

Entertainment

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Thursday, September 4, 1997

THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



Steven Seagal (center) with Ed Bruce (left) and Steve Palmer in "Fire Down Below," opening today at metro Detroit movie theaters.

SATURDAY

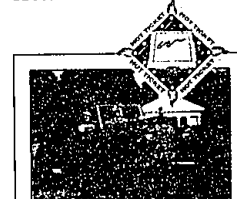


Vickie Winans performs 10 p.m. at the Farmer Jack Motor City PraiseFest, a celebration of gospel music, downtown on the riverfront at Detroit's Hart Plaza. Saturday hours are noon to 11 p.m.

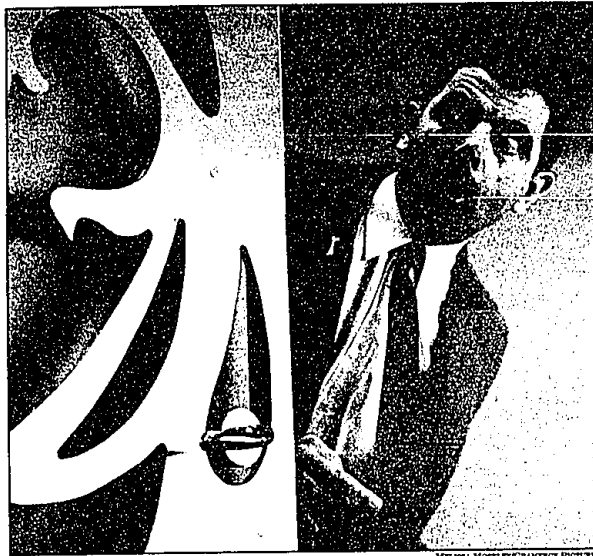
SUNDAY



Catch the tail end of the "Elephants" exhibit noon to 5 p.m. at Cranbrook Institute of Science, 1221 N. Woodward, Bloomfield Hills, (248) 645-3200.



Hot tip: Experience life in the "past lane" as collectors from across the nation gather with their vintage vehicles (1932 and earlier) at Greenfield Village in Dearborn for the Old Car Festival, Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 6-7, (313) 271-1976.



Comedy: Rowan Atkinson stars in the Mel Smith comedy, "Bean."

Hollywood gets serious with fall releases

BY JOHN MONAGHAN
SPECIAL WRITER

Fall movies are no laughing matter, at least as far as Hollywood is concerned. Expect film noir fatalism, fights with grizzlies, and dysfunctional families to be the bill of fare as the movies recover from a typically high cholesterol summer.

Among the nearly 50 major studio releases between now and Thanksgiving, the only one not afraid to call itself a comedy is "Bean," the feature film debut of British comic Rowan Atkinson.

Dark they are, but the 10 films below seem especially worth a look.

■ **"L.A. Confidential"** — There are already favorable comparisons to "Chinatown" in this complex police thriller set around Hollywood in the 1950s. Here Kim Basinger plays a mysterious femme fatale tailed by both the LAPD (Kevin Spacey) and the press (Danny DeVito). (Opens Sept. 19)

■ **"The Edge"** — The ads show Anthony Hopkins pitted against a charging grizzly in the Alaskan wilderness, an adventure premise from the unlikely pen of David Mamet ("Glen Gary Glen Ross"). If that isn't strange enough, Elle Macpherson plays Hopkins' wife, while Alec Baldwin may or may not be out to kill them both. (Opens Sept. 19)

■ **"A Thousand Acres"** — Jessica Lange, Michelle Pfeiffer, and Jennifer Jason Leigh team with Jason Robards as a family divided by child abuse, adultery, jealousy and illness. Despite some major changes from Jane Smiley's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, this sign of sisterly dysfunction is buoyed by an extremely appealing cast. (Opens Sept. 19)

■ **"U-Turn"** — Oliver Stone takes a break



Odyssey: The Dalai Lama (Jamyang Wangchuk) meets Heinrich Harrer (Brad Pitt) for the first time, and is fascinated by his yellow hair, in "Seven Years in Tibet," an epic story about one man's odyssey of self-discovery set against the sweeping backdrop of the Himalayas and spiritual majesty of Tibet.

from dead presidents and teenage killers with this film noir-style shaggy dog story about a drifter (Sean Penn) who lands in a dusty Arizona town populated by shady characters. Among them: Jennifer Lopez and Nick Nolte. (Opens Oct. 3)

■ **"The Gingerbread Man"** — Another John Grisham adaptation, another femme fatale scenario, but this time with Robert Altman at the helm. The only problem: if the stu-

Please see HOLLYWOOD, E2

Consider these alternatives

BY JOHN MONAGHAN
SPECIAL WRITER

If the Hollywood product doesn't pique your interest, the metro Detroit area's quickly growing art film screens offer plenty of alternatives.

