MOVIES

Shorts festival showcases originality

Byecht. Warrse
At their best, short films are satisfying worlds unto themselves. Short and to the point, they provide us with intimate character sketches in a startling commy of vision.
At their worst, they're 10 minutes of fancy camera tricks intended to open doors in Hollywood. Often accomplished technically, they project the sincerity and slickness of a Nike commercial.

i. 'The First International Festi-

val of Short Films," screening this weekend at the Migle Bag Theatre in Ferndale, offers a little bit of both. Consistently entertaining but not overly experimental, the package of 10 films from five countries tries hard to offer something for everyone.

The opening entry, New Zealand's "Lounge Bar," finds a man walking into a bar circa 1975 wearing a clumsy head brace. The bartender and a female customer think they've seen him somewhere before, but, as the bell-bottomed lounge singer notes, "he

could be almost anyone."
While we probably don't need yet another "Twilight Zone" take off, the color short is clevely edited and does set the mood for the electic mix that follows.

Next comes an intriguing American-made documentary in black-and-white called "Stealing Altitude," about a daredevil parachutlat who leaps from the tops of tail buildings. The diver calls it "Base Jumping" and supposedly it occurs almost daily in downtown Los Angeles. it occurs almost daily in down-town Los Angeles.

The hyperactive 'Urban Trage-dy' forces laughs as a henpecked man and his 'motorcycle mama' wife battle cockroaches in their seedy apartment. In Great Brit-nin's "The Childeater," sogreous pastoral scenery serves as back-drop for a dull story of a little girl forced to stay with her mysterious uncle.

uncile.
Black-and-white cinematography by Yuri Neyman ("Liquid Sky." "D.O.A.") highlights "Tom Goes to the Ber," a surreal monologue about life from the perspective of the title character, who hangs upside down at the local saloon. It's a bizarre idea well-executed.

For me, the cleverest offering was "Safari Holiday" from the U.S., about a nerdy teenage boy and the sexy college girl he picks

up while on vacation with his parents. You can almost see the hormones raging as he tries to make small talk with her at the pool, then coares her back to his hotel room.

His parents and kid sister are supposed to be en route to Sea World, but they've forgotten the camera. What follows could only happen in the confines of a short film, it's an engaging and hilarious little plece of fluff, all the more real for its low budget.

The two-hour program, which played across the country earlier his year, recently added "Omnibus" the 1993 Osear winner from France. Here a man's love affeir with the railear that brings him back and forth to work ends when the timetable changes and he can't get off at his usuel atop. "Omnibus" not only marks the end of the show but also the end of a long-standing tradition, since the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has recently decided to drop the short subjects category from next year's Oscar ecremony.

For now, anyway, it's a pleasure to see short films given their due on the big streen.

Hyou have a comment for John Mongahan, call him. at 933-2047,

an the big screen.
If you have a comment for John
Monaghan, call him at 953-2047,
mailbox number 1866, on a touchtone phone, or write him care of
Street Scene, Observer & Eccentic Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

SCREEN SCENE

A sampling of what's playing at alternative movie theaters throughout metro Detroit as re-viewed by John Monaghan.

DETROIT FILM THEATRE Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200
Woodward Ave., Detroit. Call 833
2323 for information. (\$5; \$4 stu-

dents)
"Time Indefinite" (USA —
1992), 7 and 9:30 p.m. Oct. 8-9, 4
nd 7 p.m. Oct. 10. From the creutor of "Sherman's March," an
autobiographical account of everyday life peppered by the
unique perspective of director
Ross McElwee.

MAGIC BAG THEATRE CAFE

Call 544-3030 for information.
(\$5)

"First International Festival of Short Films," 8 p.m. Oct. 7, 8 and 10:30 p.m. Oct. 8-9. An entertaining collection of 10 short films from five countries, including "Metamorphosis" from Canada, "The Childeater" from Great Britain and last year's Academy Award winner from France, "Ornnibus."

