

# In concert

from page 6A

**TEENAGE SPLASH**  
With Benji Lucy at Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor, (rock)  
(313) 966-8555

**MUSIC CITY JUNE**  
Attila Bar, 11667 Joe Campau, Hamtramck, (acoustic blues)  
(313) 365-4194

**Friday, Sept. 2**  
**ROCK RAILS**  
With Hole and Marilyn Manson at Pine Knob Music Theatre, 175 and Sashabaw Road, Clarkston, (industrial/alternative rock)  
(810) 377-0100

**MONKEYBOY**  
Speakeasy, 31410 Ford Road, Garden City, (dues)  
(313) 425-7373

**WARREN ZEVON**  
The Majestic, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit  
(313) 963-7680

**THE 3 OF US**  
Ted's Pub, 38 S. Main St., Clawson, (dues)  
(810) 435-4755

**COMBINATION**  
With Austin and Tension at Griffs Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac, (rock)  
(810) 334-9292

**CROSBY WINE**  
With Big Buck at Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor, (rock)  
(313) 966-8555

**KEVIN LEONE**  
With Drop at Finney's Pub, 2065 Woodward Ave., Detroit, (experimental)  
(313) 631-8070

**COLE BLAKE**  
Attila Bar, 11667 Joe Campau, Hamtramck, (dues)  
(313) 365-4194

**Saturday, Sept. 3**  
**BABIA**  
With Sproy Gyro at Pine Knob Music Theatre, 175 and Sashabaw Road, Independence Township, (dues/jazz)  
(810) 377-0100

**TRISHA YEARWOOD**  
Michigan State Fair, 1120 State Fair at Woodward Avenue, Detroit, (country)  
(313) 369-8250

**MONKEYBOY**  
Speakeasy, 31410 Ford Road, Garden City, (dues)  
(313) 425-7373

**THE 3 OF US**  
Ted's Pub, 38 S. Main St., Clawson, (dues)  
(810) 435-4755

**TEDDY RICHARDS**  
With Head Vary and R-World at Griffs Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac, (alternative rock)  
(810) 334-9292

**SKAMAREZON '84**  
Featuring Gangster Fun, MU330, and Buck 'O' Nine at Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor, (dues)  
(313) 966-8555

**ASMA VISA**  
With Wendy and Carl at Finney's Pub,

2065 Woodward Ave., Detroit, (313) 631-8070

**UNCLE JESSE AND THE 25TH STREET**  
Attila Bar, 11667 Joe Campau, Hamtramck, (dues)  
(313) 365-4194

**Sunday, Sept. 4**  
**HARRY CONVERSE JR.**  
And Funky Dunks introducing the Leroy Jones Quintet at the Pine Knob Music Theatre, 175 and Sashabaw Road, Independence Township, (big band/jazz)  
(810) 377-0100

**TRACY LAWRENCE**  
Michigan State Fair, 1120 State Fair at Woodward Avenue, Detroit, (country)  
(313) 369-8250

**THE EXCEPTIONS**  
With The Skatelines at The Falcon Club, 3515 Canfield, Hamtramck, (hard-edged rock)  
(313) 368-8010

**MAISONICA BLAIR**  
With Little Man at Attila Bar, 11667 Joe Campau, Hamtramck, (dues)  
(313) 365-4194

**Monday, Sept. 5**  
**BOB FISH**  
With MC 900 Foot Jesus, Weezer, Big Chief, Veruca Salt, Big Black, Forhead Star, Tyrone's Powerhouse, 311 and The Figs, as part of 1001 (CMAA) X-Fest at the Phoenix Pizzeria Amphitheatre, 10 Water St., Pontiac, (various alternative)  
(810) 335-0250

**BUCKLES TURNS**  
Host open jam at Attila Bar, 11667 Joe Campau, Hamtramck, (dues)  
(313) 365-4194

**Tuesday, Sept. 6**  
**INDIA SWEET**  
Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor, (313) 966-8555

**BLUES BOYS**  
Attila Bar, 11667 Joe Campau, Hamtramck, (dues)  
(313) 365-4194

**Wednesday, Sept. 7**  
**BOB FISH**  
Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor, (313) 966-8555

**EVERETT BROTHERS**  
With The Earl at Magic Bar Theatre Cafe, 22918 Woodward Ave., Ferndale, (light alternative)  
(810) 544-3030

**DAVEY LONGLESS**  
With Assembly Required at Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor, (313) 966-8555

**JOE MAYLUM**  
With Bad Passion at the Attila Bar, 11667 Joe Campau, Hamtramck, (dues)  
(313) 365-4194

# Natural Born Killers' out of control

By JOHN MONAGHAN

Oliver Stone is a wildman. Like the homicidal honeymooners in "Natural Born Killers," he shoots fast and furiously without much thought to the future. Or the patience of his audience.

