

## MOVIES

## Parents must decide appropriateness of Kids'



JOHN MONAGHAN

For those who believe that children are the future, "Kids" is the bleakest, most depressing movie ever made. What occurs on screen is every parent's nightmare: shoplifting, profanity, random violence, casual drug use, and unprotected sex.

Is this really the lifestyle of choice for kids on the streets of New York and elsewhere? No doubt.

Do we really need to see a film about it? That depends.

"Kids" opens with 16-year-old Telly (Leo Fitzpatrick) attempting to deflower one in a long line of virgins. He turns on the charm, tells the nervous girl to trust him, then bursts out the door minutes later to brag to his friends.

The rest of the movie charts a day in the life of Telly and company on a hot summer day. It shows them beating up a stranger in the park, breaking into a pool, partying at trashed Manhattan apartments or at the ubiquitous raves.

Meanwhile, Telly's on the prowl for another virgin, the 13-year-old sister of a friend.

Photographer Larry Clark, who makes his film debut with "Kids," probably approached this low-budget movie with good intentions. He and 19-year-old screenwriter Harmony Korine have created a documentary-style cautionary tale where kids run wild.

Clark's band of inexperienced actors won't win any Oscars, but they have a realism about them that transcends the slurred lines and jerky camera work. And un-



COURTESY FILM

Cautionary tale: Yakira Peguero (left) and Leo Fitzpatrick in Larry Clark's "Kids"

## REVIEW

with Jennie is one of the most forced in the film.

Some scenes really work in "Kids," which is at the core just an over-the-top After School Special. In one, the movie cross-cuts between boys and girls for their uncensored views on sex.

Though the movie stops short of full frontal nudity, the graphic sexual situations in "Kids" make you question the use of such young actors. Here Clark, whose work has long focused on street kids, walks the thin line between realist and child pornographer.

Unhappy with the MPAA's decision to brand the film NC-17 (no one under 17 admitted), the movie's distributors have released it without a rating. This means

that minors must be accompanied by an adult or legal guardian, a rule which will most likely be enforced in its exclusive run at Royal Oak's Main Art Theatre.

And if it forces some dialogue between real kids and their parents, this might be good. While Chicago critic Gene Siskel believes that everyone 16 and over should see "Kids," ultimately it's the parents who will decide to give the movie thumbs up or down.

To leave a message for John Monaghan, dial 953-2047, mailbox number 1866, on a touch-tone phone, fax him at 591-7279, or write him in care of Entertainment, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

with Jennie is one of the most forced in the film.

## "EIGHT TONS OF FUN!"

"Totally original, enjoyable family adventure. Loads of fun!"

- Jeffery Lyons, SEATTLE TIMES

"A wonderful, family film!"

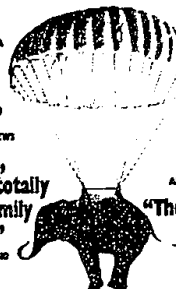
"Big and lovable. Eight tons of fun!"

"A wonderful, unique and totally enjoyable family experience!"

"Go see the elephant fly!"

"Funny and charming, soars to new heights of fun. I loved it!"

"The Disney magic strikes again!"



Walt Disney Pictures Presents

OPERATION DUMBO DROP

Aptly named, this Disney adventure film is a

AMERICAN WEST NOW PLAYING

AMC EASTLAND 2 AMC LAUREL PARK AMC SOUTHWEST CITY

AMC SOUTHLAND CANTON CANTON CANTON

SHOWCASE WESTLAND SHOWCASE WESTLAND STAR GRAYOT AT 13 MILE

STAR JOHN R AT 14 MILE STAR WINCHESTER 8 STAR WINCHESTER 8

STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8

STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8

STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8

STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8

STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8

STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8

STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8

STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8

STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8

STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8

STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8

STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8

STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8

STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8

STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8

STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8

STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8

STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8

STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8

STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8

STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8

STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8

STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8

STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8

STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8

STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8

STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR LINCOLN PARK 8

# "SIDE-SPLITTING COMIC ADVENTURE!"

DANIEL STERN IS AT HIS WILD AND WACKY BEST



DANIEL STERN BUSHWHACKED

STARTS FRIDAY, AUGUST 4th

AMC ABBEY AMC AMERICAN WEST

AMC BEL AIR AMC EASTLAND AMC LAUREL PARK

AMC SOUTHWEST CITY SHOWCASE WESTLAND SHOWCASE WESTLAND

STAR GRAYOT AT 13 MILE STAR GRAYOT AT 13 MILE STAR GRAYOT AT 13 MILE

# FILM ADVISORY BOARD AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

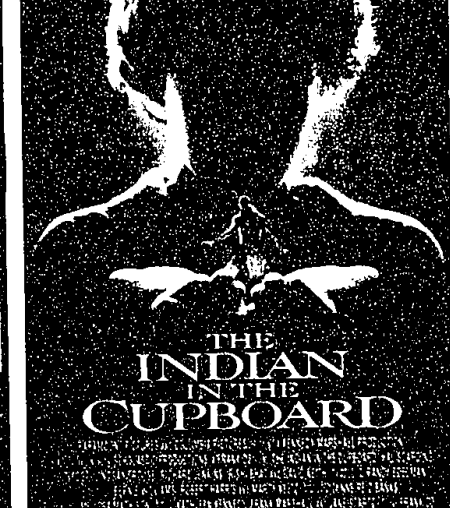
"A must-see! A magical adventure. Great special effects!"

"Show movie magic! Amazing! Awesome!"

"Engaging and touching."

★★★★★ Enchanting... Classic...

"The best heart-lifting movie of the season."



THE INDIAN IN THE CUPBOARD

AMC BEL AIR 10 AMC EASTLAND 5 AMC SOUTHWEST CITY

AMC WONDERLAND CANTON CANTON CANTON

SHOWCASE WESTLAND SHOWCASE WESTLAND SHOWCASE WESTLAND

STAR GRAYOT AT 13 MILE STAR GRAYOT AT 13 MILE STAR GRAYOT AT 13 MILE

STAR GRAYOT AT 13 MILE STAR GRAYOT AT 13 MILE STAR GRAYOT AT 13 MILE

# "PURE DISNEY MAGIC!"

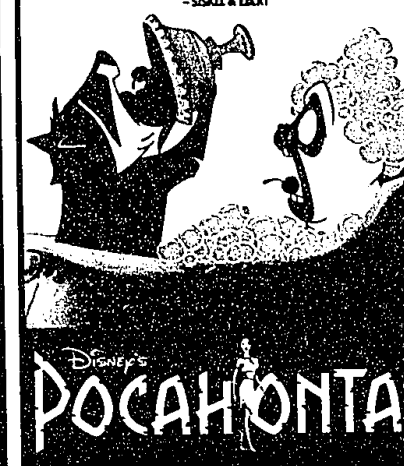
Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE

# "VISUALLY CAPTIVATING!"

- Janet Maslin, THE NEW YORK TIMES

# "TWO THUMBS UP!"

- SKEEL & ECKT



Disney's POCAHONTAS

AMC BEL AIR 10 AMC EASTLAND 2 AMC LAUREL PARK

AMC OLD ORCHARD AMC SOUTHWEST CITY AMC SOUTHWEST CITY

AMC STERLING CTR. 10 AMC WOODS 6 CANTON CANTON

NORWEST. SHOWCASE WESTLAND SHOWCASE WESTLAND

STAR GRAYOT AT 13 MILE STAR GRAYOT AT 13 MILE STAR GRAYOT AT 13 MILE