You just can't tell it right now."

Still, Jarmusch works better with scruify non-actors, especially musicins like Tom Waits, John Lurie and even Screamin' Jay Hawkins, who brought a sort of pop reality to the director's earlier films. A famous actress like Ryder seems out-of-place in Jarmusch's world. The bits that follow are strictly hit-and-miss. Roberto Benigni, so memorable in Jarmusch's "Down by Law," logs the movie's best performance as a cabble who decides to confeas his sortid sexual history to the priest he picks up. There's another predictable and hokey end to this 20-minute ride.

And this is the main problem

other predictable and hokey end to this 20-minute ride.

And this is the main problem with "Night on Earth." Like them or not, Jarmusch's previous films have been true originals. For some reason, he feels compelled in this mot odeliver preachy situation comedy just like every other Hollywood director.

His visual style remains intact, however. The color is gorgeous and he does evoke the mood of various cities, from New York to Helsinki, in establishing shoat that are works of art in themselves. A wall of clocks set for different times on earth cleverly link the various segments.

sequences.
"Man Trouble," meanwhile,

reunites Jack Nicholson and Buh Rafelson, the actor/director team behind "Five Easy Pieces" and 'The King of Marvin Gardens." I looked forward to seeing Jack's eyemores in action in a small picture where he could play a regular Joe. Get ready for another disappointment. "Man Trouble," despite the best efforts of Nicholson and costar Ellen Barkin, never strikes the right comic chord. It's an emberrassment right from the animated credits, which sets up the film's tasteless running gag about a German shepherd who rides on any available leg.

Jack plays an attack dog trainer who sells "piece of mind" to an opera singer (Barkin), plagued by threatening notes and phone calls. He takes a special interest in her predicament and charms her out of the neurotic shell.

"Man Trouble" offers this paper this player as surjentpoord for what

"Man Trouble" offers this paper thin plot as a springboard for what should have been inspired bits of character chemistry. Harry Dean Stanton and Beverly D'Angele round out the talented cast in amusing takeoffs on Donald and Ivans Trump, but everyone laber-for the same apark that ignited ear-lier films.

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