Even the teenagers and "twentysomethings" who will inevitably flock to the movie may find it difficult sitting through this overdose of murder and mayhem. With all of the MTV-style visuals and hyperediting, I ended up nursing a headache less than an hour through it.

The story, by "Reservoir Dogs" director Quentin Tarantino, is surprisingly lame. The opening scene finds Mickey and Mallory, lovers at first sight, at a roadside diner in the American Southwest. He's eating king line pie, she's dancing provocatively to the jukebox when they suddenly turn violent.

Their gimmick: kill everyone in sight, but leave one person standing to tell the tale.

Three weeks and more than 50 victims later, Mickey and Mallory are cult figures, plastered over tabloid newspapers worldwide and featured on a cheesy tabloid TV show, called "American Maniacs."

When they're finally captured, Mickey's main concern is not in how they're tried, but in how well they did in the Nielsen. The sleazy Aussie TV host (Robert Downey Jr.) assures him that they were bigger than any other profile — except Charles Manson. There are one or two clever

MOVIES

moments that make the film almost worthwhile. A flashback to Mallory's hellish home life is shot in situation comedy style, complete with laugh track. The dialogue and situations, including incest and spouse abuse, are anything but funny.

The scene looks like video, just one of the many film stocks employed by Stone and cinematographer Robert Richardson. A scene might start in color, cut to black-and-white, then surveillance-quality video, and back again to color. The effect is original, jarring and irritating as hell.

The casting of the leads doesn't help. Juliette Lewis, who started her film career so prominently in "Cape Fear" and "Husbands and Wives," has become predictable in her ticks and mannerisms. She doesn't have the range to play a character as complex as this.

Woody Harrelson, meanwhile, has yet to prove himself the captivating personality he reportedly is off screen. Almost any of the countless young actors in Hollywood could have played Mickey better.

In the supporting roles, Stone has asked his actors — including Rodney Dangerfield and Steven Wright in cameo — to play their parts way over the top. Sometimes it works, as in Dangerfield's pop-eyed nightmare of paternal evil. Sometimes it doesn't, like Tommy Lee Jones' prison warden as a polyester-suited good old boy.

Stone will answer his moralist critics by calling "Natural Born



Killer duo: Juliette Lewis and Woody Harrelson as Mickey and Mallory Knox in "Natural Born Killers."

Killers" a cinematic statement about society's fascination with serial killers and pseudo-celebrities like the Bobbitts. Although recognizable as satire, the movie leaves you feeling pistol-whipped by its message.

If you have a comment for John Monaghan, call him at 953-2047, mailbox 1866, on a touch-tone phone, or write to him care of Street Scene, Observer & Eccentric 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 FILM THEATRE**  
Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Call (313) 833-2323 for information. (\$5)

**"Cronos" (Mexico — 1992), 7 and 9:30 p.m. Sept. 2-3, 4 and 7 p.m. Sept. 4.** A witty modern vampire thriller about a fantastic "cronos device" that can prolong life and what happens when it falls into the hands of an antique dealer.

**"Fresh" (USA — 1993), 7 p.m. Aug. 29.** A streetwise New York youngster, trapped in a world of random violence and low-level drug deals, develops a sophisticated but chilling plan to escape the nightmare he lives in.

**MAPLE THEATRE**  
4135 W. Maple, Bloomfield. All times play through at least next Thursday. Call (810) 855-9090 for information. (\$6; \$2.95 twilight)

118 N. Main St. at 11 Mile, Royal Oak. Films play through at least Thursday, unless noted otherwise. Call (810) 542-0180 for information and show times. (\$6.50; \$4 students and matinee; \$3 twilight)

**"Mi Vida Loca" (USA — 1994).** Los Angeles gang life from a woman's perspective, directed by Allison Anders ("Gas, Food, Lodging")

**"Barcelona" (USA — 1994).** Whit Stillman, who made such a splash with "Metropolitan" a few years back, brings droll humor back to the movies. The story finds a pair of preppy suburban Chicago couples dealing with fashionable American bathing in 1980s Spain.

**"Eat Drink Man Woman" (USA/Thailand — 1994), through Sept. 8.** (See Maple Theater listing.)

**"The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert" (Australia — 1994).** What could have been a one-joke movie — a trio of drag queens tour the Australian outback — is livened up by believable performances, wickedly witty humor and musical numbers so campy even Busby Berkeley wouldn't own up to them.

**"Ferris Bueller's Day Off" (USA — 1986), 9 p.m. Aug. 29.** Matthew Broderick as a smart alecky high school student whose elaborate plan to skip school pays off with memorable day in Chicago. One of the more likable teen movies from director John Hughes.

