MOVIES 'Cry the Beloved Country' lovingly remade

BY BOB THOMAS AP NEWSFEATURES

AF NEWATATURES

It is 1947 in a Zuiu village amid the peaks of South Africa. Black pastor Stephen Kumalo (James Earl Jones) leeves his village on a personal mission to Johannes-burg. Thus leeves his village on a personal mission to Johannes-burg. Thus begins his Dantean descent into hell.

His arrival in the metropolis is harrowing. He is frightened by the traffic and noise. A bystander offers to buy a bus ticket for him, takes the money and disappears. Kumalo finally arrives at a church mission, where a benign young prices (Viau Kunene) gives him shelter.

The rural pastor is seeking his

young priest (Visu Kuneno) gives him sheiter.

The rural pastor is seeking his sister, brother and son, with whom he has lost contact. He discovers his sister (Darabias Kente) has turned to prositiution to support herself and her child. The brother (Charles S. Dutton) is a sitch businessmen who harangues blacks with demagogic speeches. He cares only for himself.

Kumaio dogedly trudges the city in search of his son, Absalom (Eric Myson). He finds the woman who is bearing his son's child. Finally, he discovers that Absalom is in jall, charged with burglary-nurder of a white man. Alan Paton's modern classic,

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

B ADAT SHALOM SYNAGOGUE
29901 Middlebelt, Formington
Hills (810) 851-5100. Films open
to the community at no charge,
followed by coffee and discussion.

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"When the Laughter Starts,
The Crying Stopa," 1996 film series will feature "Yild Min Fidil" 7
p.m. Sunday, Jan. 14 and "Annie
Hall" 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 21.
Both films will be introduced and
discussed by Ira Konigaberg, Professor of Film and English at the
University of Michigan. Konigaberg is author of "The Complete
Film Dictionary," which has gone
into its 10th printing.

"Yild Mitn Fidil." attarting Mol"Picon, a Yildidals performer, is
one of the classic works of Yidish cinena. About a young woman who disguises herself as a tran so
that she can join a group of
Klezmer musicians, this film
bursts with energy, goiety and
music.

music.

B MAIN ART THEATRE

118 N. Main Street at 11 Mile,
Royal Oak, Films play through at
least Thursday, unless noted otherwise. Call (819) 542-0189 for information and showtimes. (\$6.50;
\$4 students and matinee; \$3

will the N.

twilight)
"Sense and Sensibility" (Brit-

REVIEW

"Cry, the Beloved Country," opening Friday at metro Detroit move theaters, has been lovingly remade by director Darrell James Rood; and producer Annal Singh, who collaborated on the admirable "Sarafinal" The first version was filmed in 1951 by Zoltan Kord awith a very young Sidney Politics in the cast. Patients book and the stage, "which became a 1974 film.

The new "Cry, the Beloved Country" is a stirring rendition marked by an Academy Award-callber performance by James Earl Jones.

Lately associated with roles as gruff curmudgeons, Jones reverses himself as the gentle, constitutes bewildered man of God. At times he seems ineffectual, overwhelmed by the personal tragedies he encounters, as well as the misery of black life in the city. But in matters of right and wrong, he remains assertive.

Counterpoint to Jones is Richard Harris as the affluent white rancher who lives in the same district. The two reach hards and harris as the affluent white rancher who lives in the same district. The two reach hards and the same district. The two reaches the country was a continuous continuous and the case are case and the case and cas

as a condemned man who forms a controversial friendship with a Catholic nun (Susan Sarandon). A typically offbeat drama directed by Tim Robbins. Starts Friday.

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• MAPLE THEATRE

4135 W. Maple, Bloomfield. All titles play through at least next Thursday, unless noted otherwise. Call (810) 855-999 for information. (85; 82.95 twilight)

"Nixon" (USA - 1995). Anthony Hopkins stars as the failen president in Olivor Stone's challenging new film. As usual, the director employs quick editing techniques and varied film stocks, resulting in a movie both teclious (at almost three-and-a-half hours long) and fractinating. Ed Harris and James Wood co-star.

"Cry, the Beloved Country" (South Africa - 1996). Based on the scalaimed novel by Jahan Paton, the story of the reconciliation of two men — one white, the other black — who have each lost a son to the violence of South Africa. James Earl Jones and Richard Harris star. Starts Friday.



James Earl Jones in Darrell James Roodt's "Cry, The Beloved Country," opening Friday, Jan. 12, at metro Detroit movie theaters.

other by sight, but they have never met. It turns out that Harris son, a civil rights advocate, is the man killed by Jone's son.

The seene in which the two bereaved fathers meet and seek understanding is a masterplece played by consummate actors.

Director Roodt deserves credit

SCREEN SCENE



Elinor Dash-Thompson) struggles to keep family finaces in orher longing for Edward Ferrars (Hugh

Grant) in "Sense and Sensibility."

tional walls lead to a mental

tional walls lead to a mental breakdown.

"Casabianca" (USA - 1942). Jan. 12 - 15 (call for showtimes). In his quintessential performance, Humphrey Bogart plays nighticub owner Rick Blaine, caught up in international intrigue in World Warlf. With Ingrid Bergman, Paul Henried, and Claude Raines.
"Seconda" (USA - 1966). 7 p.m. Jan. 16 - 17. Rock Hudson stars in this visually dazzling science fiction movie about a man who gets a second crack at life with all the advantages. James Wong Howe provides the often bizarre black-and-white cinematography.

REDFORD THATRE

m REDFORD THEATRE 17360 Lahser, Detroit, Call (313)

537-2560 for information. (\$2.50)

537-2650 for information. (2.50)
"Top Hat" (USA - 1935). 8 p.m.
Jan. 12 - 13 forgan overture begins a half hour before showtime).
Fred Astairs and Ginger Rogers
team in perhaps their best loved
musical. The classic Irving Berlin
songa include "Cheek to Cheek."
'Inn' it a Lovely Day," and "Top
Hat, White Tie, and Talla."

Hat, White Tie, and Tails."

SYATE THEATRE
2115 Woodward, Detroit. Call
(313) 961-6450 for information.
(\$1)

"The Usual Suspecta" (USA1995). 9 p.m. Jan. 15. Another
helat goes wrong -- but with a
twist -- in this intense, intelligent
thriller starring Gabriel Byrne,
Chazz Palminteri, and Kevin
Spacey.

Classic Cinema Series opens Jan. 19

Southfield's Classic Cinema Series opens 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 19 with "Dirtle Gertle from Harlem, U.S.A." in Room 115 of the Southfield Parks and Recre-ation Building, 26000 Evergeen. Tickets 33 per person and include light refreshments, call (810) 424-9022 for information, reserva-tions.

B MICHIGAN THEATRE

603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor, Call
(313) 668-8397 for information.
(363, 58 studenta/seniors)
"Pink Floyd's The Wall" (British - 1982). Through Jan. 13 (call
for showtimes). A raw 70mm
acreening of the eye-poping Pink
Floyd film, based on the acclaimed album and starring Bob
Geldof as a rock star whose emo-

Williams, Francine Everett and Don Wilson in the film adapta-tion of William Somerset Maug-ham's short story "Rain."

Produced in 1946, the film follows Gertie, a lusty, fun-loving prostitute who is fleoing the law. Along the way, she arrives in Trinidad and meets up with a stuffy, religious reformer who is deterreligious reformer who is deter-mined to make her change her

mined to make her change her sinful ways.

Classic Cinema Series is pre-sented by the Cultural Arts Divi-sion of the City of Southfield, the Southfield Public Library and Potpourri Productions.









