GO! MOVIES

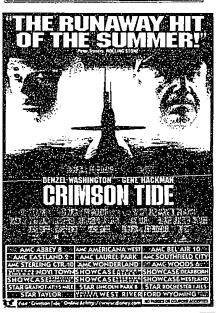
Grant exudes charm in eccentric 'Englishman'

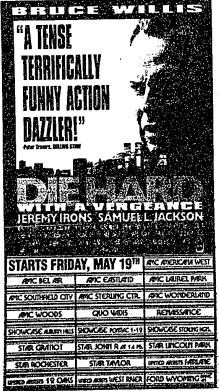
according to the precise measure-ments of a pair of English map makers, it's also 16 feet short of a

mountain.

The Welsh residents of Ffynoon
Garw take the news hard. For
years, they have laid claim as the
only Welsh village to have a

Livonia Mall's
ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW May 18-21, 1995 (Regular Mail Hours) Featuring: Ceramics **Paintines** Basketry Wood Working Metal Sculpture Pospurri Fabric Crafts and much more! Livonia Mall Mile Road & Middlebek Livonia, MI





mountain. Besides, it's wartime and what kind of homecoming will the boys have to find their mountain reduced to a hill?

"The Englishman Who Will?"

Up a Hill but Came Down a Mountain." currently enjoying wide release, is one of the year's most charming films. While some night consider it a one-joke affair, it bubbles over with eccentric characters and subtle English bumor.

characters and subtle English bu-mor.

Hugh Grant plays the younger of two cartographers, a slightly stuffy Englishman released from military service (it's 1917, toward the end of World War I) for shell shock. He's not all that disap-pointed when their car mysteri-culy stalls and passenger train schedules can't accommodate them.

schedules can't accommodate them.

The villagers' plan, you see, is to heal dirt up to the top of the hill, raising it to the required height. They'll stop just short of murder to make sure they get the

murder to make sure they accom-job done.

The project forms an unusual alliance between Reverand Jones (Kenneth Griffith) and the town stud/barkeep Morgan the Goat (Colm Meaney). When it becomes

as long as Morgan doean't sell beer.

Much of the comedy revolves around the stuffiness of the Englishmen and the earthiness of the villagers. It's far from an original concept, first ploneered in countless Ealing Studie comedies in the 40s and 50s and more recently in the Scottish-made "Local Hero."

This one has a certain freshness, thanks in part to Grant's performance. He hits the right notes, though I'm starting to tire of hit politicly nervous act the stammering and pushing back of his hair — that he does in every film.

his hair — that he does in every film.

Meaney, still best-known to the masses for his work on TV's current "Star Trek" series, again proves himself a likable, robust character actor. One of the funnicat gags comes early, when it's revealed that all of the infanta in the church congregation have Morgan's red hair.

Other memorable characters in habit Ffynnon Garw. There are apair of addled, elderly twins ("not too dotty not to know we're dot-

necessary to work on the sabbath, the clergyman reluctantly agrees, as long as Morgan doesn't sell beer.



Hardly a mole hill: Hugh Grant in Christopher Monger's "The Englishman Who Went Up A Hill But Came Down A Mountain."

ty") and a young woman (Tara Fitzgerald playing opposite Grant for a third time in as many years) who sgain stalls the young map maker by seducing him. Written and directed by Chris-topher Monger, "Englishman' celebrates the oral tradition, as its story gets passed down from grandfather to granden. Though everyone's tongue is firmly in

cheek, the legend of the Welsh mountain is just crary enough to be true.

To leave a message for John Monoghan, dial 353-2047, mail box number 1865, on a louch-tone phone, fax him a note at 531-7279, or write him in care of Entertainment, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.



A sampling of what's playing at alternative movie theaters across metro Detroit as reviewed by

John Monagnan.

B DETROIT FILM THEATRE
Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200
Woodward, Detroit. Call (313)
833-2223 for information. (\$5; \$4

833-2223 for information. (35): 34 students)
"Amsteur" (USA-1995), 7, 9:30 pm. May 19-20; 4, 7 pm. May 21. The latest from low-key director Hal Hartley has a cast of characters including an ex-nun who writes exolic stories, an ameeiac, and a porn film director on the

and a porn film director on the run.