MAPLE THEATER
4135 W. Maple, Bloomfield. Call
855-9090 for show times. (\$5.75;
\$2.95 twilight.
"The Wedding Banquet" (USA
1993). In this international hit
filmed in New York, a simple
wedding of convenience turns into
an epic deception when the

groom's parents arrive from Chi-

M REDFORD THEATER

■ REDFORD THEATER
17360 Lahser, Detroit, Call 5372560 for information. (\$2.50)
"San Francisco" (USA —
1936), 8 p.m. Oct. 8, 2 and 8 p.m.
Oct. 9, Around the time of the
town's famous enrthquake, opera
singer Jeanette MacDonald works
for Clark Gable on San Francisco's tough Barbary Coast. Spencer Tracy co-stars.

■ STAR JOHN R
John R (at 14 Mile), Madison
Heights, Call 585-2070 for show
times. (85.75; \$2.95 (wilight)
"Boxing Helena" (USA —
1993), The admittedly sick story
— about a surgeon who ampu-

tates a woman's arms and legs in the hopes that she will become dependent on him — might have worked as a short story. The feature film, the first by David Lynch's 25-year-old daughter Jennifer, is ab badly done, it's almost funny.

■ STATE THEATER
2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit.
Cali 961-5450 for information.
(\$1)

"Slacker" (USA — 1991), 9 p.m. Oct. 4. For his first film, di-rector Richard Linklater follows bizarre characters around the col-lege town of Austin, Texas. The camera will pick up on one odd-ball for awhile and then veer off with someone else.

Toddler's effort to dress self is normal behavior



BARBARA

SCHIFF

BARBARA

SCHIFF

Cess is going very unevenly.

Sometimes he is eager to help; sometimes he wants to do it entirely himself; sometimes he insists that I do it, and sometimes he won't let either one of us do it. If he does it, he insists that I watch. I don't know what to expect.

This is my first child, so I admit I am somewhat insecure about how I handle things. Should I insist that he do it himself or is his refusal appropriate, and should I go along with it? I sometimes get tired of sitting and watching him when he is so obviously capable of putting on his own shirt. Is he manipulating me?

Is he manipulating me?

Dear Caller,
Your son's erratic behavior
is normal and appropriate. He
is manipulating you, but that,
too, is normal and appropriate
at his stage of development.
During the toddler stage, the
child learns to own his body
and to care for it; physical selfcare is the toddler's life responsibility. As he learns to wash,
go to the bathroom, feed, and
dress himself, mother learns
graciously to relinquish control
to him, and thus to encourage
his tindependence. It is during
this time that the child becomes autonomous by mastering bodily care and control.

The progression is: (1)
mother does for child; (2)
mother and child do it together; (3) mother watches and ad-

Voice mail message:
Barbara,
My toddier is two years old. I believe he should be beginning to dress himself and to care himself, He is, but the process is going very uneventy. Sometimes he entirely himself, He is, but the process is going very uneventy. Sometimes he entirely himself, He is, but the process is going very uneventy. Sometimes he entirely himself, He is, but the process is going very uneventy. Sometimes he entirely himself, He is, but the process is going very uneventy. Sometimes he entirely himself, He is, but the process is going very uneventy himself, He is, but the process is going very uneventy himself, He is, but the process is going very uneventy himself, He is, but the process is going very uneventy. Sometimes he entirely himself, he is a complicated power strugges of the guardy to do for himself to him of he was alto prove and authority over himself the structure of the proportion of the process is going with your appreciation of his relationship, and in the process of the process is going with your todder. It is refusal appropriated to do for him. In his relationship, as in any relationship, compromises my large to the process of the process is going with your suppreciation of his relationship with your todder. It is refusal appropriated a process of the process of th

If you have a question or a comment for Barbora Schiff, a trained therapist and experienced counselor, send it of Street Sense, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 38251 Schoolersft, Livnin 4810. You can also leave a message by calling 983-2047, mail box 1877, on a touch-ione phone.

Music notes from page 6A

British short: Alun Armstrong and Lucy Rivers star in the British short film, "The Childeater," part of the First International Festival of Short Films.

