'Waterworld' has thrills amidst the silliness



"Waterworld."

Long before abooting concluded, Hollywood insiders branded the movie "Fishtar" and "Kavina Gata." They reported on the bad weather, ego trips, and massive erript changes that pushed the budget to \$175 million, making it by far the most expensive movie ever made.

Best of Costnor's problem had

Part of Costner's problem had o do with his character, The

REVIEW

Mariner, who fights for survival in a world where melted polar loc caps have covered the planet in water. Costner, who also serves as co-producer, thought his cold flat hearester would turn sudlences off, so adds bits that make him a more sensitive, "Os kind of guy. You might say you're in trouble when the first shot of the entire film is Costner's posterior, even if he is urinaiting into 8 device that provides him with preclous drinking water. Amazingly, there are none of the bare but those that audiences come to expect from a Costner picture.

For the most part, Costner

For the most part, Costner awashes and buckles effectively, defly operating his Rube Goldberg-style sailing ship while fleeing from the movie's jet aki-riding villains, called Smokers. They're led by Dennis Hopper, whose eye

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patch-wearing baldie is over-the-top even by his standards.
"Waterworld" is essentially "Mad Max" with the ocean stand-ing in for the Australian outback. Visually it has a limited palette of muted browns and blues (when the weather cooperated) that can grow pretty dull after while.

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Director Kewin Reynolds offers
sweeping abuts of The Mariner
surveying the horizon high above
the mast, but doesn't hold our interest during the slower scenes.
Had he stuck to his guns (or better yet hired another actor) The
Mariner could have been an ac-

tion here to contend with, silent and steely-eyed like Clint East-wood and without all the mush.

wood and without all the mush.
Fortunately much of the budget went into the action sequences, some of which are astounding. At first his shipmates don't understand why the Mariner drags behind the boat with a harpoon gunutil a monster fish takes a gulp at him and he blasts it from the inside.

The Mariner has webbed feet and gills behind his ears, allowing him to swim like a dolphin and breathe underwater. In one of the movie's few romantic moments

that isn't incredibly corny, he pro-videsthe heroine with underwater mouth-to-mouth while Smekers' bullets whiz by.

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After the liberating effect of
Linda Hamilton in the "Terminaterroine who just sits there while
the pay does all the work. The
main reason for Helen (Jeanne
Trippishorn) and ber young
charge Ecola (Tina Majorino) is
to soften the Mariner and create a
post-nuclear family.

If Hopper hasn't chewed up all If Hopper hasn't chewed up all the scenery, you can savor the details, like The Mariner's gadgets and treasures (speer is a valuable commodity in the waterscaked future) or the rusted bull of the Exxon Valder where the Smokers make camp, in slower scenes you can take in the coatumes, which appear fashioned from fish skins or castaway rubber.

Another clever bit occurs even before the credits roll, as the Uni-



versal logo (the earth as seen from space) transforms into a world of

Though hardly worth 175 mil, this might be worth the price of matines admission. On a hot summer afternoon, after you've seen most everything else, c'mon in. "Waterworld's" fine.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

OPENING FRIDAY, AUG. 4

"VERTUGETY"
A futurable water set in Los Angeles about an ex-cop with a tortured past who hunts a murderous computer se erated pensonality who has brought himself to life, Stars Denize Washing ton, Kelly Lynch, Russell Crowe, Staphne Spineta, Ruted R.

"BABE" A live-action comedy based on the children's book, "Babe, the Gatant Pig" blends state-of-the-art special effect with performances by animal actions. Stars Magda Stubenski, James Cromwell, Jack Thompson, Sandy Gore, Rated G.

"SUSHWHACKED"
When a group of Cub Scouts on their first camping trip mistake ar Innocen escaped convict for an expenenced gude, they help such other survive—and come to terms with their individu problems. Stars Daniel Stem. Rated

"SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT"
A story of lives generations of women

in a Southern horse-raising family, and their relationships with the men in their lives. Stars Julia Roberts, Dennis Quald, Robert Duvall, Kyra Sedgwick and Gena Rowlands, Rated R.

OPENING FRIDAY AUG. 11

"DANGEROUS MINDS"

A drama based on the real-life experi

"A KID IN KING ARTHUR'S COURT"
A tamey adventure about a 14-year-old
Southern California boy who finds him-self transported back in time to medi-eral Carrecto. Sura Thomas ian Hicho-ics, loss Acidand and Kata Wanslet,
Rated PG.

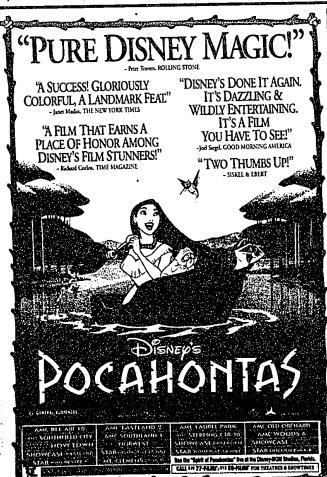
SCREEN SCENE

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

E DETROIT FILM THEATRE, 5200 Woodward, Detroit, Call 313-833-2323 for information. (\$5; \$4 students) "Crumb" (USA - 1994). Aug. 4-6 (call for showtimes). Another amazing documentary that didn't

get the attention of last year's Oscar, this fascinating, disturbing
portrait of cult cartonist Robert
Crumb defies all expectations. Director Terry Zwigoff has been a
friend of the reclusive Crumb for
years, yeth docan't tet his obvious respect keep him from exploring the artist's troubling darkside.
The most unforgettable momenta
occur during interviews with
Crumb's disturbed brothers.

Comedy/adventure: Captain Sam Cahill (Danny Glover, left) has made a promise to the Montagnard villagers of Dak Nhe, Vietnam, to replace their prized elephant in time for an upcoming ceremonial ritual. Along with a reluctant Green Beret contingent in 'Operation Dumbo Drop".















DANNY GLOVER

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