"Temptation of a Monk" (Hong Kong. 1993). 7 p.m. May 22.
Filmed in China, this one is set in the Tang Dynasty of 626 A.D. as a warrior disguised as a monk takes refuge in a Buddhist temple.

SI MAGIC EAG THEATICE 22918 Woodward, Ferndale. Call (810) 544-5309 for information. (444)

"Clerks" (USA. 1994). 9 p.m. May 23. Keyin Smith's debut fea-

"Clerks" (USA-1994). 9 p.m. May 23. Kevin Smith's debut feature, made on a shoestring in black and white, charts a day in the life of New Jersey convenience store clerks. The jokes are crude, the performances and camerasork sometimes amateurish, but

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

the result is cutting edge comedy.

the result is com
BEADMART THEATRE

118 N. Main Street at 11 Mile.
Royal Oak. Films play through at least Thursday, unless noted otherwise. Call (810) 542–7180 for in
mention and showtimes. (36.50; formation and showtimes. (3) \$4 students and matinee; \$3

\$4 students and matinee; \$3 twilight)
"The Sum of Us" (Australia-1995). When a son comes out of his closet to his father, dad not only accepts the news, but helps him get dates. This gay-friendly comedy stars familiar Australian actors Jack Thompson and Russell Crowe.
"Bar Grils" (USA-1995). A seriocomic melodrama about the lifestyles of eight lesbian who frequent the same neighborhood bar.

bar.
"Muriel's Wedding" (Austra-lia-1995). In this hit comedy from Australia, a young woman dreams of marriage but can't seem to get

or marings out can i seem by the life together.

"The Englishman Who Went Up a Hill but Came Down a Mountain" (Britain-1995). Hugh Grant stars in this new comedy about a pair of mapmakers who find they're no match for the people of a small town who will atop Coming Attractions

at nothing to ensure that their hill is declared a mountain.

BIAPLE THATRIE

A135 W. Maje, Bloomfield. All titles play through at least Thursday, unless noted otherwise. Call (810) 825-9909 for information. (82,75; 31,75 students and matines; 32.95 twilight)

"Tom and Viv" (Britain-1994). Miranda Richardson's Oscarnominated performance finally hits the big screen. She plays vienne Haight-Wood, whose relationship with American writer T.S. Eliot (Willem Dafoe) was one of the century's great literary.

"Priest" (Britain-1995). In this controversial new film, a young

controversial new film, a young priest questions the church's rules of celibacy and sanctity of confession. What starts as an authentic portrait of the modern

priesthood quickly turns into a manipulative and one-dimension-al plea for tolerance and understanding.
"Funny Bones" (Ireland-1995).

"Funny Bones" (Iretand-1990). From the director of "Hear My Song," the story of two separated half-brothers, both comedians, who only discover each other in adulthood. Jerry Lewis co-tars. SI STATE THEATRE. 2115 Woodward, Detroit. Call (313) 961-5450 for information. (41)

(313) 981-450 for information.
(81)
"Killing Zoo" (USA-1994). 9
p.m. May 22. The debut feature
from Roger Avery (be shared Oscar credit with Quentin Tarantino
on "Pulp Fiction") is about another heist gone way wrong. This
European-atyle mix of dark comdy and violence has a tyle to spare
and a great lead performance by
Eric Stoltz.

Tell us why your pet's a hero

Kids — write and tell us why your pet is a here to win four tickets to see "Gordy," and a plush Gord toy. Six prises will be awarded. This contest is open to kids age 12 and younger. Deadline to enter is Monday, May 22.

Send or far entries to: Keely Wygonik, Let's Go editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Inc., 36251 Schoolcraft, Livenia, MI 48150, fax: (313) 591-7257.

Winners will be notified by phone.

"Gordy" is a young pig on a mission — to save his family in the movie by the same name playing at metro Detroit movie theaters.

In the course of his travels, Gordy saves the life of the son of a billionaire industrialist. "Gordy." a Miramax release, is rated G.

arranged marriage to a man in Hawaii in 1918. Winner of the au-dience award for Best Dramatic Film at the 1995 Sundance Film Pestival.

B "Queen Margot" — Epic love story set in France during the re-ligious wars between Catholics and Protestants. Based on novel by Alexandre Dumas. Rated R.



