SCREEN SCENE

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

BALDWIN THEATRE
415 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak. Call (810) 541-6430 for information. ($10)

"The Phantom of the Opera" (USA - 1925). 8 p.m. Oct. 7; 2 p.m. Oct. 8. The theater, which usually hosts community theater, has completed restoration of its 1926 theater pipe organ in time for two showings of the horror classic. This is the silent version, with Lon Chaney as the organ-playing maestro who keeps a beautiful singer locked beneath the old Opera house.

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

"Stairway to Heaven" (Britain - 1946). 7, 9:30 p.m. Oct. 6-7; 4, 7 p.m. Oct. 8. Martin Scorsese supervised this stunning Technicolor restoration of Michael Powell's romantic fantasy about a World War II pilot (David Niven) who goes to heaven before his scheduled time.

"Black Is . . . Black Ain't" (USA - 1995). 7 p.m. Oct. 9. An exploration into what it means to be African-American. Director Marlon Riggs recently died, leaving behind a legacy that included the equally controversial "Tongues Untied."

KINOTEK, WINDSOR FILM THEATRE
2135 Wyandotte St. West, Windsor, Canada. Call (519) 254-FILM for more information. ($4.50; $4 US)

"Why Does Herr R. Run Amok?" (West Germany - 1969). 9 p.m. Oct. 9-10. A rare screening of an early work by director Rainer Werner Fassbinder, stringing together apparently mundane scenes of a petit-bourgeois wage slave who slowly unravels, spiraling toward violence and death.

MAGIC BAG THEATRE
22918 Woodward, Ferndale. Call (810) 544-3030 for information.

"Hard-Boiled" (Hong Kong - 1993). 8 p.m. Oct. 5. Action master John Woo gave an explosive goodbye to his native Hong Kong in this high-powered crime thriller. The final 40 minutes, set in a hospital, include some of the most over-the-top action ever filmed. ($5)

"Belle de Jour" (France - 1967). 7:30 p.m. Oct. 10, 12. Catherine Deneuve stars as a bored Parisian housewife who spends her afternoons as a prostitute. Luis Bunuel directs with his usual eye for the absurd, especially as it involves the social classes, religion, and modern morality. ($4)

MAIN ART THEATRE
118 N. Main Street at 11 Mile, Royal Oak. Films play through at least Thursday, unless noted otherwise. Call (810) 542-0180 for information and showtimes. ($6.50; $4 students and matinee; $3 twilight)

"Jeffrey" (USA - 1995). A gay actor/waiter living in New York vows celibacy in fear of contracting AIDS, but then meets the man of his dreams who just happens to be HIV-positive. "Star Trek's" Patrick Stewart recalls his stage actor origins in his turn as a flamboyant interior decorator.

"The Usual Suspects" (USA - 1995). Five guys who meet in a police lineup join for a simple heist. What happens next will keep you guessing in this cleverly scripted caper starring Gabriel Byrne, Kevin Spacey, and Chazz Palminteri.

"The Brothers McMullen" (USA - 1995). For what some people spend on a new car, Edward Burns made this engaging first feature about a young screenwriter and his two brothers in contemporary Long Island. Burns calls his audience pleaser a "romantic comedy for guys" and what it lacks in acting and production values it more than makes up in charm.

MAPLE THEATRE
4135 W. Maple, Bloomfield. All titles play through at least next Thursday, unless noted otherwise. Call (810) 855-9090 for information. ($6; $2.95 twilight)

"Run of the Country" (Irish - 1995). After his mother's death, a Catholic lad from Northern Ireland rebels against his police-sergeant father (Albert Finney) with disastrous results.

"How to Make an American Quilt" (USA - 1995). Winona Ryder wants advice about marriage, so visits her grandmother and great aunt (Ellen Burstyn and Anne Bancroft) who are already in the process of creating her a wedding quilt. Along the way they tell stories about their own lives and loves. Directed by Jocelyn Moorhouse ("Proof").

"The Brothers McMullen" (USA - 1995). See Main Art Theatre listing above.

JONATHAN HESSION

Love story: *Matt Keeslar and Victoria Smurfit star in "The Run of the Country" an unforgettable Irish love story now playing at the Maple Theatre.*

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