OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

AMC Theatres
Bargain matinees daily plus $1.00 (Twi-Lite) show daily. Limited Seating. NP denotes "No Pass" Engagements. AMC THEATRES UNDER THIS HEADING OFFER MOVIES AT REDUCED ADMISSION EVERYDAY, EVERY SHOW. LOOK HERE FOR OUR "BEST BUYS" SUPER DAILY SPECIAL

AMC Hampton 4
Rochester Rd. 1-1/2 Mile N. M-59
853-5122
$1.00 at all times

Movie information was not submitted by deadline. Please call your theatre for features and times.

CHILDREN UNDER 11 FREE

AMC Abbey 8
14 Mile at I-75 588-0881
No children under 6 after 6 pm except (G) and (PG) rated movies

NP A FAMILY THING (PG13)

Movie information was not submitted by deadline. Please call your theatre for features and times.

FEAR (R)
HOMEWARD BOUND 2 (G)
COLDBLOODED (PG13)
NP JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH (PG)

AMC Americana West 6
Orchard Lake Rd. S. of 15 Mi.
855-4200
No children under 6 after 6 PM and (G) and (PG) rated movies

NP TRUTH ABOUT CATS & DOGS

Movie information was not submitted by deadline. Please call your theatre for features and times.

JAMES & THE GIANT PEACH (PG)
BARB WIRE (R)

AMC Maple 3
W. Maple West of Telegraph
855-9090
No children under 6 after 6 PM

Movie information was not submitted by deadline. Please call your theatre for features and times.

AMC Old Orchard
Orchard Lk. Rd. N. of I-696-12 Mile
553-9966
No children under 6 after 6 pm

Movie information was not submitted by deadline. Please call your theatre for features and times.

AMC Wonderland 6
Wonderland Mall behind Target
261-8100
No children under 6 after 6 PM except (PG) and (G) rated movies

NP TRUTH ABOUT CATS & DOGS (PG13)

Movie information was not submitted by deadline. Please call your theatre for features and times.

NP SUNSET PARK (R)
BARB WIRE (R)

AMC Laurel Park 10
6 Mile between Newburgh & I-275
462-6200
No children under 6 after 6 PM except (G) and (PG) rated movies

EXECUTIVE DECISION (R)

Movie information was not submitted by deadline. Please call your theatre for features and times.

THE BIRDCAGE (R)
CELTIC PRIDE (PG13)
FLIRTING WITH DISASTER (R)
FEAR (R)
OLIVER (G)
DIABOLIQUE (R)

AMC Southfield City 12
Greenfield at 9 Mile
(810) 559-2730
No children under 6 after 6 PM except (G) and (PG) rated movies.

BARB WIRE (R)

Movie information was not submitted by deadline. Please call your theatre for features and times.

CELTIC PRIDE (R)
NP THE QUEST (PG13)
NP THE GREAT WHITE HYPE (R)
NP LAST DANCE (R)
SUNSET PARK (R)
PRIMAL FEAR (R)
NP MULHOLLAND FALLS (R)
ALL DOGS GO TO HEAVEN 2 (G)
NP THE CRAFT (R)

General Cinemas
Bargain matinee daily plus $3.25 (Twi-Lite) show daily

Canton 6
Ford Rd., 1 Mi. west of I-275
981-1900
Advanced same-day tickets available

TWISTER (PG13)
12:10, 1:30, 2:40, (4:20 & 5:10 @ $3.25) 7:15, 8:00, 9:50, 10:30 (NO 10:30 SUNDAY ONLY)
PRIMAL FEAR (R)
1:00, (4:10 @ $3.25) 7:00, 9:50
THE CRAFT (R)
12:00, 2:20, (4:35 @ $3.25) 7:20, 9:45
JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH (PG)
12:30, 2:50, (4:50 @ $3.25) 7:40
LAST DANCE (R)
10:00
GREAT WHITE HYPE (R)
12:15, 2:40, (5:05 @ $3.25) 7:35, 10:00

Novi Town Center 8
Novi Rd. South of I-96 344-0077
Advance same-day tickets available

