

Bernadette (Minnie Driver, left), Eve (Geraldine O'Rawe) and Nan (Saffron Burrows) star as three small town Irish girls who go off to college in Dublin in search of adventure and romance.

Tell us about your friends

"Circle of Friends," a story of romance and three best friends — their loyalty, their secrets, their betayals and most of all, their search for tracTore opens Friday, April 7. at "metro Detroit theaters. Write and tell us about your "Circle of Friends" to win a yery special evening with your friends.

How long have you known Friday, Andre 31. Send or fax:

How long have you known each other? What brought and

each other: what trough accepts the grand prize is a special evening with you and your circle of friends (up to 6 people). You will be treated to a special dinner, and receive flowers, champagne, chocolate, "Circle of Friends" T-shirts. You'll

arenteat can be

of "Circle of Frends."

Deadline for entries is noon, Friday, March 31. Send or fax entries to: Keely Wyronik, Let's Go Editorf, fax (313) 591-7279, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Inc. 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, Call (313) 953-2105 for more information. You must be 21 or older to enter this contest.



The Best Thriller Of The Year! ... A MUSI SCC!

Bates And Leigh Should Have Oscar Bookends For Their Roles.

JENNIFER JASON LEIGH

Dolores laiborne

Cordina Re. Climit

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AMC BELLAIR TO NOW PLAYING MANGEASTERINGS

STAR TORU RAT GARNIE STAR COURSE FOR R. STAR ROCHFLICK WILLS.

VATCH THE ACADEMY AMARING MARCH 27

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AMC LAUPEL PARK LEW SOUTHSIELD CITY

RENAISSANCE 4 SHOWCASE

SHOWCASE SHOWCASE #1

STAR TATLOP

CANTON

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LET'S © MOVIES

Winning performances in 'Muriel's Wedding'

They're different in the Land plants on in the Land Down Under, and it shows in Australia's movies. "Muriel's Wedding." like "Strictly Ball-room" and "Friscilla, Queen of the Desert" before it, works and in the more districted by a considerability, colorful presentation, and winning main performances. Your enjoyment of "Muriel's Wedding." however, depends on your shillify to relate to a heroine who dreams of a life at least as good as Abba's "Dancing Queen." The movie opens with a soaring bridal bouquet, grabbed and buffeted by screaming female wedding guests, which finally floats into the hands of one Muriel lives for. She naners her get married."

Actually, matrimony is what Muriel lives for. She naners her

Actually, matrimony is what Muriel lives for. She papers her room with photos from bridal magazines, though she hasn't had a date, let alone a proposal.

She lives a dead end life with her parents in Porpoise Spit, a tacky Australian resort town. Her

father, a political wannabe, con-stantly reminds Muriel and the rest of the family how worthless they are — and, in a way, he's

they are — and, in a way, he's right.
Things change when Muriel is given a hlank check by her mother to enter the makeup sales busi-ness. She fills in \$12,000 instead, takes off for an exotic vacation, then relocates to downtown Syd-

ney.

Here she indulges herself in the city's dozen or so bridal shops, trying on dresses, then photographing herself for her wedding album.

trying on dresses, the place graphing herself for her wedding album.

Most movies would have Muriel lose weight, get a beauty makeover, then get even with the friends that dumped he with the friends that dumped he with the friends that dumped a wedding is both realistic (the changes are more interior than artirior) and wildly romanicised, especially when prospects look good for approaching the allow good for approaching the allowing the allow good for approaching the allowing the allowin



Beautiful bride: Rachel Griffith, (left to right), Daniel Lapaine, Toni Collette and Bill Hunter star in P.J. Hogan's "Muriel's Wedding."

vacious friend who shares an apartment with Muriel in Sydney and helps change her life.

Still unexplained is the Aussi fascination with Abba, the 1970s Swediah super group. Last year's "Priacilla, Queen of the Desert" had drag queens popping Abba tapes into pink tape players. Both movies have ultra-campy lipsuch routines to "Waterloo."

"Muriel's Wedding" is what some suys would call a "chick movie," the same way "Ballroom"

or "Dirty Dancing" are. After near sellouts last weekend in its run at Royal Oak's Main Art Theatre, anyone interested should have plenty of chances to see it.

To icaue a message for John Monaghan, dial 953-2047, mail-box number 1868, on a touch-tone phone, fax him a note at 591-7279, or write him in care of Enetrain-ment, Observer & Eccentric News-papers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

SCREEN SCENE

A sampling of what's playing at atternative movie theaters across

metro Detroit as reviewed by John Monaghan.

