

MOVIES

'Sense and Sensibility' glorious ode to anticipation

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

MAGIC BAG THEATRE
22918 Woodward (north of 9 Mile), Ferndale. Call (810) 644-3030 for information. (40)
"Spike and Mike's Sick and Twisted Festival of Animation," 8, 11 p.m. Dec. 30; 8 p.m. Jan. 1-2. An odd way to spend the holidays, this annual compilation of contemporary animation is a perverse companion piece to the recent festival at the DIA. Compiled by the same California-based madmen who first foisted "Beavis and Butt-head" on an unsuspecting public, the current lineup includes old favorites like "No Neck Joe," along with the alien nightmare "Abducted" and worm-obsessed "Smush."

MAIN ART THEATRE
110 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)

"Sense and Sensibility" (Britain - 1995). In yet another film adaptation of a Jane Austen 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, Alan Rickman, and Hugh Grant star in a script written by Thompson and directed by Ang Lee ("The Wedding Banquet").
"Leaving Las Vegas" (USA - 1995). Just in time for the holidays, Nicolas Cage plays a suicidal alcoholic who finds his soulmate in a Las Vegas call girl (Elizabeth Shue). Well-acted, relentlessly downbeat, and definitely not for all tastes.
"Othello" (USA - 1995). Laurence Fishburne stars as the murdering Moor in a new adaptation of Shakespeare's classic tragedy. Starts Friday.
"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)
"Gumpier Old Men" (USA -

1995). Walter Matthau and Jack Lemmon team once again as old coots whose libidos are jump-started once again, this time by Ann-Margret and Sophia Loren.
"Nixon" (USA - 1995). Anthony Hopkins stars as the fallen president in Oliver Stone's challenging new film. As usual, the director employs quick editing techniques and varied film stocks, resulting in a movie both tedious (at almost three-and-a-half hours long) and fascinating. Ed Harris and James Wood co-star.
"The American President" (USA - 1995). Michael Douglas plays the widowed Commander in Chief who tries to balance his job and a blossoming romance with an environmental lobbyist (Annette Bening). Another crowd-pleaser from director Rob Reiner.
"MICHIGAN THEATRE"
603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. Call (313) 668-8307. (\$5; \$5 students/seniors)
"Restoration" (Britain - 1995). Through Dec. 31 (call for showtimes). In the court of King Charles II, a notorious womanizer and drunkard (Robert Downey,

Jr.) is surprised to find himself falling in love with his latest conquest, Hugh Grant. Sam Neill, and Mary Ryan co-star.
"ADAM SHALOM SYNAGOGUE" 29901 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills (810) 851-5100. Films are open to the community at no charge, and followed by coffee and discussion.
"When the Laughter Starts, The Crying Stops," 1996 film series will feature "Vidi Min Fidi" 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 14 and "Annie Hall" 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 21. Both films will be introduced and discussed by Ira Konigsberg, Professor of Film and English at the University of Michigan. Konigsberg is author of "The Complete Film Dictionary," which has gone into its 10th printing.
"Vidi Min Fidi," starring Molly Picon, a Yiddish performer, is one of the classic works of Yiddish cinema. About a young woman who disguises herself as a man so that she can join a group of Klezmer musicians, this film bursts with energy, zesty and music.
"Annie Hall," considered by many the best of Woody Allen's



Mixing sense with sensibility: Elinor (left to right, Emma Thompson), Marianne (Kate Winslet) and Mrs. Dashwood (Gemma Jones) get used to and Sensibility.

films, is about the relationship between a Jewish comedian and a non-Jewish woman. "Annie Hall" presents a hilarious and expansive view of American culture and society in the 1960s and 1970s.
"MOTOR CITY THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY"
The Historic Redford Theatre, 17360 Lahser Road, Detroit (313) 537-2560. (Movie tickets \$2.50, Friday nights 7:30 p.m. organ overture, film 8 p.m. Saturday organ overture 1:30 p.m., film 2 p.m.)
"Top Hat," Jan. 12-13, starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. Guest organist Brian Carmody.

SCREEN SCENE

"Sense and Sensibility" is now playing exclusively at the Main Art Theatre in Royal Oak.

BY PATRICIA BIDBY
AP NEWSFEATURES
Jane Austen knows a thing or two about patience and all its agonizing manifestations: gratification deferred, unrequited desire and lost love that waits to be reclaimed.
"Sense and Sensibility" director Ang Lee knows a thing or two about capturing Austen in all her delicate nuances. With this work, Lee has crafted a loving and glorious ode to anticipation and the delicious fruit that waiting can bring.

REVIEW

This is one of those rare films that seems to be magnificent and grand in scale, even though it concerns itself with the smallest flutters of the heart and the magic and mystery of its beating.
Emma Thompson, giving one of her most spectacular performances to date, wrote the screenplay and informs it with a wry, light touch that makes Austen's 200-year-old essay of manners and social customs vibrantly alive today.
The film begins with a crisis of inheritance. The dying family patri-

arch, Henry Dashwood (Tom Wilkinson), is forced by law to leave his palatial estate to his son, John (James Fleet), and his wife, Fanny (Harriet Walter), from his first marriage. This is despite the fact that his current wife (Gemma Jones) and three daughters — Elinor (Thompson), Marianne (Kate Winslet) and Margaret (Emilie Francis) — currently live in the house and therefore must be evicted by the step-brother.
Fanny quickly emerges as a ruthless shrew, eagerly helping her husband rationalize giving his step-sisters a stingy pittance. "People always live forever when

there is an annuity to be paid to them," she says through pursed lips.
Fanny settles in to the family home — more like a sprawling Georgian castle with manicured, velvet green grounds — and begins to envision all sorts of garish renovations.
When Fanny's brother, Edward (Hugh Grant), comes to visit, it's apparent that there is a tender thread the binds him to Elinor, much to Fanny's consternation. In Fanny's opinion, the disenfranchised Elinor, with no dowry, is not suitable for marrying.
The Dashwood women retreat to a cousin's cottage (though it's

hardly a small thatched-roof affair), where the tempestuous Marianne falls (literally) for the ex-

travagantly handsome and devastatingly romantic Willoughby (Greg Wise).

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David Ansen

PACINO DE NIRO KILMER

HEAT

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SHOWCASE 12 OAKS	SHOWCASE	STAR GRATIOT
STAR LINCOLN PARK	STAR ROCHSTER	STAR TAYLOR
STAR FAIRLANE	STAR 12 OAKS	STAR WEST RIVER
STAR 12 OAKS	FORD WYOMING	STAR WEST RIVER