TWISTER (PG13)
12:00, 1:00, 2:30, (4:00 & 5:00 @ $3.25) 7:00, 7:30, 9:35, 10:00
BIRDCAGE (R)
(4:15 @ $3.25), 9:45
PALLBEARER (PG13)
1:45, (4:45 @ $3.25) 7:10, 9:30
EXECUTIVE DECISION (R)
6:50, 9:40
PALLBEARER (PG13)
2:00, (4:45 @ $3.25) 7:00, 9:30
BARB WIRE (R)
1:40, 7:15
THE CRAFT (R)
2:40, (5:15 @ $3.25) 7:45, 9:45
LAST DANCE (R)
2:30, (5:10 @ $3.25) 7:35, 10:00
THE QUEST (PG13)
2:35, (5:05 @ $3.25) 7:35, 9:50
THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS AND DOGS (PG13)
1:40, (4:40 @ $3.25) 7:05, 9:45

Keego Twin Cinema
Orchard Lake Rd. at Cass Lake Rd.
682-1900
All Seats $1.50 before 6 pm
Family Matinee Fri.-Sat. Sun.

ALL DOGS GO TO HEAVEN (G)
Fri. 5:00, Sat. 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, Sun. 1:00, 3:00
LEAVING LAS VEGAS (R)
Fri. & Sat. 7:20, 9:40, Sun. 5:00, 7:45, Mon.-Thurs. 7:10, 9:15
DEAD MAN WALKING (R)
Fri. & Sat. 7:00, 9:25, Sun. 5:10, Mon-Thurs. 7:00, 9:20
HAPPY GILMORE (PG)
Fri. 5:15, Sat. 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, Sun. 1:15, 3:15

National Amusements Showcase Cinemas

Showcase Auburn Hills 1-14
2150 N. Opdyke Rd.
Between University & Walton Blvd
810-373-2660
Bargain Matinees Daily
All Shows until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
* Late Shows Fri. Sat. & Sun.

TWISTER (PG13)
1:00, 4:00, 7:20, 9:50, 12:20*
DTS DIGITAL STEREO
TWISTER (PG13)
12:30, 2:55, 5:25, 7:50, 10:20
BOYS (PG13)
12:40, 2:45, 4:50, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20*
ORIGINAL GANGSTAS (R)
12:45, 1:15, 1:00, 3:30, 5:15, 5:45, 7:30, 8:00, 9:45, 10:15, 12:00*
THE CRAFT (R)
12:55, 3:05, 5:30, 7:35, 9:40, 11:45*
BARB WIRE (R)
10:05, 12:05*
THE GREAT WHITE HYPE (R)
1:05, 3:10, 5:10, 7:25, 9:30, 11:30*
LAST DANCE (R)
7:15, 9:25, 11:40*
THE PALLBEARER (PG13)
12:50, 2:50, 4:55, 7:35, 9:35, 11:35*
THE QUEST (PG13)
1:20, 3:20, 5:25, 7:25, 9:50, 11:25*
MULHOLLAND FALLS (R)
5:40, 7:55
SUNSET PARK (R)
1:30, 3:35, 10:10, 12:15*
THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS & DOGS (PG13)
1:10, 3:15, 5:35, 7:45, 9:55, 11:50*
JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH (PG)
12:00, 1:45, 3:30, 5:15
PRIMAL FEAR (R)
1:25, 4:15, 7:10, 9:45, 12:10*
BIRDCAGE (R)
12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:40

Showcase Dearborn 1-8
Michigan & Telegraph
313-561-3449
Bargain Matinees Daily
All Shows until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
* Late Shows Fri. & Sat.

TWISTER (PG13)
1:00, 4:00, 7:20, 9:50, 12:20*
DTS DIGITAL STEREO
TWISTER (PG13)
12:30, 2:55, 5:25, 7:50, 10:20
BOYS (PG13)
1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30*
BARB WIRE (R)
1:20 PM
LAST DANCE (R)
7:45, 10:00, 12:15*
THE CRAFT (R)
12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30, 11:40*
THE QUEST (PG13)
3:15, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40, 11:45*
THE PALLBEARER (PG13)
1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:40, 9:45, 11:50*
THE SUBSTITUTE (R)
12:45, 3:05, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15, 12:30*
JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH (PG)
1:30, 3:20, 5:10
A THIN LINE BETWEEN LOVE & HATE (R)
[illegible]

Showcase Pontiac 1-5
Telegraph-Sq. Lake Rd. W. Side of Telegraph
810-332-0241
Bargain Matinees Daily
• All Shows Until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily • Late *Shows Fri. & Sat.

