## MOVIES

# Moore, Roberts sink in late summer screen entries



hungry senator (Anne Bancroft), who makes the progressive gesture assuming the woman won't stick it out.

And we have our doubts as well. The training is the kind of sadistic onslaught that is supposed to toughen up a young recruit for combat. The Master Sergeant, while calling you a maggot, will push your head into the mud with the steel too of his boat and then justify it with, "What I'm doing could save your life."

Three quarters of the film is taken up by this kind of punishment, to the point where not just Moore, but the audience, feels like it has been standing out in the cold with a water-filled raft over its head. Do we really want to go through the ordeal?

Stanley Kubrick trod similar ground in the first half of "Full Metal Jacket," but there was a method to the madness. It not only boasted an Oscar-worthy performance by Lee Ermey as

the bile-spewing D.I., but a decidedly cynical view of organized cruelty. "C.I. Jane" wants to have it both ways, demonizing the military while simultaneously waving the flag.

It's Moore's insatiable exhibitionism that gets on my nerves most in "G.I. Jane." Along with requisite shots of her in the shower and a bubble bath, we are treated to images of the need! Hoven't seen so many camera angles for one military cut since Elvis' induction) and performing pushups in sweaty slow motion.

The Navy SEALS have on dear right when you get too tired to continue the program, simplying a bell three times and you're out. Moviegoers have an even simpler option. They don't have to show up at all for this cinematic ordea!

"Conspiracy Theory"

performance in "My Bost Friend's Wedding," Julia Roberts would be in big trouble. Her latest film would be just another in an uniterrupted series of bad moves ("Mery Reilly," "I Lovo Trouble," The Pelican Brief and a half dozen others) designed to display her questionable range. "Conspiracy Theory" is the worst of the bunch, an idea that obviously spun out of control since its original inception. Is it an eccontric black comedy? A nailbiting thriller? An unorthedox love story? The filmmakers apparently didn't know either, giving test audiences the final say by filming two different endings.

Mel Gibson plays an unlikely New York cabbie who sees government cover-up around every corner. In his cluttered, Mylarpapered apartment where even the Tupperware containers are

ernment cover-up around every corner. In his cluttered, Mylar-papered apartment where even the Tupperware containers are kept under lock and key, he pounds out a newsletter about his latest suspicions.

He does menage to get the ear of an attractive young government agent (Roberts), who doesn't necessarily believe him but listens anyway.

When the CIA-connected Patrick Stewart threatens the cabby's life and those associated with him, both are forced to run for their lives.
Gibson's performance borders on the embarrassing. Even Roberts seems to stand off to the side, looking on like a deer in the headlighta, as he goes into his overwrought version of Rain Man with a toothpick and stocking cap.

Just how sympathetic is his

Man with a toothpick and stocking cap.

Just how sympathetic is his character supposed to be when he spends most of his nights peeping into Roberts' apartment with binoculars?

Any good conspiracy theorist will give you a thread of truth to

Scheduled to open Friday, Aug. 15 

\*KISS ME, GUIDO\*
Film about a 24-year-old Italian-American man who in his guest to feave the Branx for an acting career, knowingly signs to be a roommate with a gay choreographer.



Suspense thriller: Julia Roberts and Mel Gibson in

make you at least want to buy their story. "Conspiracy Theory's" nonstop rambling of coincidence, government idiocy and lame explanations makes even Roswell believable in compari-

"Conspiracy Theory.

son.

John Monaghan welcomes
your calls and comments. To
leave John a voice mail message,
dial (313) 953-2047 on a touchtone phone, mailbox 1866.

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"NOTHING TO LOSE (R)
PICTURE PERFECT (PC13)
"GOOD BURGER (PC)

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(PG13)
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MIT BEST RESULT (PC13) Sci-fi action-thriller centers around a spaceship that surfaces near Neptune after having disappeared for seven years. "STEEL" \*\*AFEL\*\*

Blue collar metals specialist discovers too secret weapons he helped design are being used for crime. Due to the sensitive security he forms a team creates an amazing suit of armor and a mynitic otter ego – Steel. Together, Steel appears to the control of the contro

"EVENT HORIZON"

CALLICA COMPLETE UTINGS AND THE

Scheduled to open Wednesday, Aug. 20
"MONEY TAILS"
Action comedy about a fast talking ticket scalper and an investigative journalist who try to clear the com man's name while searching for some hidden dia-Visa & Mastercard Accepted

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Scheduled to open Friday, Aug. 22 \*DIRTY DANCING\*

Patrick Swoyze and Jennifer Grey are back in the original that took the country by storm.

-MASTERMINDS"

Action comedy adventure about a rebel-lious 14-year-old who finds himself in a battle of wits over a school being held for ransom. Stars Patrick Stewart.

Two young scientists team up to save Two young scientists team up to save New York City from an epidemic that was killing thousands of children, but the miracle of their genetic engineeric comes back to haunt them as the bal-ance of nature has been altered, and not in their favor. Stars Mira Sorvina, Jeremy Northam, Josh Bralin, Charles Dutton.

-STAR MAPS" "STAR MAPS"
The story of a handsome, precoclous 18-year-old with dreams of becoming a movie star. His greatest obstacle, however, is not breaking into the business, but breaking free from an appressive family. Stars Dougfas Spain.

heduled to open Friday, Aug. 29

\*BOX OF MOONLIGHT\*
A fresh, unconventional comedy about traveling the road of life, and learning to

handle its detours. Stars John Turturig. Sam Rockwell, Catherine Keener.

