Depp makes you a believer in new 'Don Juan'



Some see him
as Don Juan, the
iegendary lover
who woodd over
1,500 women
with his irreslatabic charms.
Others would say
he's just a
mixed up kid
from Phoenix
looking for ettention after the
death of his fa-

death of his faYour enjoyment of "Don Juan
DeMarco," currently playing at
metro Detroit movis theaters, depends on your threshold for romance. It's helped greatly by Johny Dopp, who is super smooth as
the masked man in the flowing
cape, leather boots, and Ricardo
Montalban accent.
Only his psychiatrist should
know for sure and he, like us, is
having his doubta. Marion Brando plays the veteran clinician so
amitten by his patient's outrageous stories of romance that he
goes home to his wife (a dutiful
Faye Dunaway) and starts to woo

her like a teenager.

She, not surprisingly, is a little shocked. He wants flery passion; she'd settle for a "sustaining glow" of middle age, an understandable reaction when a 300-pound Brando starts ambling toward you like a lovestick whate.

While the versatile Depp makes you believe that he's playing the real telling, Brando is less convincing, Maybe there are too many memories of that Larry King island interview, but Brando, with pancakey makeup and affected mannerisms, has become little more than a bloated warworks caricature of himself.

The single most undignified shot of Brando's long career may come in this movie: when he flounders unconvincingly on an exercise machine. You'd think that Hollywood, who can erass Lieutenant Dan's legs so seam-lessly in "Porrest Gunp", could lop a few pounds off of its most celebrated actor.

Amazingly, Brando's not without chem He releast past with past with

celebrated actor.

Amazingly, Brando's not without charm. He plays the part with an affable sense of humor and it's a miracle to see him on screen.

REVIEW

After two decades of million-dol-lar cameos in movies like "Chris-topher Columbus" and "A Dry White Season," this is his most substantial role in years.
The most amazing thing about "Don Juan DeMarco" is how under "Don Juan DeMarco" is how under Hollywood it is, a producer's coup by the typically uncompromising Francis Ford Coppols. You expect at least a climactic sword fight or chase scene, but the movie (you'd awear it's based on a play) sitchs mostly to dialogue ship penned by writer Jeremy Leven.
It also looks great, especially in

It also looks great, especially in the flashback scenes where Den Juan relates his adventures in Mexico or on the island where he meets his true love, the only woman who has ever resisted his advances. Here the reds in Den Juan's jacket have an antique posteard glow.

The few scenes where Depp is able to cut loose on the female population are especially fin. We see him pick a woman up in a



awanky hotel restaurant and immediately woo her upstairs with some hand-kissing and amooth talk that would play ridiculous with anyone else. Don't try this at home.

How "Don Juan DeMarco" will romance the general filmgoer is

anybody's guess. One thing is un-deniable: Depp, the eccentric ac-tor who brought Edward Scissor-hands and Ed Wood to the big acroen, has staged his biggest coup yet: he's the only actor ever to steal scenes from Marion Bran-do.

To leave a message for John Monaghan, dial 963-2047, mail-box number 1866, on a touth-tone phone, fax him a note at 591-270 or write him in care of Entertainment, Observer & Eccentric Newspaper, 36251 Schoolcruft, Livonia 48160.

DeMarco (Johnny Depp) with his infamous mask in New Line Cinema's "Don Juan De-Marco."

7 Screen Scene

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

Woodward, Detroit. Call 313-833-2323 for information. (\$5; \$4 stu-

dents)
"An Unforgettable Summer"
(Romania/France — 1994) 7, 9:30
p.m. April 14-16; 4, 7 p.m. April

16. In 1925 Romania, an army officer is caught in a quandary when his wife takes sympathy on a group of unjustly condemned locals.

"Resistance" (England/Belgi-

um — 1993). 7 p.m. April 17. In the very near future, a tribal girl and a truck-stop waitress join against terrorist forces who in-vade a small Australian shanty-town.

III KIKOTEK

Windsor Film Theatre, 2135
Wyandotte St. West, Windsor.
Call (519) 971-5160 for informa-

Call (619) 971-5169 for informa-tion. (44)
"The Holy Mountain" (USA)
Mexico — 1973). 9 pm. April 1718. Here nine wise men guard the secret of immortality while those
who search for it include presti-tutes, thieves, and a chimpanare.
Director Alejandro Jodorowsky still ruises exphorose with his as-distic, surreal images, definitely not for the squeamish.

55 MAGIC BAG THEATEE
2218 Woodward, Ferndale. Call

22918 Woodward, Ferndale. Call (810) 544-3030 for information. (\$4; \$10 for all three films) "Blue" (France/Poland ---1993), 8 p.m. April 18, Julietto Bi-

nech plays a woman who can't get over the loss of her composer husband. The first in Krysztof Kieslowski's Colors Trilogy will be followed over consecutive Tuesdays by the other two films in the series, "White" and the Os-car-nominated "Rod."

MAIN ART THEATRE

118 N. Main Street at 11 Mile,
Royal Oak. Films play through at
least Thursday, unless noted otherwise. Call (810) 642-0180 for information and showtimes. (\$6.50; \$4 students and matinee; \$3

34 students and matthee, at twilight)
"Jefferson in Paris" (USA —
1995). Nick Nolte plays Thomas
Jefferson, ambassador to France
in the days shortly before that country's revolution. Though his-torians are having some trouble with it, expect loyal audiences to flock to this latest Merchant vory

"Muriel's Wedding" (Australia — 1985). In this hit comedy from Australia, a young woman dreams of marriage but can't seem to get her life together.

"The Secret of Roan Inish" (USA — 1995). The latest from John Sayles about Irish myth and folklore and how it changes the lives of a fisherman and his fami.

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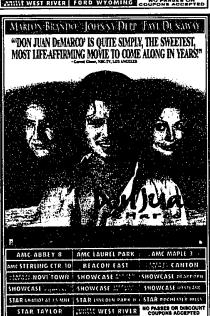
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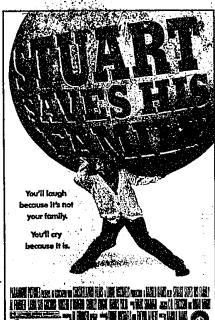


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