TWISTER (PG13)
1:00, 4:00, 7:20, 9:50, 12:20*
DTS DIGITAL STEREO
TWISTER (PG13)
12:30, 2:55, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20
GREAT WHITE HYPE (R)
12:40, 3:15, 5:15, 7:40, 10:00, 12:00*
THE PALLBEARER (PG13)
12:50, 3:00, 5:00, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30*
PRIMAL FEAR (R)
1:10, 4:20, 7:00, 9:45, 12:15*

Showcase Pontiac 6-12
2405 Telegraph Rd. East side of Telegraph
810-334-6777
Bargain Matinees Daily
• All Shows Until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
• Late Shows Fri. & Sat.

ORIGINAL GANGSTAS (R)
12:45, 3:05, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45, 12:00*
BOYS (PG13)
12:40, 2:45, 4:45, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30*
THE CRAFT (R)
12:50, 2:55, 5:12, 7:35, 9:52, 12:05*
BARB WIRE (R)
12:30 PM
THE QUEST (PG13)
[illegible]
JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH (PG)
1:00, 3:00, 4:50
TRUTH ABOUT CATS AND DOGS (PG13)
12:35, 2:45, 5:05, 7:20, 9:30, 11:42*
BIRDCAGE (R)
2:35, 5:00, 7:25
LAST DANCE (R)
7:15, 9:40, 11:52
MULHOLLAND FALLS (R)
10:00, 12:10*

Quo Vadis
Warren & Wayne Rds.
313-425-7700
Bargain Matinees Daily
All Shows Until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
*Late Shows Fri. & Sat.

TWISTER (PG13)
12:30, 1:00, 2:55, 4:00, 5:20, 7:20, 7:50, 9:50, 10:20, 12:20*
ORIGINAL GANGSTAS (R)
12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45, 12:00*
BARB WIRE (R)
1:10 PM
GREAT WHITE HYPE (R)
1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20*
THE QUEST (PG13)
3:10, 5:10, 7:40, 9:50, 11:50*
PRIMAL FEAR (R)
1:15, 4:10, 7:15, 9:50, 12:15*

Showcase Westland 1-8
6800 Wayne Rd.
One blk S. of Warren Rd.
313-729-1060
Bargain Matinees Daily
All Shows Until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
*Late Shows Fri. & Sat.

BOYS (PG13)
1:10, 3:10, 5:10, 7:30, 9:35, 11:35*
OLIVER & CO. (G)
1:30, 3:30
LAST DANCE (R)
5:20, 7:25, 9:30, 11:35*
THE CRAFT (R)
1:00, 3:05, 5:05, 7:15, 9:20, 11:30*
THE PALL BEARER (PG13)
1:30, 3:35, 5:30, 7:30, 9:32, 11:30*
TRUTH ABOUT CATS & DOGS (PG13)
1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:25*
MULHOLLAND FALLS (R)
7:05, 9:20, 11:30*
JAMES & THE GIANT PEACH (PG)
1:00, 3:00, 5:00
BIRDCAGE (R)
DTS DIGITAL STEREO
1:20, 4:00, 7:10, 9:40, 12:00*
FEAR (R)
1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15, 11:15*

Star Theatres
The World's Best Theatres
Bargain Matinees Daily $4.00 All Shows Starting before 6:00 pm
Now accepting Visa & MasterCard
"NP" Denotes No Pass Engagement

Star John R at 14 Mile
32289 John R. Road
585-2070
CALL FOR SATURDAY SHOWTIMES FRIDAY THRU THURSDAY

NP THE GHOST IN THE SHELL (NR)
12:45, 3:15, 5:30, 8:15, 10:30
NP THE CRAFT (R)
11:15, 1:30, 3:45, 6:15, 8:45, 11:00
NO VIP TICKETS
NP LAST DANCE (R)
12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:20
NO VIP TICKETS
NP MULHOLLAND FALLS (R)
1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:50
NO VIP TICKETS
THE SUBSTITUTE (R)
10:50, 1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:45
MRS. WINTERBOURNE (PG13)
11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
A THIN LINE BETWEEN LOVE AND HATE (R)
12:30, 5:45, 10:40
PRIMAL FEAR (R)
11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
OLIVER & COMPANY (G)
12:00, 2:30, 4:45
EXECUTIVE DECISION (R)
3:00, 8:00
BIRDCAGE (R)
11:45, 2:15, 5:00, 7:30, 10:10
FARGO (R)
6:30, 9:15

