

SCREEN SCENE

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

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

"Anne Hall" 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 21.

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

"Theremin: An Electronic Od-

yssey" (USA - 1995). 7, 9:30 p.m. Jan. 19 - 20; 4, 7 p.m. Jan. 21. A captivating new documentary about Leon Theremin, the man who fathered electronic music and then disappeared without a trace. Director Steven M. Martin located the 94-year-old inventor in the former Soviet Union and brought him back to the United States for the first time in almost 50 years.

"Nadia" (USA - 1995). 7 p.m. Jan. 22. A modern-day vampire story, set in New York City, finds the title character outraged when she learns that a certain Dr. Van Helsing (Peter Fonda) is on her

trail.

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).

"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 daughter, Emma Thompson. Alan Rickman and Hugh Grant star in a script written by Thompson and directed by Ang Lee ("The Wedding Banquet").

"Othello" (USA - 1995). Laurence Fishburne stars as the murdering Moor in a new adaptation of Shakespeare's classic tragedy.

Kenneth Branagh plays the evil Iago, who plants the seeds of doubt against the faithful Desdemona (Jesse Jacob).

"Dead Man Walking" (USA - 1996). Sean Penn makes a welcome return in front of the camera as a condemned man who forms a controversial friendship with a Catholic nun (Susan Sarandon). A typically offbeat drama directed by Tim Robbins.

MAPLE THEATRE
4135 W. Maple, Bloomfield. All titles play through at least next Thursday, unless noted otherwise. Call (810) 855-9080 for information. (\$6; \$2.95 twilight).

"Cry, the Beloved Country" (South Africa - 1996). Based on the acclaimed novel by Alan Paton, the story plots the reconciliation of two men — one white, the other black — who have each lost a son to the violence of South Af-

rica. James Earl Jones and Richard Harris star.

"Mr. Holland's Opus" (USA - 1995). Richard Dreyfuss plays a high school music teacher who dreams of composing a symphony that will change the world.

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

"When Night is Falling" (USA - 1995). Jan. 19-28 (call for showtimes). Unhappy in her engagement, a college professor finds herself attracted to a flamboyant circus performer she meets at the laundromat. This romanticized lesbian love story

created quite a stir when it earned, much to many reviewers' surprise, an NC-17 rating.

"Kicking and Screaming" (USA - 1995). Jan. 19-25 (call for showtimes). First-time director Noah Baumbach focuses on the ups and downs of being twenty-something when steady relationships start to collapse and parents start moving in. Elliot Gould and Eric Stoltz head the energetic cast.

STATE THEATRE
2115 Woodward, Detroit. Call (313) 961-5450 for information. (\$1).

"To Die For" (USA-1995). 9 p.m. Jan. 22.

Hotel goes ape after 'Dunston Checks In'

By KEELY WYGNONIK
STAFF WRITER

There was a whole lot of monkey business going on at the Majestic Hotel before Dunston, an orangutan checked in.

As the movie opens, Kyle (Eric Lloyd) and his brother, Brian (Graham Sack) are up to monkey tricks in the hotel their father manages and they call home. The gag backfires and silly chaos erupts as guests, and a small dog, fall into a fountain in the hotel lobby.

Robert Grant (Jason Alexander) handles everything with ease, even arranging for the dog to see an animal psychologist to get over the trauma of falling into a fountain.

Life at the Majestic Hotel is grand until "Dunston Checks In." Forced into a life of crime by Lord Rutledge (Rupert Everett) a low-life/jewel thief, Dunston runs away after he threatens him one too many times.

Kyle is the first to discover the orangutan on the run, and with his brother Brian's help, hides him one of the hotel's exclusive suites. While dad is busy getting ready for the biggest charity event of the year, the trio has a banana blast until they are discovered by Lord Rutledge.

"Dunston Checks In" now showing at metro Detroit movie theaters, is like one big hide and seek game. It's full of good guys, villains and mistaken identities.

There's Mr. Dubrow (Raye Dunaway), Grant's cold-hearted, giggling boss, La Farge (Paul Reubens), an inept animal control officer determined to capture Dunston, and poor Glenn Shadix, a much put-upon guest whose best friend and confidante is a small dog.

Kids especially will love this silly movie. The screenplay was written by John Hopkins and Bruce Graham from a story by



Monkeying around: Graham Sack (left to right) and Eric Lloyd are brothers who, with Dunston's help, wreck havoc on an elegant New York hotel run by their father in "Dunston Checks In."

REVIEW

John Hopkins. Ken Kwapis is the director.

Hopkins said he was influenced by the "Eloise" series of books, which are about a little girl who lives in a hotel. Kwapis compares Kyle, the young hero of the movie, to a prince trapped in a palace.

"He can order the best steak in town, but he doesn't get many chances to live like a kid."

Until Dunston arrives. Then the Majestic Hotel turns out to be the best playground that a kid or orangutan could hope for.

"The game of hide and seek ends during the hotel's charity ball with Lord Rutledge trying to capture Dunston, La Farge trying to shoot him with a tranquilizer gun, and the boys trying to rescue him.

"TWO THUMBS UP!"
READ LISTS

"ONE OF THE BEST PICTURES OF THE YEAR!"
Richard Dreyfuss is stunningly good!
—N.Y. TIMES, CHICAGO TRIBUNE, LOS ANGELES TIMES

"YOU WILL FALL IN LOVE WITH 'MR. HOLLAND'S OPUS'!"
Wonderful and emotionally overwhelming!
—N.Y. TIMES, CHICAGO TRIBUNE, LOS ANGELES TIMES

"RICHARD DREYFUSS DESERVES SERIOUS OSCAR CONSIDERATION!"
—J.F. COFF, NEW YORK TIMES

★★★★★
DON'T MISS IT!
Every time he is Oscar caliber performance!
—Paul Tackett, NEW YORK TIMES

**Richard Dreyfuss
Mr. Holland's
Opus**

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What Makes Music? was produced by The Franklin Institute Science Museum for the Science Museum Collaborative with funding from The National Science Foundation.