Sam Rockwein, Carriella Receiver.

"EXCESS BAGGAGE"

An emotionally neglected rich girl stages her own kidnopping in an attempt to get attention, When the scheme backlires she must go on the, run. Stars A ficies Silverstone, Nicholas Turturro, and Harry Connick Jr.

Scheduled to open Friday, Sept. 5

scheduled to open Friday, Sept. 5

"THE FULL MONTY"
STrapped for cash, and inspired by a visit from the Chippendales dancers to their town, six out-of-work stealworkers try to turn things around by forming an unlikely act. Stars Robert Carlyle, Mark Addy.

FIRE DOWN BELOW"

An EPA agent goes underground to discover who is behind the dumping of lethal chemicals in an abandoned mine shaft and becomes emotionally involved in with the townspeople who are being

Scheduled to open Friday, Sept. 19

\*\*CACOMPDENTIAL\*\*
Three LAPD officers become separatoly-entangled in a web of intriguo and deceit that threatons to destrey them. Set in the early 1950s. Stars Kevin Spacey, based on novel by James Eliroy.

### SCREEN SCENE

A sampling of what's playing t alternative movie theaters cross metro Detroit as reviewed

at alternative movie theaters across metro Detroit as reviewed by John Monaghan.

Detroit Film Theatre Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward, Detroit Call (313)-833-233 for information. (\$5.50; \$4.50 students' seniors)

"A Chef in Love" (Georgia/France - 1996). Friday, Aug. 15 through Sunday, Aug. 17 (call-for showtimes). Filmed in Paris and the former Soviet Georgia, this Oscar nominee focuses on a French master chef whose love for-a Georgian woman culminates in a tapestry of love, revolution, and food.

"Mandela" (USA - 1998). 7 pm. Monday, Aug. 18. An Oscarnominated-documentary portrait of the famed African leader. Produced by-Jonnthan me, with lots of rare footage only recently made-available.

Main Art Theatre 118 N.

of rare footage only recontly made-available.

Main Art Theatre 118 N. Main Street at 11 Mile, Royal Oak. Films play through at-least Thursday, unless noted otherwise. Call (248) 542-0180 for-information and showtimes. (\$6.50; \$4 students, seniors and-matince; \$3 twilight)

"Uleo's Gold" (USA 1997). Peter Fonds prevides an understated-performances a Florida beckeoper who reluctantly agrees to-retrieve a family mem-SHALL WE DANCE (PC)
DREAM WITH THE FISHES (R)
MRS. BROWN (PC)
DESIGNATED MOURNIE (R) ULEE'S GOLD (II) CALL FOR COMPLETE USTINGS AND TIME Châdren Under 6 Not Admited

ber from thugs. From Victor Nuncz, the-writer/ director of the surprise independent hit "Ruby in-Parediae."

"Shall We Dance?" (Japan - 1997). A Japanese businessman breaks-free of the monotony of life when he spontaneously decides to-take a ballroom dancing class.

"Mrs. Brown" (Britain 1997). When Britain's Queen Victoria-mourned the loss of hushand Albert, she formed an unconventional-friendship with a Secttish Highlander. Judi Dench and Billy-Connolly star.

"Dream With the Fishes" (USA - 1997). After a man's motored conducted at tempt, he meets someone who gives him a crash course on-living life on the edge.

crash course on-living life on the edge.

\*\*Magic Bag Theatre 22920
\*\*Woodward, Ferndale. Call (248)
544-9030 for information. (\$2)
\*\*Chasing Amy '(USA - 1997).
9:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 14. The third in-Kevin Smith's trilogy about life in suburban New Jersey finds a young comic book artist attracted to a female colleague who just-happens to be 509.

gay.
"Monty Python and the
Holy Grail" (British - 1974). "Monty Fysical Holy Grail" (British - 1974). 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 20. The best of the Python's big screen excursions turns the King

Arthur legend on its ear. Still among the highlights: a killer bunny and a knight who continues to fight even after most of high leven after most of high limbs have been lopped off. Millenium Theatre! Center Northland Center (8 Mile near Greenfield, Southfield, Call (248) 552-7000 for information.

"The Incorporated" (USA: "The Incorporated" (USA: 1997). Thursday, Aug. 14 through Sunday, Aug. 17 (call for showtimes). Shot mostly in Fenton, with additional shots in Northville and Ann Arbor, this locally produced thriller finds in physicist (John Reneaud) target; by a secret government agericy who wants to destroy his work.

od by a secret government agedcy who wants to destroy hiswork.

Redford Theatre 13651Lahser (at Grand River), DetroilCall (313) 537-2860 for-informed
tion. (33.56) Andy Hardy doubly
feature.

"Love Finds Andy Hardy doubly
"Love Finds Andy Hardy"
(USA - 1938) and "AndyHardy's Private Secretary"
(USA - 1941). Starting 8 p.m.
Friday, Aug. 16 (organ overture-begins a half hour beforgshowtime). Judge Hardy's family
is-featured in this slice of preWar apple pic, starring Mickey
Rooney. In the first (and somd
would say best) ontry, Andy falls

Please See Secon Et