

In concert from page 6A

REG
Band Pkg. 200-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor.
(313) 996-8553

ROBERT PERRY
Q Club, 29 S. Saginaw St., Pontiac.
(810) 334-7411

SHEKANDOH
Phoenix Plaza Amphitheatre, 10 Water St., Pontiac, (alternative rock)
(810) 334-4850

SPINROCKET
With Triquetra at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit, (alternative rock)
(313) 961-MELT

Thursday, June 23

RICHARD FORDSTEIN
Pine Knob Music Theatre, I-75 and Sashabaw Road, Independence Township, (alternative rock)
(810) 377-0100

MELISSA MANCHESTER
With the Birmingham/Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra at Meadow Brook Music Festival on Oakland University campus, 1000 Boulevard and Adams Road, Rochester, (pop)
(810) 377-0100

PHISH
Phoenix Plaza Amphitheatre, 10 Water St., Pontiac, (deadhead rock)
(810) 334-1699

SPIRAL DANCE
With Johnny and the Boomers, Jolly Ranchers and 3rd Nature at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac, (rock)
(810) 334-9252

ZUM ISLAND QUARTET
Band Pkg. 200-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor.
(313) 996-8555

JAMES WALSH
Q Club, 29 S. Saginaw St., Pontiac, (jazz)
(810) 334-7411

NOT FORTY FIDDLER PIE
At Avra's, 5750 Cass, Detroit, (velvet rock)
(313) 832-2355

PHINOGHO
With Basphemous at 3-D, 1815N. Main St., Royal Oak, (metal)
(810) 589-3344

FRANK ALLISON
Shadowbox, Cafe, 2917 Trowbridge, (alternative rock)
(313) 873-2233

MICHELLE RAMO
Phoenix Plaza, 568 S. Woodward Ave., Birmingham, (jazz guitar)
(810) 644-3122

THE MEXONES
With Man and Astronaut? at The Shelter below St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit, (alternative rock)
(313) 961-MELT

Friday, June 24

BIGARTOOTH
Hamp's, 14238 Harper, Detroit, (rock)
(313) 824-1700

BOOGIESMEN
Doc Flocks, 7035 W. Maple, West Bloomfield, (jazz)
(810) 624-7200

PAUL VOORNHAGEN QUARTET
Bar of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley, Ann Arbor, (jazz)
(313) 662-8310

JIMMY'S NEXT DOOR
35323 Ford Road, Westland, (jazz)
(313) 722-6683

LUTHER ALLISON
The Majestic, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit, (jazz)
(313) 963-7680

SOMETHING WIT
With See Dick Run and Motor Dots at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac, (alternative rock)
(810) 334-9252

THE LOOK
Walsh's on the Border, 20116 W. Warren, Detroit, (rock)
(313) 441-0190

FRANK ALLISON AND THE ODD BOX
Band Pkg. 200-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor, (alternative rock)
(313) 996-8555

REGULAR BOYS
Q Club, 29 S. Saginaw St., Pontiac, (jazz)
(810) 334-7411

ICE CUBE
With Nas, Combs, D'Angelo, J. Jive, The Queens, and Simple E. at Chene Park Music Theatre, Chene and Jefferson, one mile east of the Renaissance Center, Detroit, (rap)
(313) 353-0066

LOPFTROTHE
With Twit at Avra's, 5750 Cass, Detroit, (alternative rock)
(313) 832-2355

WILSON PICKETT
Phoenix Plaza Amphitheatre, 10 Water St., Pontiac, (rock)
(810) 334-4850

MEXICALI AND JIVE
With Claim 2 Fame at Finney's Pub, 3965 Woodward Ave., Detroit, (funk rock)
(313) 831-8070

"CATWALK"
Night of music and fashion at State Theatre, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit, (alternative rock)
(313) 961-5451

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'Wolf': It's an unintentional howl

By JOHN MONAGHAN
Special Writer

He wakes one morning to find his senses sharpened. He can read without the aid of glasses. A trace of tequila can be easily traced on a colleague's breath. Conversations behind closed doors are now within earshot.

These superman qualities are among the most intriguing aspects of "Wolf." The new Jack Nicholson movie starts out promisingly enough, but then degenerates into a big-budget reminder of every dumb werewolf movie you've ever seen.

There's a bad moon rising as Jack hunches over the wolf he has just flattened with his car. You just know that the beast, whose eyes open eerily when the man turns his back, will bite. Still it's one of the few truly suspenseful parts of the movie.

MOVIES

Aside from heightened senses, Jack's cultivated, but often spineless book editor becomes more aggressive in the workplace. He has a bathroom stall confrontation with the ambitious protégé (James Spader) who wants his job and intentionally urinates on the weasel's shoes.

"I'm just marking my territory," he says, "and you got in my way."

Of course, Jack was born to play roles like this, his first true horror show since Kubrick's "The Shining" in 1980. Eyebrows working overtime, he obviously relishes taking on a character who moves from shy to wry.

Director Mike Nichols is an actor's director and for awhile focuses on performances over glossy

special effects. Clever lighting only hints at facial hair before Jack sprouts a pair of sideburns that even Neil Young would envy.

Soon makeup whiz Rick Baker gets into the act and the movie becomes "I Was a Middle-Aged Werewolf" with Jack's face hidden beneath 20 pounds of rubber. As the love interest, Michelle Pfeiffer plays basically the same part that Lindsay Wagner did in "The Paper Chase." Her spoiled rich kid to a ruthless publishing mogul leads a privileged life of horses and travel and makes sure to dole out only men that her father disapproves of.