Star Rochester Hills
200 Barclay Circle
853-2260
FRIDAY - THURSDAY

NP TWISTER (PG13)
10:50, 11:45, 1:30, 2:50, 4:15, 5:15, 7:00, 8:00, 9:45, 10:40
SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
NP LAST DANCE (R)
11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 10:20
NO VIP TICKETS
NP THE PALLBEARER (PG13)
11:00, 1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:15
NO VIP TICKETS
NP THE CRAFT (R)
1:00, 3:45, 6:15, 8:30, 10:50
NO VIP TICKETS
NP THE GREAT WHITE HYPE (R)
12:05, 2:50, 5:30, 8:15, 10:30
NO VIP TICKETS
THE QUEST (PG13)
12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:45, 11:00
NO VIP TICKETS
THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS AND DOGS

(PG13)
11:30, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00
NP MULHOLLAND FALLS (R)
11:15, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:10
NO VIP TICKETS
PRIMAL FEAR (R)
12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30

Star Winchester
1136 S. Rochester Rd., Winchester Mall
665-1160
FRIDAY - THURSDAY

NP BOYS (PG13)
12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00
NO VIP TICKETS
NP BARB WIRE (R)
12:50, 2:45, 5:00, 7:45, 10:15
NO VIP TICKETS
BIRD CAGE (R)
11:15, 1:45, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH (PG)
11:05, 1:00, 3:15, 5:45, 8:45
SGT BILKO (PG)
11:45, 2:15, 4:15, 6:30, 9:00
[illegible]
12:45, 5:15, 9:45
FARGO (R)
3:00, 7:30
MRS. WINTERBOURNE (PG13)
12:55, 1:30, 3:45, 6:45, 9:15
OLIVER & COMPANY (G)
11:30, 1:15, 3:30, 5:30, 8:15

United Artists Theatres
Bargain Matinees Daily, for all shows starting before 6:00 PM
Same day advance tickets available
NV - No V.I.P. tickets accepted

United Artists Fairlane
Fairlane Town Center
313-593-4790

NV SUNSET PARK (R)
SCREEN #1 1:05, 3:55, 9:35
SCREEN #2 1:55, 4:40, 7:35, 10:05
NO 1:05 OR 3:55 SHOWS ON WED 5/15 AND THURS 5/16
PRIMAL FEAR (R)
1:15, 4:05, 7:10, 10:00
KIDS IN THE HALL
7:00
NV THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS AND DOGS (PG13)
1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 9:45
NV ORIGINAL GANGSTAS (R)
SCREEN #1 1:00, 3:10, 5:25, 7:40, 9:55
SCREEN #2 2:05, 4:15, 6:45, 9:00
FLOWER OF MY SECRET (R)
1:45, 4:55, 7:25, 9:40
NV THE GREAT WHITE HYPE (R)
1:25, 3:45, 6:50, 9:10
BIRDCAGE (R)
1:20, 4:10, 7:15, 10:10
NV MULHOLLAND FALLS (R)
1:30, 4:20, 7:05, 9:30

United Artists Oakland
Inside Oakland Mall
810-585-7041
FRIDAY - THURSDAY

NV PALLBEARER (PG13)
12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45
NV SUNSET PARK (R)
1:15, 4:00, 7:00, 9:30
THE GREAT WHITE HYPE (R)
1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:45, 10:00
NV DORSE CALLS UP (PG13)
12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00
ANTONIA'S LINE (NR)
1:30, 4:15, 7:15, 9:40

United Artists 12 Oaks
Inside Twelve Oaks Mall
810-585-7041

NV THE GREAT WHITE HYPE (R)
1:20, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
NV BOYS (PG 13)
1:05, 3:20, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
NV MULHOLLAND FALLS (R)
1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:40
PRIMAL FEAR (R)
1:10, 4:00, 7:00, 9:35
NV DISNEY'S JAMES & THE GIANT PEACH
1:00, 3:15, 5:20, 7:30
NV SUNSET PARK (R)
9:30

United Artists West River
9 Mile, 1/2 Block West of Middlebelt
810-968-6941

THE QUEST (PG13)
12:25, 2:40, 4:50, 7:15, 9:35
NV THE PALLBEARER (R)
12:40, 3:00, 5:15, 7:45, 10:05
PRIMAL FEAR (R)
1:00, 3:45, 7:05, 9:55
THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS & DOGS (PG13)
12:45, 3:05, 5:10, 7:40, 9:50
NV ORIGINAL GANGSTAS (R)
1:45, 4:15, 7:20, 9:45
DISNEY'S JAMES & THE GIANT PEACH (G)
12:20, 2:30, 4:40
MULHOLLAND FALLS (R)
6:45, 9:20
NV SUNSET PARK (R)
1:45, 4:15, 8:45, 9:05
NV THE GREAT WHITE HYPE (R)
12:30, 2:50, 4:55, 7:30, 9:40
NV BARB WIRE (R)
12:15, 2:35, 4:45, 7:35, 10:00

