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

E MAGIC BAG THEATRE

John Moneghan

2918 Woodward (north of 9
Mile), Ferndals. Call (810) 6443030 for information, (30)

"Spike and Mike's Sick and
Twisted Festival of Animation."
Through Jen. 1 (call for showtimes). An odd way to spend the
Lolldays, this annual compilation
Af contemporary animation is a
1-briverse companion piece to the
recent festival at the DIA. Compiled by the same Californiabased mademe who first foisted
"Beavis and Butthead" on an untiapecting public, the current
Jineup includes old favorites like
"No Neck Joe," along with the
alien nightmare "Abducted" and
worm-obsessed "Smush.

EMAIN ART THEATE
"116 N. Main Street at 11 Mile,
Royal Oak. Films play through at
least Thursday, unless noted othorwise. Call (810) 542-0180 for information and showtimes. (85.65)
34 students and matinee; \$3
wilight)

34 students and matine; 33 twilight; "Sense and Sensibility" (Britain - 1995). In yet another film adaptation of a Jane Austein novel (and one of the best films of the year), tragedy changes a family's

circumstances and alters the romantic aspirations of its daughters. Emma Thompson, Alari an Rickman, and Hugh Grant star in a cript written by Thompson and directed by Ang Loe ("The Wedding Banquet").

"Mighty Aphrodite" (USA-1995), Woody Allen writes, directs and stars in this story of a father obseased with discovering the identity of his adopted son's mother. The typically eclectic cast includes Helena Bonham Carter, F. Murrey Abraham, Peter Weller, and Claire Bloom.
"Leaving Lan Vegas" (USA-1995), Just in time for the holidays, Nicholas Cago plays a suicidial alcoholic who finds his soulmate in an abused call girl (Elizabeth Shuu).
"Persuasion" story of an independent young woman who gets a second chance at the low of far life comes to the screen in this intelligent, with film.

B MAPLE THEATRE
4135 W, Maple, Bloomfield. All
titles play through at least next
Thursday, unless noted otherwise. Call (810) 265-8090 for information, (36; \$2.95 twilight)
"Nixon" (USA - 1995). Anthony
Hopkins stars as the fallen presi-

dent in Oliver Stone's challenging new film Michael J. For. Ed Herris, and James Wood co-star. "The Crossing Guard" (USA-1998). In this intense drama written and directed by Sean Pean, an slooholic jeweler (Jack Nicholson) and his estranged wife (Assertion) and his estranged wife (Assertion) and his estranged wife (Assertion) and his estranged wife from the loss of their daughter in a car accident. What starts as a faccinating premise sinks under its own self-indulgence.

"American President" (USA-1995). Michael Douglas plays the widowed Commander in Chief who tries to balanco his job and a blossoming romance with an environmental lobybist (Annette Bening). Another crowd pleaser from director Rob Reiner.

## M MICHIGAN THEATRE

603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. Call (313) 668-8397. (\$6; \$5 students/

(313) 668-8397. (\$6; \$5 students/seniors)
"Restoration" (Britain - 1995).
Dec. 23 - 31 (call for showtimes).
In the court of King Charles II, a notorious womanizer and drunk-ard (Robert Downey, Jr.) is surprised to find himself falling in love with his latest conquest.
Hugh Grant, Sam Neill, and Meg
Rynco-star.



Drama: Kellita Smith (left), Jack Nicholson (center) and Priscilla Barnes (right) in Sean Penn's "The Crossing Guard," now showing at the AMC Maple.

Romantic: Elinor (Emma Thompson) finds herself drawn to the charming Edward Ferrars (Hugh Grant) in Columbia Pictures "Sense and Sensibility" now playing at the Main Art Theatre





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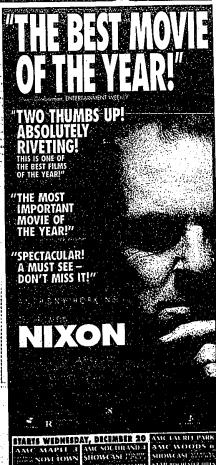
"Riotously funny. Sophia Loren will enchant me forever."

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SOUND TRACK ALBUM

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