This isn't the only time we're reminded of the former "Bionic Woman." Jack makes astounding slow-motion leaps over fences and in and out of trees, ironic considering the actor's passion for professional basketball. Who says white men can't jump?

There's no denying the lushness of "Wolf," especially in its well choreographed chase between the werewolf and an ill-fated deer. The score by Ennio Morricone is equally evocative and romantic, often punctuated by the same jazzy saxophones that once backed Jack's earliest pictures.

Michigan author Jim Harrison originated the idea for the film, but apparently wasn't sure if he was fashioning a truly unique take on the lupus legend or just an entertaining sendup. By the time it reaches the cinema, "Wolf" is almost an unintentional howl.

If you have a comment for John Monaghan, call him at 863-2047, mailbox 1868, on a Touch-Tone phone, or write to him care of Street Scene, Observer & Economic Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150.

SCREEN SCENE

A sampling of what's playing at alternative movie theaters across metro Detroit as reviewed by John Monaghan.

DETROIT SCIENCE CENTER
5020 John R at Warren, Detroit. Call (313) 577-8400 for information. (R)

"Rolling Stones at the Max"
(USA — 1990). Weekends through June (call for show times). The "world's greatest rock band" captured live during their European Steel Wheels tour. What makes this different from the other half dozen Stones films is that it was filmed for the all-encompassing OmniMax screen.

JIMMY'S NEXT DOOR
35323 Ford Road, Westland, (jazz)
(313) 722-6683

THE HAVE NOTS
The Shadowbox Cafe, 2917 Trowbridge, Hamtramck, (acoustic)
(313) 873-2233

Y.O.U.
With Hope Orchestra, Dean Mark and Barren at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac, (alternative rock)
(810) 334-9252

THE LOOK
Walsh's on the Border, 20116 W. Warren, Detroit, (rock)
(313) 441-0190

GROOVESPOON
Band Pkg. 200-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. (R&B)
(313) 996-8555

CODE BLUE
Q Club, 29 S. Saginaw St., Pontiac, (jazz)
(810) 334-7411

EDGAR WINTER
The Ritz, 17580 Frantz, Roseville, (rock)
(810) 778-6404

DREAM CATCHERS BENEFIT
With Bernadette McNeely, David Fols, Rhythm and Rain, and Lightnin' at Avra's, 5750 Cass, Detroit.
(313) 832-2355

AFGHAN WHIRLS
With Beck, The Odds, Superchump, Screw, Poho, Spongs and Tuman's at Avra's, 5750 Cass, Detroit, (alternative rock)
(810) 334-9252

THE PROCEES
With Mental Landscape and Acedema play benefit, for Chud's Pub, 3965 Woodward Ave., Detroit, (alternative rock)
(810) 831-8070

WILSON PICKETT AND THE SHAKES
Moby Dick's, 5452 Schaefer Road, Dearborn, (jazz)
(313) 581-3650

MIKE JAMES AND THE FLAMETHROWERS
Sports, 166 Maple, Wyandotte, (blues)
(313) 285-5060

OFF-WHITE BLUES BAND
Carnegie House, 2400 Grand River, Detroit, (blues)
(313) 535-3440

UNIVERSAL STOMP
Club X at the State Theatre, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit, (rock)
(313) 961-5451

SUNDAY, JUNE 26
SCORPIONS
With The Four at Pine Knob Music Theatre, I-75 and Sashabaw Road, Independence Township, (rock)
(810) 377-0100

SMITHS CROW
With The Devlins at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit, (acoustic rock)
(313) 961-MELT

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KINOTEX
Capital Theatre and Arts Centre, 121 University Avenue W., Windsor. Call (519) 971-5160 for information. (R)

"Martin" (USA — 1977), 9 p.m. June 26-27. Horror director George Romero's second best film about "Night of the Living Dead," this modern take on the vampire legend focuses on a screwed-up kid in Pittsburgh who kills his victims with hypodermic needles and then sucks their blood. Still-frightening and totally original.

MAIN ART THEATRE
118 N. Main St. at 11 Mile, Royal Oak. Films play through at least

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Thursday. Call (810) 642-0180 for information and show times. (\$6.50; \$4 students; \$3 twilight/matinee)

"Fear of a Black Hat" (USA — 1994). This new comedy does to rap music what "Spinal Tap" did to rock'n roll. In it, a hapless group of gangsta rappers find a rocky road to success in the debut feature from Rusty Cundieff.

"Red Rock West" (USA — 1993). Film noir Texas-style starring Nicolas Cage, Dennis Hopper and Lara Flynn Boyle. While the story gets a little old after a while, the movie has some visual flair and quirky performances.

"Little Buddha" (USA — 1994). Bernardo Bertolucci ("The Last Emperor") directed this story of an American family on route to spiritual awakening in Asia. Keanu Reeves, Bridget Fonda and Chris Isaak star.

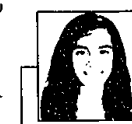
MAPLE THEATRE
4135 W. Maple Road, Bloomfield.

Films play through at least Thursday. Call (810) 855-9090 for information. (\$5.75; \$3.95 matinee; \$2.95 twilight)

"Widow's Peak" (USA — 1994). Mia Farrow stars in this comedy/mystery set in 1920s Ireland about a goading group of well-to-do widows and one young, glamorous widow who comes to town and stirs up trouble.

MICHIGAN THEATRE
603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. Call (313) 668-8397 for information. (\$5; \$4 students/senior citizens)

"The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance" (USA — 1962), 1 p.m. June 21. James Stewart plays the naive lawyer who becomes a hero for shooting a notorious outlaw (Lee Marvin). Still among the best from Western director John Ford.



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