MOVIES Lynch's 'Lost Highway' frustrates and fascinates



has never made it easy on us. From his night-marish first fea-

marish first feature "Eraserhead" in 1978 to his masterpiece "Blue Velvet" to his surprise television hit "Twin MONAGHAN Peaks," Lynch has tapped into regions of the human psyche that many would just as soon leave untouched.

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In interviews Lynch has been characteristically cagey about interpreting his films. The movie, like good poetry, forces you to draw your own conclusions, make your own concusions, as obtuse and unresolved as they may be. Snatches of dialogue (co-written by Lynch and Barry Gifford) are so sparse that you feel that they must have some special significance – but probably don't.

Instead of helping solve the mystery. Fred's sultry wife (Patricia Arquetto) only adds to it. Sporting a Betty Page haircut and a Morticia Addams wardrobe, sho seems steeped in intrigue. And just where was she when Fred called home from the club't The first half of "Lost Highway" is a study in sound, where the hum from a lightbulb or the opening of a manila envelope is boosted to cleven. The ring of a telephone reverberates

with a series of piercing echoes that break the movie's stylistic silence.

The second half segues into another story and another character, a young mechanic named Peto who gets caught up with a gangster's girlfriend. This film noir riff has been played before, but Lynch gives it twists of his own, including a sex seene (one of several) in the desert, it solely by the harsh glow of automobile headlights.

Lynch has assembled a typically oddball cast. Richard Pryor appears as the wheelchair bound owner of the garage where Pete works. Gary Busey plays Pete's patient father, who's still not sure what happened to his son on that night no one seems to want to talk about.

You'll also spot Jack Nance, star of "Eraserhead" and a character actor in countless other films, who was recently murdered after a name-calling alter-

cation in a doughnut shop. He plays a fellow mechanic who objects when Pete, plagued by headaches, changes stations on the radio.

headaches, changes stations on Lynch has always been partial to wide screen, which he fills with statuning compositions, many steeped in almost complete impressive soundtrack, makes "Lost Highway" a must-see on the big screen – if you're going to see it at all. Viewers of this oddity are destined to fall into one of two categories: those anxious to see it again and those who wish they had never traveled this road at all.

John Monaghan welcomes your calls and comments. You can lis-ten to him on Dave Dixon's Radio Show AM 1270, 8 p.m. to mid-night Saturdays. To leave John a voice mail message, dial (313) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, mailbox 1866.

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Substract of Fire
A powerful and moving drama about a headstrong father and his three grown children. Stars Ron Rifkin, Timathy Hutton, Sarah Jessica Parker.

To be announced "NIGHTWATCH"

Suspense thriller about a young law stu-dent who has taken a job as the lone cent wno nas taken a job as the lone hospital night watchman just as a serial killer has begun to terroize the city. Even more frightening are all the clues, which seem to point to him. Stars Nick Nolte. Patricia Arquette.

CITY OF INDUSTRY

A hard-edged noir thriller about two small-time L.A. criminals whose plans for a last big jewelly heist go awry when an unpredictable partner is brought into the deal with Timothy

THE RETURN OF THE JED!
The last in the three part re-release of the "Star Wars" trilogy with Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford and Carrie Fisher. Scheduled to open Friday, March 21

Scheduled to deep risasy, was a Samilla's SENSE OF SNOW

Bused on the best selling Danish novel about a glacier scientist who investigates a child's death with Julia Ormand and Gebriel Byrno.

SELENA
A biographical drama based on the life of Tejano singer Selena who shot to death by the former president of her fan club.

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