**"Eat Drink Man Woman" (USA/Thailand — 1994), through Sept. 8.** (See Maple Theater listing.)

**STAR JOHN R**  
John R at 14 Mile, Madison Heights. Call (810) 585-2070 for information. (\$6; \$4 before 6 p.m.)

**"Eat Drink Man Woman" (USA/Thailand — 1994).** (See "Theater listing.")

**"Barcelona" (USA — 1994).** (See Main Art Theater listing.)

**STATE THEATRE**  
2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Call (313) 961-5450 for information. (\$1)

**"Ferris Bueller's Day Off" (USA — 1986), 9 p.m. Aug. 29.** Matthew Broderick as a smart alecky high school student whose elaborate plan to skip school pays off with memorable day in Chicago. One of the more likable teen movies from director John Hughes.

# Clusterfunk

from page 6A

All five members of the finished group had known each other through previous projects, including such well-known area acts as DC Drive, Skeleton Crew and Bitter Sweet Alloys. But General Clusterfunk doesn't want to be known for "what was," they're too busy working on what could be.

Bowen thinks it's just "classier" for the band to stand or fall on its own merits.

"Mark is a great drummer," Bowen said with his seemingly endless enthusiasm, "with two great guitarists and a funky bass player it just fit the bill. It's perfect!"

After completing the songwriting and recording, the daunting task of distributing and marketing the disc was turned over to band manager Chris Smith.

Getting established as a "live" act can be just as frustrating as the "radio wars." Detroit's concert club scene has been in a period of slow but steady decline for at least 10 years. Even the best, most accessible acts aren't able to draw crowds the way they used to, and clubs are going out of business faster than new ones are opening.

"Most places will put the band in there to make the cash register jingle," Smith said. "They don't wanna build up to where there might be a following of local music. They're in the beer business, we're in the music business."

The music business has been pretty good to General Cluster-

**Mark is a great drummer. With two great guitarists and a funky bass player it just fit the bill. It's perfect!**

Joey Bowen

funk, all things considered. Within the first six months after its formation one of the band's songs, "In Your Mouth," was selected as "Ward Cleaver's Wuzzy Whippin' Most Grindin' Pick of the Week" on the nationally syndicated radio station Z-Rock (102.7 FM). They then won the "Michigan's Best Band" competition and spent December 1993 opening Ted Nugent's Whiplash Bash shows in Michigan and Ohio.

This year General Clusterfunk has been concentrating on "shopping" their CD to major labels and putting their show on the road.

And who knows what the future holds?

General Clusterfunk plays the Wagon Wheel, 102 S. Broadway, Lake Orion, Thursday-Saturday, Sept. 1-3. Call (810) 653-6789 for more information. They also perform Sept. 10 at The Ritz, 17580 Frasco, Roseville, (810) 778-6404; Sept. 22-Sept. 24 at the Avon Bar, 3923 W. Auburn Road, Rochester Hills, (810) 852-2707.

# Otis

from page 6A

With the rediscovery of Bonnie Raitt and Buddy Guy, the blues received its biggest booster shot in many years. Certainly, that has opened the door for Rush to finally step into the spotlight that he so surely deserves. This is not an album that will do this is the one that he's had bottled up inside for years.

His takes on Percy Mayfield's "Pony Time" and "I and My Blues" are a "A Fool for You" show off the best blues chops recorded in the past couple of years. His reprise of "Homecoming," here credited to Dave Clark and Al Perkins, but traditionally called his own, is, heartily as good as the version he

cut 30 years ago. His versions of Sam Cooke's "Ain't That Good News" and "Nobody Have Mercy," rousing gospel-flavored cuts, shows a diversity that wasn't so conspicuous in his early days.

The same praise is appropriately applicable to every song, to every note on this masterpiece. Rush is one of the reasons a lot of blues fans started paying attention in the first place. The fact that he's back with such a gem after all these years is an aural lollipop that we'll savor for many years to come.

— Mark E. Gailo

# On the Town

DINING &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

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A guy, Bill Rudnicki, and a girl — Karen Green, met through his ad in Personal Scene.

He placed a Personal Scene ad just last spring and she summoned the courage to give him a ring.

The call was a first for Karen, it seems. Would this — could this — be the man of her dreams?

"It was worth every penny," she reportedly said. And of course she is right; she and Bill plan to wed!

Yes, in mid-September they'll both say, "I do." Personal Scene newlyweds — It could happen to you!

Observer & Eccentric  
**Personal Scene**  
1-900-454-8088  
To place your ad, call 313-591-0900  
\*The cost is \$1.95 per minute.