

# 'Of Mice and Men' remains an American classic

## TICKETS PLEASE



JOHN MONAGHAN

As far as adaptations of classic novels, you can't get much better than the new "Of Mice and Men."

Not only is it faithful to the tone and characters of John Steinbeck's Depression-era novel, it also has an Oscar-caliber performance from John Malkovich as the simple-minded Lenny.

Some say that this story of friendship between two itinerant ranch hands was practically written for the screen. The detailed settings, character descriptions and dialogue of the book, which is less than 100 pages long, has

transformed incredibly well to film, television and theater.

This time around, director Gary Sinise and screenwriter Horton Foote have decided not to monkey with it much at all. Some scenes have been trimmed, a couple added, but the timeless qualities of the story remain remarkably intact.

Director Sinise also stars as George, who makes the circuit of California ranches with his best friend Lenny in tow. Lenny is retarded and his poor judgment and passion for stroking soft things keeps them in constant hot water.

"I'd be so much better off without you," George says time and again to the dim-witted Lenny, yet the two stay together, fueled by the dream of settling on their

**■ This time around, director Gary Sinise and screenwriter Horton Foote have decided not to monkey with it much at all. Some scenes have been trimmed, a couple added, but the timeless qualities of the story remain remarkably intact.**

own ranch. For George, a place of their own means no more working for slave-driving bosses. Lenny simply wants to tend the rabbits.

John Malkovich ("Dangerous Liaisons") didn't originally seem large enough to play Lenny. How could he compete with Lon Chaney Jr., whose performance in the 1939 film version has remained one of the most enduring single characterizations in film history?

Malkovich, with his high forehead and thick features, is up to the challenge with his intelligent reading of a mental handicap. He towers physically over costar Gary Sinise and only once do you get an embarrassing glimpse of Frankenstein-like lifts in his shoes.

Sinise, who like Malkovich is a veteran of Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre, makes an effective, if too-handsome, George. One of the

few added scenes in the story hints at a possible romance between him and the sole woman on the ranch ("Twin Peaks" Sherilyn Fenn), but it remains tastefully low-key.

Fenn's sympathetic femme fatale highlights the well-chosen supporting cast. "My Favorite Martian's" Ray Walston plays the aging Candy, whose loss of his crippled-up old dog sends audiences on the first of many trips to the Kleenex box.

The antique-tinted cinematography and Mark Isham's pastoral musical score are both gorgeous but in no way intrusive. In fact, the film's talent for understatement adds to the realism and dignity of characters in the midst of broken dreams and painful decisions.



**Great acting: John Malkovich turns in a stellar performance as the dim-witted Lenny in "Of Mice and Men."**

## SCREEN SCENE



**Time to change: Willem Dafoe teams up with Susan Sarandon as drug dealers forced to re-evaluate their careers and relationships in "Light Sleeper."**

### ■ CAPITOL CINEMA

121 University Ave., Windsor, Canada. Call (519) 253-8065 for information. (\$4.25)

"Solaris" (USSR — 1972), 8 p.m. Oct. 19-20. Andrei Tarkovsky directed the hallucinatory adaptation of the science fiction novel by Stanislaw Lem about a psychologist investigating strange deaths on an orbiting space station near a remote planet.

### ■ DETROIT FILM THEATRE

Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Call 832-2730 for information. (\$5)

"Rocco and His Brothers" (Italy — 1960), 7 p.m. Oct. 23. Luciano Visconti's epic tale of five brothers who emigrate to Milan was cut by 30 minutes in its original release. It's shown here in the full version, thanks to the preservation efforts of Martin Scorsese among others.

"Andrei Rublev" (USSR — 1969), 7 p.m. Oct. 24 and 4 p.m. Oct. 25. The renowned 15th century painter is brought to life by Soviet director Andrei Tarkovsky. Like most of the late director's works, it's a long haul at 186 minutes, but well worth the effort.

"Feed" (USA — 1992), 2 p.m. Oct. 25. A 76-minute collection of sound-bites featuring Bill Clin-

ton, George Bush and Ross Perot in moments when they forget the camera is still running.

### ■ HENRY FORD CENTENNIAL LIBRARY

13650 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. Call 943-2330 for information. (Free)

"A Study in Scarlet" (USA — 1933), 7 p.m. Oct. 19. Reginald Owen, not Basil Rathbone, stars as Sherlock Holmes in this typical tale of money and murder.

### ■ MAPLE THEATRE

4135 West Maple, Bloomfield Hills. Call 855-0090 for show times. (\$5.75 evening; \$2.95 twilight)

"Blade Runner" (USA — 1982). The re-released director's cut of Ridley Scott's influential sci-fi film stars Harrison Ford as a futuristic policeman on the trail of runaway robots. The irritating voice-over narration is gone and the ending has been changed to the bleaker one that Scott originally envisioned.