B DETROIT FILM THEATRE Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward, Detroit. Call (313) 833-2323 for information. (\$5; \$4

Woodward, Detroit Cain (18); 34 students)

"Once Were Warriors" (New Zealand-1994), 7, 9:30 p.m. Mar. 24-25, 4, 7 p.m. Mar. 26. A husband and wife find themselves caught in a spiral of alcoholism, domestic violence, unemployment, and cultural neglect in this controversial new film.

"Latcho Prom" (France-1993), 7 p.m. Mar. 27, Gypsy musiciaes contribute to this musical odysacy form over a dozen countries contribute to Experimental Control (18) and the Gypsies in their travels from India to Experimental Control (18) and 18 minutes of the Gypsies in their travels from India to Experimental Control (18) and 18 minutes of the Sypsies in their travels from India to Experimental Control (18) and 18 minutes of the Sypsies o

2135 Wyandotte St. West, Wind-sor, Call (519) 971-5160 for infor-

sor. Call (519) 971-5160 for Information. (34)
"Je T'Aime, Je T'Aime, Trance-Transe-Tr

(810) 544-3030 for information.
(34)
"Ed Wood" (USA-1994), 7:30
pm. Mar. 23. Tim Burton's
black-and-white blography of Ed
Wood, the low budget director of
such cheesy classics as "Plan
Nine from Outer Space" and
"Glen or Glenda." Johnny Dopp
is perfect in the title role while
Martin Landau's Bels Lugosi is
sure to win an Oscar.

is perfect in the title rote while Martin Landay's Bela Lugori is sure to win an Oscar. "Cierks" (USA-1994). 8 p.m. Mar. 23. Kevin Smith's hilarious account of Ilfo behind the counter at a New Jersey convenience store was made for only \$23,000. The acting is sometimes a masteurish, the jokes typically crude, but the movie sheds light on an occupation where the only way to vent frustration is to "rip into the occasional customer."

EMEMORAT MEAD AND THE MARTINGS ALL MILES CALL (SID) \$42,0180 for the least Thursday, unless noted otherwise. Call (SID) \$42,0180 for formation and showtimes. (\$6.56; \$4 students and maline; \$3

34 students and matiner; 35 twilight)
"The Madness of King George" (Britain-1994). A tragi-comody based on Alan Bennett's play about the life of King George III, whose lapses in sanity made him ill-equipped to deal with his evil son. Nigel Hawthorne and Helen Mirron star.
"Shallow Grave" (USA-1996).

A black comedy about three friends who discover the body of their fourth roommats and agree to dispose of it and keep the money they find in his room. Kerry Fox ("Angel at My Table") and Christopher Eccleston star. "Muriel's Wedding" (Australia-1995). A young woman gets revenge on those who tell her she'll always be a bride-amaid, never a bride. Opens Priday. "The Secret of Roan Inish" (USA-1995). The latest from John Sayles, about Sahlie, the mythological Celtic creature who is part human and part seal who changes the lives of a fisherman and his family.

E MAPLE THEATHE
4135 W. Maple, Bloomfield, All
titles play through at least Thuraday, unless noted otherwise, Call
(810) 855-909 for information.
(85.75; \$3.75 students and mati-

nee: \$2.95 twilight)

"Miami Rhapsody" (USA1995). Woody Allen didn't direct
it, but you'd never know from this
romantic comedy about a young
woman forced to confront the true
meaning of commitment when her
boyfriend pops the question. Sarab-leasics Parker, Mia Farrow,
and Antonio Banderas star.
"Before the Rain" (Macedonia1994). A candidate for the Best
Foreign Film Oscar this year, a
love story told in three parts —
investing told in three parts
in the disconting
"Strawbear and events that alternate between modern London and
the hills of Maccolonia
"Strawbear yand Chocolate"
(Cuba-1994). An odd relationship
forms between two very different
men — one a middle-aged gay
counter-revolutionary, the other a
straight young communist
fuels this new comedy from Cuba.

Short film screening

Detroit Area Film & Television will present a special acreening of aix films nominated for "Live Ac-tion Short and Documentary Short Academy Awards," 7:30 and 2:30 p.m. Thura, March 2:3 at the AMC Maple Theatre, 16 Mile at Talerraph.

Telegraph.
Each screening will offer a different selection of films. Tickets are \$10 for one showing or \$15 for \$47-0847.

both. Tickets will be available at the door.

Proceeds from this event will benefit Detroit Area Film & Tele-vision, a non-profit educational organization that promotes visual literacy and the creative use of film and video.