East Lansing's The Verve Pipo was the grand prize winner of the national finals of "Sound-check — The Ticketmaster Yamaha Music Showcase." The Verve Pipe was awarded their choice of \$25,000 in cash or Yamaha Musical/Pro Audio Equipment. As part of the Grand Prize, they will have the opportunity to consult with booking agents, menagers, record company representatives, public relations professionals and music publishers.

The band will also receive an all-expense paid trip to Japan where they will represent the United States at Musicquest, an international showcase to be held oct. 11. The winning band was selected by a judging panel of noted industry executives that included Mitchael Ostin, senior vice president of A&R, Warner Bros. and Reprise Records and Danny

Goldberg, Atlantic Records president.

ident.

Country singer Martin Delray will perform at a leukemia society benefit at the Hoover Roadhouse, 24300 Hoover, Waren, at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 11. Dubbed the "Country Hoedown and Auction," people will have the opportunity to win a Nashville trip, souvenirs from favorite country starrs, western clothing, hayrides and horse-back riding lessons along with many other items. Tickets are \$15 and are available by calling 778-6800.

Don't fret. The Jim Rose
Circus Sidoshow will still appear
on Oct. 30 at the State Theatre,
2115 Woodward, Detroit. During
his sold-out tour of Europe, Rose
collapsed in his Amsterdam hotel
room after eating too many light
bulbs. Ho was rushed to the hospital and treated for severe stom-

ach cramps and bleeding bowels.

Upon his return home to Scattle and a subsequent examination
by his personal physician, Rose
was cautioned to let his inteatinal
wounds completely heal before
eating anymore light bulbs, swallowing swords or ingesting razor
blades.

The incident occurred when he

blades.
The incident occurred when he overexerted himself in an attempt to please television and radio journalists by recreating one of his most popular circus feats—cating a light bulb. In one day, he consumed five bulbs; his system

is used to one every 24 hours.

John Cassidy of Southfield
was the grand prize winner of a
1993 four-door Suzuki Sidekick in
a promotion by Hollywood Markets, Detroit-area Suzuki Blealers,
AMC Theaters and WRIF. Metro
Detroiters were asked to visit
Hollywood Markets, check out a
Suzuki Sidekick filled with groceries and guess the dollar
amount of goods in the vehicle.
Cassidy came within three centa.
Liz Schurz of Royal Oak took
second prize winning a Hollywood, Calif., movie premier trip.

harbors a true moody and melodic blend of alternative rock. Influ-enced by late '60s-early '70s rock, Masek's bass and Thompson's poetic vocals pave the way inten-sified by free-flowing guitar over-tones and driving percussion.

Fiction from page 6A

harbors a true moody and melodic blend of alternative rock. Influenced by late '609-early '705 rock, Massek' a bass and Thompson's poetic vocals pave the way intensified by free-flowing guitar overtones and driving percussion.

To perfect that sound, Fiction practiced for a year before booking any sigs.

"We just wanted to make sure that we were pollshed enough." Thompson said.
Recently, the band captured that we want to the sound that we were pollshed enough. Thompson said.

Recently, the band captured that we want to the sound on a three-song demo recorded at the Tempermill studion in Frendale. Fiction also is the Tempermil studion in Frendale. Fiction also is the first CD, also at Temper to the song "Crooked Man" with local producer Steve Car.

"Dedication to musicianship the top priority). We're not up there screwing around," he said.

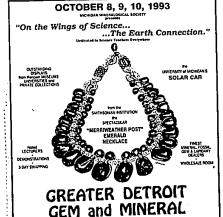
Fiction will perform Sture Guil. 49 N. So. Songiau, Pontice. For more information, call 334-5232.

OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II Based on the play "Green Grow the Lilac: Original Dances by Agnes de Mille Directed by Conrad Mason + Music Direction by Ben Cohen Choreography by Gregory George

ANNARBORNEWS

Music by RICHARD RODGERS



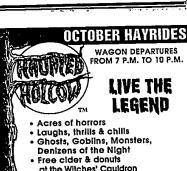


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Country Autumn Folk Art Festival October 9th & 10th

