Before and After' examines fragile family ties

HYDOLORES BARCLAY
APPINEMENTATURES
A teenager is found dead in a snowbark, her head hashed in. The prime suspect is a boy who was seen earlier with her. And he has disappeared.
Thus begins Barbet Schroed er's "Before and After," a drama that examines the fragile threads that bind families and the passions involved in seeking — or covering up — the truth.

Life as they know it is disrupted for the Ryan family once Carolyn (Moryl Streep), a small-town pediatrician, and her sculptor husband Ben (Liam Neeso.) are visited by the police, who want to search the car their son Jacob (Edward Fulong) was driving earlier in the day.
Carolyn, trusting small-town values and amall-town law enforcement, has no problem with that. But Ben refuses and demands! a search warrant. And while the cops are off securing one, he takes bloodled evidence from the truth of the car and destroys!

Ben doesn't know if his son is quilty or innocent, but he plans to protect him at all costs. Carolyn is equally passionate — but her quest is to find out what really happened.

Neither can fully grasp the position of Jacob and their young

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

John Monaghan B DETROIT FILM THEATRE

Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Call (313) 833-2323 for information.

daughter, Judith, who see things in black-and-white: There is truth or deception, and nothing in be-

As Ben later tells Jacob: "We save your life first. Then we worry about your soul."

Schroeder's direction from a screenplay by Ted Tally is at times slow and ponderous, and the characters' actions sometimes screening by the state of the s

performances from Streep and Neeson and by peppering his movie with a few lovely and tell-



Shattered tamlly: Shocked by allegations and mounting evidence that suggests their teenage son Jacob (Edward Furlong, right) may have committed a brutal murder, small-town pediatrician Carolyn Ryan (Meryl Streep, left) and her sculptor-husband Ben (Liam Neeson, center) find their ordinary world shattered, and they must decide if and how they can defend their son in Hollywood Pictures' "Before and After."

SCREEN SCENE

MAIN ART THEATRE
118 N. Main Street at 11 Mile,
Royal Oak, Films play through at least Thursday, unless noted oth-erwise. Call (810) 542-0180 for information and showtimes. (\$6.50; \$4 students and matinee; \$3

formation and showtimes. (36.69; 34 students and matinee; 33 twilight)

"Sense and Sensibility" (Britain - 1995). In a superior film adaptation of the Jane Austen novel, tragedy changes a family's circumstances and alters the romantic aspirations of its daughters. Emma Thompson, Alan Rickman, and Hugh Grant star, with a script written by Thompson and directed by Ang Lee ("The Wedding Banquer").

"Dead Man Walking" (USA - 1996). Sean Penn makes a welcome return in front of the camera as condemented men who forms a controversial friendship with a Catholic nun (Susan Sramdon). A decidedly officest drama directed by Tim Robbins.

"Restoration" (Britain - 1995). In this long-promised period piece, Robert Downey, Jr., plays a motorious womanizer in the court of Charles II who may have beatung by true love. Sam Neill, Meg Ryan, and Sir Ian McKellar castar.

"French Twist" (France - 1995). When Victoria Abril discovers that her Resitor husband is cheating on her, she gets a sweet revenge when a tenderhearted wan (played by the director, Josiane Balasko) has her van break down in front of the house. Starts

Friday.

MAPLE THEATRE
4135 W. Maple, Bloomfield. All
titles play through at least next
Thurnday, unless noted othervine. Call (810) 855-9090 for information. (85; 82-95 twillight)
12-exing Last Vegas" (USA.
1995). In this uncompromisingly
depressing drama, Nicolae Cage
plays a hopeless alcoholic who
finds true to two olset in a Las
Vegas prastitute (Elizabeth
Shue). Tough going, but the kind
of movie that shaunts you long after seeing it.

Michican THEATRE
632 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor, Call
(313) 668-8397 for Information.
(36: 36 studenta/soniors)
"Richard III" (Britain - 1995).
March 1-11 (call for showtimes).
SIr Ian McKellen stars in this
ambitious but uneven attempt at
updating Shakespeare to the
1930s. Though the hunchbacked

king seems at home in the era of Mussolini and Hitler, director Richard Loncraine doesn't know whether he wants the movie to be classical or over-the-top.
"Georgia" (USA 1995).
Through March 10 (call for showtimes). Jennifer Jason-Leigh plays Sadie, the marginally-talented sister of a folk-rock super-star (Marc Winningham). The intimacy and rivalry between them results in one of the best-acted (and most depressing) films of the

Tamitlakable. The Passion Was Undenlable.

UP CLOSE & PERSONAL

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year.

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

(313) 961-5490 for information.
(\$1)

"National Lampoon's Animal House" (USA - 1978), 9 p.m.

March 4. The Kennedy-era frat comedy is rude, obnoxious, and still hilarious, thanks to John Beliushi's now-legendary performance as the quintessential party animal.

REVIEW

faces his parents while being held in a detention center. He sits autien and silent, a peasty, gaunt-child. His parents fire questions left and right trying to break his silence, but falling to understand his pain and confusion. Nor does Jacob comprehend his pain and confusion. Nor does Jacob comprehend his parents' agony and frustration.

As Jacob Furlong jan't a totally convincing troubled youth. Yes, he has the proper James Dean look, but it's superficial. There's

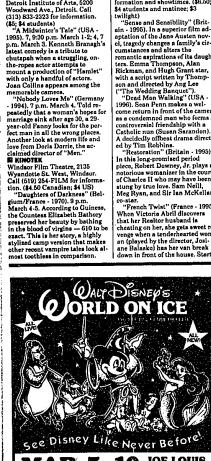
always the appearance of some-thing deeper hovering beneath the surface, something that needs to get out to make his performance complete. Julia Weldon fares a lot better as Jacob's younger sister, Judith. Creggy-tooth Aifred Molina ap-pears as lawyer Panos Demeris, who agrees to defend Jacob but also must deal with Jacob's un-cooperative narents.

also must deal with Jacob s un-cooperative parents.

"Before and After" is based on the book by Rosellen Brown. The Hollywood Pictures release is pro-duced by Schroeder and Susan Hoffman.







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