



'Simple Twist of Fate' changes lives



Viewed by his neighbors as a recluse with a mysterious past, cabinet-maker Michael McCann (Steve Martin) is drawn from society to lead a solitary, unencumbered life. Then, one fateful winter's night, the beguiling baby daughter of a young mother who has succumbed in the cold and snow, wanders into Michael's secluded cabin.

As a result, his life changes forever. The strong attachment that immediately develops between Michael and little Mathilda leads the once-morose man to legally adopt the orphan. Together, the pair happily begins life anew, sharing on mutual devotion and filling every day with the most extraordinary experiences any parent and child would be delighted to share in "A Simple Twist of Fate," opening Friday at metro Detroit movie theaters.

But unknown to Michael, his daughter's biological father is local politician John Newland (Gabriel Byrne), who observes the girl's progress from a distance, while making plans of his own for the future of the child he abandoned at birth. And, when Newland eventually comes forth and publicly demands custody of the girl, a bitter controversy ensues over what constitutes family. Touchstone Pictures presents



JOHN BRAMLEY

Dedicated dad: Cabinet-maker Michael McCann (Steve Martin, left) becomes a single parent dedicated to raising his adopted daughter Mathilda (Victoria & Elizabeth Evans) in a loving home.

PREVIEW

"A Simple Twist of Fate," directed by Gillies MacKinnon from a screenplay written by Steve Martin. The film is produced by Ric Kidney. Executive producer is

Steve Martin. Buena Vista Pictures distributes.

Martin began writing "A Simple Twist of Fate" after re-reading the classic 19th-century novel "Silas Marner" by George Eliot. "It was a book I'd read 30 years ago," Martin said. "I just happened to pick it up, and I was intrigued by the powerful story, and the interesting characters who intimately influence that story. I felt it would make a very strong movie."

Steak dinner helped her win the love of her life

Jan Kosowicz of Troy is the winner of our "Eat Drink Man Woman" contest — Write and tell us how food helped you win over the love of your life.

Kosowicz won movie tickets, and a book that contains recipes

for dishes served in the movie. Twenty-four runners-up received passes to the movie now playing at the AMC Maple III Theatre in Birmingham.

Here's the winning entry.

"I won over my husband's heart by promising to make him dinner if he did my tax return," wrote Kosowicz. "He's a CPA and I used to work for one of his clients. So to get to know him better I asked him to do my tax return. In

return, I cooked him a steak dinner with all the trimmings. Within three months we were engaged. And a year later we were married and have two wonderful children. We have been married 20 years now."

Share vacation memories

There's still time to enter our "Wagons East!" contest. Share memories of your wildest vacation adventure to win four tickets to "Wagons East!" a comedy about a group of settlers who do the unthinkable — they form a wagon train and head back east.

Send entries to Kately Wygonik: Taste/Entertainment Editor, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Entries must be postmarked by Thursday, Sept. 1, to be considered for the grand prize. You can also fax entries by calling 1-313-591-7270.

CONTEST

The first 25 readers to enter will receive a "Wagons East!" T-shirt.

In addition to movie tickets, our grand prize winner will receive four T-shirts and a movie poster. Observe & Eccentric employees and their families are not eligible.

I still have T-shirts to give away, so enter today!



OCTAVIO KANO CL

Comedy: John Candy stars as James Harlow, a wagon master with a dark past who seems to have lost all his trail "smarts" in "Wagons East!"

COMING ATTRACTIONS

There's something for everyone at the movies. Here's a list of what's in the wings:

Opening Friday, Sept. 9

■ **"The Next Karate Kid"** — Miyagi, the wise karate mentor is brought together with the teenage granddaughter of an old war buddy who saved his life, and must teach her to find the strength to defeat her foes and to be herself. Stars Nori-yuki "Pat" Morita and Hillary Swank.

■ **"Trial by Jury"** — Suspense thriller about a juror serving in a Mafia trial and the efforts being made by the mob to influence her vote. Stars William Hurt and Joanne Whalley-Kilmer.

Opening Friday, Sept. 23

■ **"The Shawshank Redemption"** — Tim Robbins is a banker questionably convicted of murder, and Morgan Free-

man is a seasoned lifer in this tale of hope, survival and friendship within a maximum security prison.

Opening Friday, Sept. 30

■ **"Little Giants"** — Comedy about families, football and how the game of life should be played. Stars Rick Moranis, Ed O'Neill, Shawna Waldron, Mary Ellen Trainor, Matthew McCarley, Susanna Thompson, Brian Haley and Joy Bays.

■ **"The Scout"** — When a baseball scout travels to Mexico in search of the next Babe Ruth, he finds a player who has amnesia. Stars Albert Brooks and Brendan Fraser.

Opening Friday, Oct. 7

■ **"Only You"** — Romantic comedy about a girl who is given the name of her spouse to be — Damon — by a fortune teller with an Ouija board.

STEVE MARTIN

A twist of fate brought them something wonderful... Each other.

A Simple Twist of Fate

STARTS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

AMC EASTLAND	AMC LAUREL PARK	AMC OGDEN
AMC STRINGER	AMC TOWN	AMC WESTLAND
AMC WILSON	AMC YOUNG	AMC ZEPHYRUS

Watch the "Movie News Fall Film Preview" Sat., Sept. 3 at 8:00 PM on WXYZ.

You can't get enough of a good thing... But first you have to find it.

MELANIE GRIFFITH
ED HARRIS
MILK MONEY

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AMERICA'S GONE GUMP.

★★★ JEFF CHASE, SIXTY SECOND PREVIEW ★★★
★★★ RAGE DENT, CHICAGO SUN-TIMES ★★★
★★★ BEN DRAKE, ABC RADIO NETWORK ★★★
★★★ MICHAEL MABED, DRAKE PREVIEW ★★★
★★★ JEFF GORDON, GANNETT NEWS SERVICE ★★★

Tom Hanks is Forrest Gump

NOW PLAYING

AMC EASTLAND	AMC LAUREL PARK	AMC OGDEN
AMC STRINGER	AMC TOWN	AMC WESTLAND
AMC WILSON	AMC YOUNG	AMC ZEPHYRUS

THE CRITICS LOVE DANGER!

"FIRST-RATE" — "THE BEST" — "PROVOCATIVE"

HARRISON FORD

THE CRITICS LOVE DANGER!

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