SCREEN SCENE

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

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

"Ermo" (China - 1994). 7, 9:30 p.m. Oct. 27-28. China in the '90s is examined in this deceptively simple tale of a woman obsessed with owner a TV set with a bigger screen than her neighbors.

"Women from the Lake of Scented Souls" (China - 1993). 4, 7 p.m. Oct. 29. Tough-minded Xiang manages to run a business, manipulate her son's life, and carry on an affair behind her lazy husband's back in this social comedy set in modern-day China.

"Art for Teachers of Children" (USA - 1995). 7 p.m. Oct. 30. In this controversial film, director Jennifer Montgomery examines the affair she had as a teenager with her married high school teacher.

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

"Vampyr" (France/Germany - 1931). 9 p.m. Oct. 30-31. The world of vampires is explored by Danish director Carl Dreyer in this moody, chilling horror film. In one of the film's many impossible point of view shots, you see the dirt fall down upon you as you are buried alive.

■ MAGIC BAG THEATRE
22018 Woodward, Ferndale. Call (810) 544-3030 for information. ($6)

"Go Fish" (USA - 1994). 7:30, 9:30 p.m. Oct. 26. A popular, attractive young woman worries that her new girlfriend isn't hip enough in this low-budget feature. Shot in black-and-white in the streets and apartments of Chicago, it's still among the screen's most refreshing looks at gay relationships.

■ 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)

"Feast of July" (Britain - 1995) A young woman is abandoned by her lover, falls for another man, and then has the former reappear into her life.

"Persuasion" (Britain - 1995). This acclaimed screen adaptation of Jane Austen's final novel finds a woman given a second chance at the love of her life.

"A Month by the Lake" (Britain - 1995). Vanessa Redgrave stars in this romantic comedy set on the shores of Italy just prior to the outbreak of World War II.

■ 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)

"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 wedding quilt. Along the way they tell stories about their own lives and loves.

"Blue in the Face" (USA - 1995). Director Wayne Wang wrapped early on his low-budget art house hit "Smoke," so he invited some friends and colleagues over to improvise a second movie. This one is still set in the Harvey Keitel's tobacco shop but the customers now include Jim Jarmusch, Lou Reed, Madonna, and Michael J. Fox. (A special "Keei Talk" about this film will take place after the October 28 early evening performance.)

■ MICHIGAN THEATRE
603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. Call (313) 668-8397 for information. ($19.50 and $14)

"Nosferatu" (Germany - 1922). 7 p.m. Oct. 28. A special screening of F.W. Murnau's silent version of "Dracula," complete with live orchestra accompaniment. With his long nails and ratlike face, Max Schreck's interpretation of the count is still the scariest, even without sound.

■ UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-DEARBORN
Recreation and Organizations Center, Evergreen between Ford Road and Michigan. Call (313) 593-5390 for information. (Free) 3-D double feature — "Creature from the Black Lagoon" (USA - 1954) and "Revenge of the Creature" (USA - 1955). Starting at 1 p.m. Oct. 28. You can't keep a good gill-man down as Hollywood proved in the amazingly popular '50s horror film and its first sequel, both shown here in 3-D.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

OPENING FRIDAY, OCT. 27

"POWDER"
Drama about the discovery of a strange teenage boy who possesses telekinetic powers/ Stars Sean Patrick Flanery, Mary Steenburgen.

"COPY CAT"
Thriller about a detective and a psychologist who find themselves targeted by a serial killer they're pursuing. Stars Sigourney Weaver, Holly Hunter, Dermot Mulroney.

"FEAST OF JULY"
Period drama about a young woman abandoned by her lover, who intends to marry another man only to have her lover reappear in their lives. Stars Embeth Davidtz, Ben Chaplain, Tom Bell.

"VAMPIRE IN BROOKLYN"
Contemporary version of the classic story has Nosferatu searching for a NYPD detective so he can transform her into his vampiress. Stars Eddie Murphy, Angela Bassett.

"THREE WISHES"
Magical tale set in 1955 about a widow struggling to raise two kids, and the drifter that enters their lives. Stars Patrick Swayze, Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio.

OPENING FRIDAY, NOV. 3

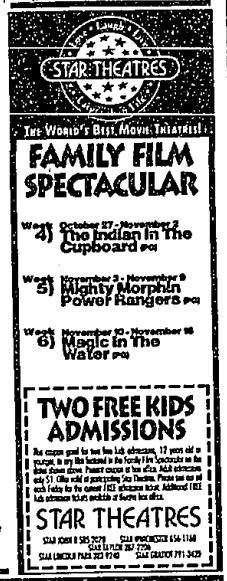
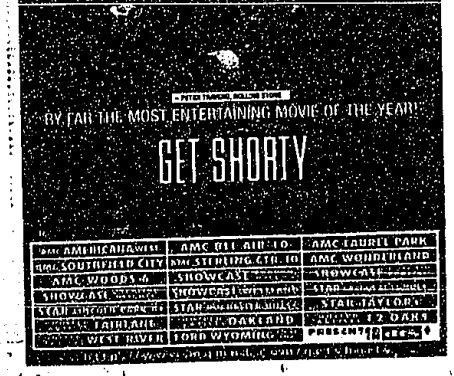
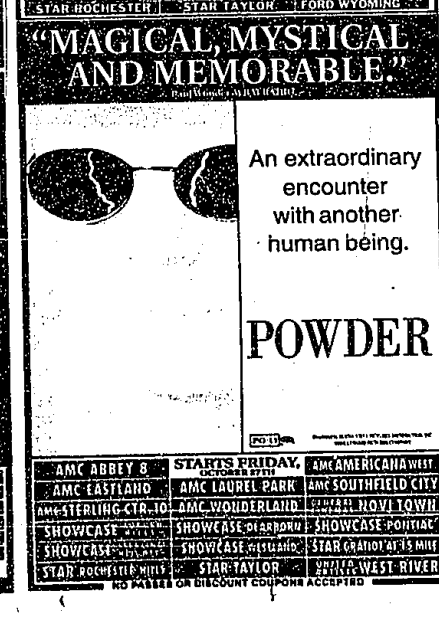
"HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS"
Comedy about a single mother who returns home to spend Thanksgiving with her family. Stars Holly Hunter, Robert Downey Jr., Anne Bancroft, Dylan McDermott.

"GOLD DIGGERS"
The story of two 13-year-old girls who become friends against everyone's warning and the dangerous treasure hunt adventure on which they embark. Stars Christina Ricci, Anna Chlumsky, Polly Draper, Brain Kerwin.

"FAIR GAME"
An ambitious young attorney and a police detective must run for their lives when they're targeted for elimination by a band of high tech killers. Stars William Baldwin and Cindy Crawford.

"LES MISERABLES"
Exclusively at the Main Art Theatre. A modern variation of the famed Victor Hugo saga of a hunted man.

"MIGHTY APHRODITE"
Contemporary romantic comedy that revolves around the problems that occur within a marriage and takes a broader, fanciful look at the subject of love between men and women. Stars F. Murray Abraham, Woody Allen, Claire Bloom, Michael Rapaport.

OPENING FRIDAY NOV. 17

"GOLDENEYE"
Pierce Brosnan takes over the role of 007, James Bond in this latest in the successful spy series.