

MOVIES

'Nick' wastes time with improbable thriller story



**TICKETS
PLEASE**

In "Nick of Time," Johnny Depp plays a regular guy apprehended by police, given a gun, and told that if he doesn't assassinate the governor this afternoon his daughter will die.

One of the premises of the he added twist of real time, the ac- ly between noon n a typical Los An- . Instead of peak- , however, "Nick of erves to remind us nipulate time for a

lines several Hitch-
- the average guy
intrigues seemingly
trol and a distrust
ment. It soon be-
that not only is
Walken's renegade
lot; so is the gover-
nment staff.

...is no Hitchcock
...f "Saturday Night
...ar Games" proved
... "Drop Zone" that
...pretty much a hack
...s oblivious to the
...ill the screen.

pp's character was
ock to turn the gun
pers as soon as I
him. But why doe
nd in plain sight o
er as he's trying t
ee?

...of the cinema's techniques (You got three minutes at bomb?) In "Nicolas Walken's villain at chance to kill the 1:20," a collective from the audience we have to wait for something to happen?

ve helped if so much
asn't limited to the
towers of L.A.
venture, which r
t only of Detroit
also "In the Line
rior thriller who
med here.

Welken again embracing, almost other-
ty that he brings
Dressed in



Suspense thriller: *Johnny Depp and Courtney Chase star in "Nick of Time."*

REVIEW

dark suit and Secret Service wire, he is believable even when appearing out of nowhere to foil Danny's latest attempt to get help.

A man of few words aside from threats, he does deliver a lengthy anecdote about killing "a Mick" that smacks so much of Quentiz Tarantino's self-consciously hard-boiled dialogue (and is so out-of-place here) that you can't help but snicker.

Depp, meanwhile, has the first adult role of his career, yet it's a step backward to his days on the TV series "21 Jump Street." His furrowed brow and ultra-serious approach to a dopey script repre-

sents the kind of acting he's transcended since in unusual roles from Ed Wood to Edward Scissorhands.

Movies at their best make you forget about time. "Nick of Time" was one of those moments when, as the minutes ticked slowly by, I realized just how much time I spend with movies as mediocre as this. I looked at my watch at least as much as the characters on screen.

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

COMING ATTRACTIONS

OPENING FRIDAY, DEC. 1

"THE CROSSING GUARD"

The moving and powerful story of two men whose lives collide. Star Jack Nicholson, David Morse, Robin Wright and Anjelica Huston.

"WILD BILL"

Western adventure chronicling the latter-day exploits of one of the Old West's most colorful true-life legends. Stars Jeff Bridges, Ellen Barkin, John Hurt and Mimi Rogers.

"WHITE MAN'S BURDEN"

Drama about a race-related conflict between two very proud men in a society where African-Americans are the dominant culture, socially and economically. Stars John Travolta, Harry Belafonte, Kelly Lynch. *Marcello Auer*

OPENING FRIDAY, DEC. 8

"FATHER OF THE BRIDE PART II"
Sequel to the 1991 box office hit has the father very nervous as both his wife and daughter announce they are pregnant. Stars Steve Martin, Diane Keaton, Kimberly Williams. Martin Short.

OPENING FRIDAY, DEC. 15

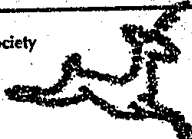
A sh

ant and his team become obsessed with their pursuit of a cold and deadly professional thief and his partners. Stars Al Pacino, Rob-

HERMANN

Fantasy adventure about a magical board game. Two children release a man trapped in the game 25 years earlier, and must play the game, unleashing untold havoc and mayhem, or risk being exiled back into the game forever.

 The Detroit Zoological Society presents



WILD LIGHTS

November 16-December 30*
5:30-8:00 p.m.

A beautiful display of more than 100 animal sculptures and other holiday lights.

Admission: Adults \$2.00, Children \$1.00, Seniors \$1.50

November 16-December 30*
5:30-6:00 p.m.

... beautiful display of more than
... animal sculptures and other

ORDERED & ECCENTRIC GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

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