GO! MOVIES

Woody Allen's 'Bullets' takes some clever turns Over Broadway, which opens friday, John Curate of the director is accepting dialogue the director is accepting dialogue. The director is accepting dialogue that set by an and the most of the plot and dialogue, that set by an and the most of the plot and dialogue.



In "Bullets
Over Broadway," which opens Friday, John Cusack plays an idealistic young
writer David
Shayne in the
1920s who is give
en the chance to
monaguan direct his own
broadway play.
There's only one
hitch: in order to receive financial
backing, be must cast a gaungter's
girlfrieed, Olive (Jennifer Tilly),
in a featured role.
No problem with the rest of the

No problem with the rest of the cast, among them an increasingly portly Brit (Wener Purcell), a perky supporting actress (Tracey Ullman) and Helen Sinclair (Diane Wiest), a Broadway Iegend who makes Norma Deamond look libe achies remains. like a shy ingenue.

Like most good farces, it takes Act One just to keep all these characters straight. So you can scruse Woody Allen if the first half bour of "Bullets Over Broadway" drage a little.

Thank heavens for Cheech (Charz Palminteri), who brings the film, and Shayoe's play, to life. Olive's rough-talking body-guard sits in the back of the theater and only looks up from his racing forms when someone spears to be giving the girl a hard time. Soon he starts to offer unsolicited advice to frustrated director Shayoe.

"Your characters, they don't salk like people do in real life," Cheech says in disgust.

It takes Shayne a while to real-ize it, but Cheech is right. Soon

the director is accepting dialogue tips and later entire scenes from the thug. The settors, who think the inspiration comes solely from the director, agree that the play has grown from an overly crebral exercise into a living, breathing work of art.

There are clever performances here, especially when Wiest's Sinclair does the "don't speak" routine, her hands to Shayno's mouth whenever he brings up the subject of amour.

subject of amour.

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Cusack, used to similar effect
in Allen's "Shadows and Fog." is
well cast as the struggling writer
trying much too hard to be the
next Eugene O'Neill. He only
falters in philosophical discussions with Rob Reiner's avant
garde playwright, a throwback to
Allen's early essays and one acts.

Palminter's Cheech remeins the film's most fascinating char-acter. Breaking through all shoot phony fascades of the stristic set, the hardened Cheech claims no remorse for the men he's killed. In the dog-eat-dog world of Manhat-tan bootlegging, each of his vic-tims deserved exactly what he got.

"Bullets Over Broadway" deals with the usual Allen subjects (love, death, sex, art), but it's not all that funny. While his equally nostalgic "Manhattan Murder Mystery" had at least one aidesplittingly hilarious bit (the botched tape recorders), most of the best jokes here are in the form of asides.

You might even miss Wiest's answer to Shayne's sheepish

that's all."

The late '20s backdrop of "Bullets Over Broadway" comes not so much from the history books as other movies, including Allen's own "Purple Rose of Cairo."
Visually, he employs that brownish tint that almost all period movies do, this show numbers and gangland hits could be colorized sequences from almost any old gangater movie or musical.

Perhaps Allen needs his own personal Cheech to turn the mov-ie into something more than a mildly smusing nostality spice. At present, it's no masterpiece, but even second-string Woody Al-len is well worth a look.

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 & Eccen-tric Newspapers, 3625 School-craft, Livonia, MI 48150.



Good strice: Cheech (Chazz Palminteri) provides the suggestions that improve the play David Shayne (John Cusak) is staging in "Bullets Over Broadway."

Allen comes home for benefit

No one will pout, and no one will cry 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 9, at the Fox Theatre as Detroit's own Tim Allen returns bome for a Gala Benefit Premiere extravaganza of his new family comedy film from Walt Dinney Pictures, "The Santa Clause."

Co-hosted by Laura and Tim Allen and chaired by Q35 FM's Dick Purtan, the proceeds of the event will go to two mainstay or-ganizations in the Detroit area, The Salvation Army and Forgot-ten Hansest.

Tickets for the event are on sale now for \$20 (General Admission) available at all Ticketmasters and through the "Santa Clause"

Premiere Hotline at (810) 552-8989; \$125.

Reserved Patron seating (includes After-Glow reception at Second City) available only through the Santa Hotline, or by inquiring to P.O. Box 47220, Oak Park, MI, 48237.

"The Santa Clause" stars Tim Allen, star of America's No. 1 television show, "Home Improve-ment," as a father who elips in to Santa's suit when the jolly one is incapacitated, only to find that his new job is full time. "Tae Santa Clause" opens in theaters nationwide on Friday, November 11.



A sampling of what's playing at alternative movie theatars acros metro Detroit as reviewed by

Screen Scene

E DETROIT FILM THEATRE Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Call (313) 833-2323 for information.

(313) 853-2222 tor monocide (\$5)

"La Scorta" (Italy — 1993), 7
and 9:30 p.m. Oct. 23-29; 4 and 7
p.m. Oct. 30. A huge popular hit in Italy, the political thriller, translated as "The Bodyguaria," is about four young policemen assigned to protect Mafia targets in Sicily.

Sicily. "Why Has Bodhi-Dharms Left for the East?" (Korea — 1989), 7 p.m. Oct. 31. The spiritual tale of an aging Zen master, his appren-tice, and a young orphan boy finds a cinematic language for the Zen mode of perception.

ENHOTEK
Copicol Theatre and Arts Center,
121 W. University Ave. W., Windsor, Canada. Call (19) 971-5160.
for show times. (34)
"The Devils" (Britain — 1971),
9 p.m. Oct. 31-Nov. 1. Some have
called this movie the most violent, blasphemous and camarable
film in existence. Director Kem
Russell describes it as "a Christian film about a slaner who becomes a saint." Whatswar the
case, you're in for a wild ride as
Russell focuses on the isses-thamcallibate priest (Oliver Reed) and
the mad nuc Vanesses Redgave)
who alds in his downfall.

who aids in his downfall.

BALGE BAG HERATER
22018 Woodward at Nine Mile,
Ferndale. Call (810) 644-8303 for
information. (85)
E. Wood — "Gien or Glenda?"
(USA — 1963) at 8 p.m., "Plan
Nine From Outer Specs", (USA —
1966) at 9 p.m. Oct. 27. A pair of
anti-masterpieces by Edward D.
Wood Jr., cult director and subject of Tim Burton's new biopic.
"Glenda" is the sincere socount of
a man (played by Wood himself)
who finds comfort wearing woomon's clothes, but can't bear to tall
his girlfriend. "Plan Nine" is the
notoriously cheery actence fotion/hortor story best known as
Bela Lugosi's last performance.

BASSE ART THEATTER

IN MAIN ART THEATER

118 N. Main St. at 11 Mile, Royal Oak. Films play through at least Thursday unless noted otherwise. Call (810) 542-0180 for informa-tion and show times. (85.50; \$4 students and matines; \$3 twillicht)

twilight)
"Princilla, Queen of the Desc (Australia — 1994). Three drag queens take their abow on the very open road in this bissrra

"Quis Show" (UBA — 1994).
"Quis Show" (UBA — 1994).
Robert Redierd's entertaining
and poignant look at the quis
abow sounded of the 1980s, where
the producers of the wildly pogs
the "Twenty One" fed the right
answers to contestants.

MI MAPLE THEATER.

4135 W. Maple, Bloomfield. All titles biny through at least next Thursday. Cell (\$10) 835-9090 Information. (\$6; \$2.96 twilight





