

MOVIES

Richard Gere stars in courtroom drama



Thriller: Once romantically linked, lawyers Janet Venable (Laura Linney) and Martin Vail (Richard Gere), are headed for a courtroom showdown in a high-profile murder trial in "Primal Fear."

Arrogant, brilliant and successful criminal defense attorney Martin Vail loves a good fight and the media spotlight, both of which he knowingly invites when he volunteers to represent a penniless, bewildered man accused of murder in Paramount Pictures' "Primal Fear" opening Wednesday at metro Detroit movie theaters.

The victim is one of Chicago's most prominent dignitaries, and the defendant's guilt seems evident as the blood found splattered on his clothes. But Vail doesn't concern himself with questions of guilt or innocence. All he cares about is creating and selling his version of the truth. All he cares about is winning.

As his involvement with his client deepens, Vail's consuming need to win, his antagonism toward his former boss in the prosecutor's office, his complicated relationship with his former lover who is the prosecutor in this case, and his unexpected feelings for his client, combine to bind him to the trap awaiting him.

Starring Richard Gere, "Primal Fear" is directed by Gregory Hoblit from a screenplay by Steve Shagan and Ann Biderman based on the best-selling novel by William DiChi. The film also stars Laura Linney, John Mahoney, Andre Woodward, Frances McDormand, Andie MacDowell and Edward Norton. A compelling blend of courtroom drama, suspense, thriller and psychological study, "Primal Fear" follows high-powered attorney Martin Vail (Richard Gere) as he defends a likable, naive alter boy named Aaron Stampler (Edward Norton) who have a large

case that rocks Chicago.

Vail is opposed by prosecuting attorney Janet Venable (Laura Linney), who feels she has much to prove in this legal contest with her former lover and mentor. Closely watching both of them are the media, State's Attorney John Shaughnessy (John Mahoney) and other powerful figures who have a large

stake in the trial's outcome.

"It's not Vail's job to decide if someone is guilty or not guilty," said Gere. "His job is to defend. With Aaron, however, he starts to care on an emotional level. He bonds with this kid. It's no longer just a flashy case that will advance his own career. He wants to get this kid off, so he's really tested to his limits."

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Scheduled to open Wednesday, April 3	
FAITHFUL	
Cast includes Cher, Chazz Palminteri, Ryan O'Neal. In this black comedy, a wealthy man hires a hit man to kill his wife, who then becomes smitten with his intended victim.	
"A Thin Line Between Love and Hate"	
Martin Lawrence, Lynn Whitfield, Regina King and Bebe Neuwirth. In this comic thriller about a nightclub party promoter who examines young contemporary relationships.	

Scheduled to open Friday, April 12	
"JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH"	
A stop-motion animated adventure from "The Nightmare Before Christmas," about a young boy who lives with his wicked aunt. Features voice talents of Paul Terry, Joanne Lumley, Miriam Margolyes.	
"KIDS IN THE HALL: BRAIN CANDY"	
The five-man Canadian comedy troupe are featured in this offbeat adventure about a scientist who discovers a happiness pill. Stars Scott Thompson, David Foley, Bruce McCulloch, Kevin McDonald, Mark McKinney.	

Scheduled to open Friday, April 19	
"PREPARE FOR A PRIMAL JO"	
I'll do you a favor and even hint at the genuine shocking twist.	Guy Pearce, <i>Cosmopolitan</i>
★★★	One of Richard Gere's best performances.
To give away what should be a	Jake Corman, <i>Entertainment Weekly</i>

Scheduled to open Friday, April 19	
"JANE EYRE"	
One of the best loved and most widely read works of English literature, the story of an orphaned girl who survives cruelty and hardship to find love and happiness. Stars William Hurt and Anna Paquin.	
"A tempestuous love affair"	Bruce Campbell, <i>Entertainment Weekly</i>

Scheduled to open Friday, April 26	
"THE PALLBEARER"	
A coming-of-age story of a young man who tries to leave the funeral services of a former high school classmate, despite the fact that he can't remember who the classmate was. Stars David Schwimmer, Gwyneth Paltrow, Barbara Hershey.	
"THE SUBSTITUTE"	Miami's gang and drug infested Duke High School has a problem and the new substitute teacher has the solution. When a mercenary finds himself between jobs and his teacher girlfriend assaulted, he steps in to her classroom to see things right. Stars Tom Berenger, Diane Venora.

Scheduled to open Friday, May 3	
"THE WEDDING"	
A come-uppance tale of a young man who tries to leave the funeral services of a former high school classmate, despite the fact that he can't remember who the classmate was. Stars David Schwimmer, Gwyneth Paltrow, Barbara Hershey.	
"STAR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3RD"	AMC, WOODS 6, SHOWCASE
"STAR THURSDAY, APRIL 4TH"	CANTON, SHOWCASE, STAR, STAR LOGISTICS, STAR SIDE
"STAR FRIDAY, APRIL 5TH"	STAR, FAIRFIELD, WISE RIVER