

SCREEN SCENE

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

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Call (313) 833-2323 for information. (\$5.50; \$4.50 students/seniors).
 • "The Flower of my Secret" (Spain - 1995). 7, 9:30 p.m. May 3-4; 7 p.m. May 5. A middle-aged woman writes romance novels under a pseudonym, failing to acknowledge that her own love life is on the skids. The latest from Pedro Almodovar reportedly returns the director back to the mix of irreverence and flamboyance that made his "Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown" such an instant classic.

• "Two Friends" (Australia - 1998). 7 p.m. May 6. The first feature from Jane Campion ("The Piano") plots a year in the life of two 16-year-old girls. Though a hit at Cannes a decade ago, the film has only now been released in the United States.

MAGIC BAG THEATRE

22920 Woodward, Ferndale. Call (810) 544-9030 for information. (\$2).

• "Things to do in Denver When You're Dead" (USA - 1995). 9 p.m. May 8. Andy Garcia lends another heat gone wrong in this dark, dark comedy fall through the cracks left by "The Usual Suspects" and "Reservoir Dogs." Christopher Lloyd and Treat Williams, and Steve Buscemi lead the roster of character actors who make this one definitely worth a look.

MAIN ART THEATRE

118 N. Main Street at 11 Mile, Royal Oak. Films play through

at least Thursday, unless noted otherwise. noted. Call 810-542-0180 for information and showtimes. (\$6.50; \$4 students/seniors and matinees; \$3 twilight).

• "Jane Eyre" (USA - 1996). Charlotte Gainsbourg takes the title role while William Hurt fills the sizable boots of the mysterious Mr. Rochester in this sumptuous remake of Charlotte Brontë's Victorian novel. Directed by Franco Zeffirelli, best known for his classy Shakespeare adaptations.

• "The Celluloid Closet" (USA - 1995). Oscar-winning directors Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman take an eye-opening look at Hollywood's depiction of homosexuality over the years. Interviews with Tom Hanks, Gore Vidal, and Whoopi Goldberg join countless clips from the movies.

• "Frank and Ollie" (USA - 1996). A documentary on Frank Thomas and Ollie Johnston, two animators who invented the Disney style with such classics as "Snow White" and "Pinocchio." Starts Friday.

• "It's My Party" (USA - 1996). Eric Roberts stars as a gay man dying of AIDS, who throws a two-day party for family and friends, choosing to celebrate life rather than succumb to death. Starts Friday.

• "Flirting with Disaster" (USA - 1996). A comedy about a slightly uptight and discontented young man who, having been

adopted at birth, sets off on a quest for his birth parents. The all-star cast includes Ben Stiller, Patricia Arquette, Alan Alda, Mary Tyler Moore, George Segal, and Lily Tomlin.

• "Fargo" (USA - 1996). In this sixth film from Joel and Ethan Coen, Frances McDormand plays a pregnant sheriff investigating a bizarre murder case in the Upper Minnesota snowbelt. Dryer and less satisfying than the Coens' other pictures, but still one of the most unique and uncompromising films of the year.

• "The Birdcage" (USA - 1996). Robin Williams and Nathan Lane are a gay couple who must play it straight when Williams' son wants to entertain his fiancée and her conservative family. Mike Nichols' remake of the 1978 French farce "La Cage aux Poux" delivers big laughs.

• "The Pallbearer" (USA - 1996). Friends David Schwimmer agrees to lead the funeral service of a former high school classmate, despite the fact that he can't remember him at all. Along the way he falls in love with dream-girl Gwyneth Paltrow. Starts Friday.

MICHIGAN THEATRE

603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. Call (313) 668-8480 for information. (\$6; \$5 students/seniors).

• "The Celluloid Closet" (USA - 1995). Through May 7 (all for showtimes). See Main Art Theatre listing above.

• "Wallace and Gromit: The Best of Armand Animation." Starts May 6. The eccentric old Brit and his loyal dog have been the stars of a memorable handful of clay-animated shorts. Two "The Wrong Trousers" and "A



THE WALT DISNEY COMPANY/ARND BRONKHORST

Documentary: The professional achievements and personal friendship of two of Walt Disney's legendary animators, Frank Thomas (right) and Ollie Johnston are chronicled in "Frank and Ollie" opening Friday at the Main Art Theatre.

Close Shave" have won Academy Awards. This compilation looks at both the theatrical shorts and television commercials that have made Park and friends masters of stop-motion animation.

REDFOOT THEATRE

13671 Lahser (at Grand River), Detroit. Call (313) 537-2500 for information. (\$2.50).
 • "Three Coins in a Fountain" (USA - 1946). 8 p.m. May 3; 2, 8 p.m. May 4 (organ overture begins a half hour before show-

times). Three women make wishes in a Rome fountain only to find romance waiting around the corner. Music by Jule Styne and Sammy Cahn.

STATE THEATRE

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

• "Happy Gilmore" (USA - 1996). 9 p.m. May 6. Adam Sandler stars as a die-hard hockey fan who dreams of becoming a professional player even if he can't skate.

CLASSIC CINEMA SERIES

City of Southfield, along with the Southfield Public Library and Potpourri Productions, Room 115 of the Southfield Public Library, 26000 Evergreen Road. • "Cry the Beloved Country" (USA - 1930). Friday, May 10, tickets \$3, include refreshments, call (810) 424-9022. Sidney Poitier stars as a black minister who travels to Johannesburg to be with his son who is accused of killing a white man.

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 SHOWCASE 10111 SHOWCASE 10111 SHOWCASE 10111
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