Cinemark's Terrace Theatre
30400 Plymouth Rd.-Livonia
261-3330
Late Shows on Friday & Saturday Only!
Every Tuesday, all seats 75¢

Movie information was not submitted by deadline. Please call your theatre for features and times.

Now showing

MOVIES

'Original Gangstas' returns Williamson to mean streets

TICKETS PLEASE

JOHN MONAGHAN

In "Original Gangstas," Fred Williamson plays a character very much like himself: an ex-football star who returns to his hometown of Gary, Ind., intent on cleaning up crime-ridden streets. Though the movie professes that "one man can make a difference," it also proves another adage: "You can't go home again."

For Williamson, who recently battled vampires in the Quentin Tarantino-produced "From Dusk Till Dawn," the project attempts to recapture the style and attitude of the 1970s black action movies. It even reunites him with former co-stars Jim Brown, Richard Roundtree, and Pam Grier.

Williamson, interviewed by phone from Chicago, says the project developed from a desire to pump some money into Gary, where he spent his formative years. "I was a typical thug, a typical tough guy," he recalls. "Yet the gangs back then were more about protection, not about wreaking havoc in the community."

ORION PICTURES/CHUCK HODES

Original Gangstas: *Jim Brown (left to right) Ron O'Neal, Richard Roundtree, Pam Grier, and Fred Williamson reunite in the action packed urban drama, "Original Gangstas."*

REVIEW

The movie pits him against the new breed of gang members who destroy the family grocery store and nearly kill his father. It plays a lot like "Rumble in the Bronx," but without the raucous sense of humor or the inspired fight scenes.

"Original Gangstas" will undoubtedly strike the youthful audience it's aimed at as rather silly, especially after the comparative realism of "Boyz in the Hood" and "Menace 2 Society." At its best, the movie captures the low-budget quality of the '70s black action movies. At its worst, it's derivative, badly acted, and, worst of all, dull.

Williamson was known as "The Hammer" when he played football for Northwestern University, before going pro with the Oakland Raiders and Kansas City Chiefs. Like Jim Brown and O.J. Simpson, his notoriety on the football field paved the way for movie roles.

"In the old days, we represented an image," he said. "We had a strong image, one that was marketable, that was sold. We have good actors today, Denzel and Angela Bassett, but they don't have that same persona that we had to have in the '70s."

When asked how he approached his early roles differently from Brown, he says, "I'm sneaky tough. With Brown it's obvious that he's tough because he's heavy. My movies had this flair, this lightness. I was the sneaky guy with a cigar."

Titled "blaxploitation" by fans and critics, the black action movies have an odd place in movie history. Many film historians dismiss them for perpetuating images of inner-city drugs, sex, and violence, though titles like Williamson's "Black Caesar" (1973) and "Three the Hard Way" (1974) are considered cult classics.

Williamson takes the entire "blaxploitation" label to task: "My checks cleared. People who worked in my movies, their checks cleared. The audiences weren't herded negatively into the theater ... So I could never imagine what the hell they were talking about that was being exploited."

Williamson, one of the few black action stars to work steadily as a director, has helmed some 30 movies under the auspices of his own Po' Boy Productions. For "Original Gangstas" he called upon Larry Cohen, veteran director of "Black Caesar" and its 1973 sequel, "Hell up in Harlem," to call the shots.

The original "blaxploitation" movies premiered at the Fox, Grand Circus, and United Artists in an era generally considered a low point for the downtown movie palaces. Ironically, a series of these films has recently played at big-city art theaters, with California-based distributor Kit Parker Films eyeing the Fox as a possible venue to run them this summer.

"Original Gangstas" will unfortunately do little to further an interest in the genre. The video store is still the best place to catch Williamson and company, backed by ubiquitous wacka-wacka guitar, walking the mean streets as Slaughter, Shaft, Black Caesar, and Foxy Brown.

To leave a voice mail message for John Monaghan, dial (313) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, mailbox 1866.