### ■ MICHIGAN THEATRE

603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. Call 668-8397 for information. (\$5; \$4 students and senior citizens)

"Ali — Fear Eats the Soul" (Germany — 1974), 7 and 9 p.m.

Oct. 19. In this early film from late director Rainer Werner Fassbinder, a German widow in her 60s marries a much younger Moroccan man. The director also appears in this fascinating remake of the '50s Hollywood tear-jerker "All That Heaven Allows." "Wild Wheel" (USA — 1990), 7:30 p.m. Oct. 22. A wild and wacky look at California's obsession with souped-up and wildly modified automobiles. This short documentary should strike a chord with Motor City car buffs as well.

### ■ REDFORD THEATRE

17360 Lahser Road, Detroit. Call 537-2560 for information. (\$2.50)

"Daddy Long Legs" (USA — 1955), 8 p.m. Oct. 23; 2 and 8 p.m. Oct. 24 (organ overture begins 30 minutes before show time). Fred Astaire stars as a playboy who adopts an orphan girl only to have her grow up and fall in love with him.

### ■ STAR JOHN R

32280 John R. Madison Heights. Call 585-2070. (Tickets \$6; \$3.75 before 6 p.m.)

"Light Sleeper" (USA — 1992). Willem Dafoe and Susan Sarandon play drug dealers forced to re-evaluate their careers and rela-

tionships in a hostile modern landscape. The latest from Paul Schrader, the director of "Patti Hearst," and writer of "Taxi Driver." As with most of Schrader's pictures, expect a fascinating mess.

### ■ STATE THEATRE

2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Call 961-5450 for information. (\$1.89)

"The Exorcist" (USA — 1973), 9 p.m. Oct. 19. William Friedkin directed the still-shocking account of a girl (Linda Blair) possessed by Satan. Ellen Burstyn and Max von Sydow co-star, but young Regan is still the head-turner as mother and the church try to rid her of the evil.

### ■ STATE WAYNE THEATRE

35310 Michigan Ave., Wayne. All films play nightly from Wednesday through Sunday. Call 326-4600 for show times. (\$2; \$1 students and senior citizens)

"The Gunfighter" (USA — 1950). Gregory Peck has one of his greatest roles as a gunslinger trying to live down his violent past. Moody, low-key direction by Henry King makes this one of the great unsung westerns.

— John Monaghan

## Corsi's

Served in our beautiful banquet hall.  
We seat 400 guests for all occasions.

## Wednesday Buffet

Featuring:  
• Homemade Soups  
• Salad Bar with Fresh Fruit  
• 3 Homemade Pastas  
• 1 Meat Entree and Vegetable  
• Assorted Pizzas  
• Homemade Bread & Garlic Rolls  
• Dessert Table  
Served 4:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
Groups Welcome - Cocktails Available

531-4960

Adults Under 10 Years Seniors  
\$6.95 \$3.95 \$5.95  
7 Mile between Inquirer & Middlebelt  
Livonia

**COMEDY SPORTS**  
at Hollywood Bldg.  
4200 Orchard Lake Rd.  
West Bloomfield, Michigan 48322  
855-0657  
A TOTALLY DIFFERENT KIND OF COMEDY SHOW  
FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY  
IT'S INTERNATIONAL COMEDY AND A SPORTS INSPIRED IMPROV SHOW. Each show is a series of hilarious improv games based on audience participation, with the Comedysports artists responding to what you, the audience, say and do.  
(This page admits no liability for the performance of any Comedysports performer.)  
RESERVATIONS REQUESTED. PLEASE CALL. 866-9647

**On the Town**  
DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

## THINK BEFORE YOU ACT WORK IT OUT

CITY FOR YOUTH SPECIALS FOR KIDS AND PARENTS

7:30 PM WEEK OF OCT. 19

**MONDAY**  
DETROIT BLACK JOURNAL Youth and Violence

**TUESDAY** (Simulcast with WXYZ Channel 7)  
A TIME TO HEAL Back From Gang Life

**WEDNESDAY**  
CLUB CONNECT Anti-Violence Game Show  
CITY AT PEACE (8 PM)

**THURSDAY**  
TV TEEN FORUM  
Why Can't We Get Along?

**FRIDAY**  
A TIME TO HEAL  
See It Again Or Tell  
A Friend To Watch



**TELEPHONE**

CAN YOU IMAGINE  
WHAT A DIFFERENCE  
IT WOULD MAKE IF  
THE YOUNG PEOPLE  
IN THIS COUNTRY  
SHOWED THE SAME  
ENTHUSIASM FOR  
THE VOTING BOOTH?

Register and Vote.

Ad Council  
International Association of Clerks, Records, Election Officials and Treasurers.