In one of its strongest seasons in recent memory, the Detroit Film Theatre at the Detroit Institute of Arts continues to dish up a number of must-see titles.

"In the Company of Men," soon to be the most talked-about film of the year, features two corporate types who plot to seduce the same woman. It plays exclusively Friday-Sunday, Sept. 5-7 at the Detroit Film Theatre, before opening for wide release.

Look for other alternatives at The Main Art Theatre, The Redford, Windsor Film Theatre, The Michigan, and less regularly at the Birmingham, Maple, Abbey and Star Theatres.

The Main has even started showing special movies on Saturdays and Sundays at 11:30 a.m.

While some titles will come and go in the blink of an eye, these are the ones you should make the effort to see before they hit video:

■ **"The Full Monty"** — When a group of English steel workers lose their jobs, they reluctantly take to the stage as male strippers. The only problem: their non-Chippendales physiques. (Opens Friday, Sept. 12 at the Main)

■ **"The Alloy Orchestra"** — The Boston-based ensemble returns to accompany four more films, including Buster Keaton in "Steamboat Bill, Jr." the 1926 version of "The Lost World" and an encore presentation of Fritz Lang's masterpiece "Metropolis." The one to see is "The Man with the Movie Camera," a 1929 Russian film with experimental visuals that should fit seamlessly with the Alloy's percussive sound. (Friday-Sunday, Sept. 12-14 at the DFT)

■ **"Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde"** — The Redford Theatre takes a break from Hollywood musicals with this rarely screened 1932 version of the classic horror tale. The transformations of Fredric March are so convincing that he won an Oscar for the role and they're still convincing today. (Friday and Saturday, Sept. 26-27 at The Redford)

■ **"4 Little Girls"** — Spike Lee's documentary looks at the 1963 bombing of a Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala. that left several dead and gave even more momentum to the Civil Rights Movement. (Friday-Sunday, Sept. 26-28 at the DFT)

■ **"The Pillow Book"** — The latest from Peter Greenaway is a typically sumptuous study of a young Japanese woman's erotic obsession with body painting. Like most of Greenaway's pictures ("Prospero's Books," "The Cook, the Thief..."), it's bound to be as beautiful as it is maddening. (Friday-Sunday, Oct. 3-5 at the DFT)

■ **"Washington Square"** — Jennifer Jason-Leigh and Albert Finney star in an update of Henry James' novel, about an awkward young woman who is caught between her over-protective father and a penniless suitor. (Opens Oct. 17 at the Main)

■ **"Gamera: Guardian of the Universe"** — This recent entry (1995) in the saga of the Japanese flying turtle was a hit at the Toronto Film Festival and now lands at the Art Institute's Monday night film series. (Monday, Oct. 27 at the DFT)

STREET SCENE

Wig is back with strong new CD

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

Clark S. Nova, singer/songwriter for the rock band Wig, figures that a lot of people in his former Detroit-area hometown think his band has disappeared and called it quits.

Not so. As a matter of fact, Wig played to a packed crowd at Los Angeles's notorious Viper Room last week.

"It was a big show and we rocked," said bassist Fran Falls, who along with bandmates guitarist Rob Schurgin and drum-

mer John Burke relocated from Ann Arbor to Los Angeles in mid-June.

"Clark was phenomenal. His vocals have just gotten unreal. I guess you grow as a singer. He's just gotten stronger. Our management liked it. It was cool."

Wig is working with said new management company — Deluxe, who also works with Fleetwood Mac and former Cult singer Ian Astbury — about securing a booking agent with whom to work. After that, Nova expects success.

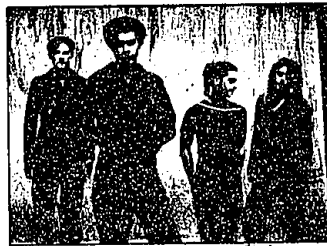
"I can't wait until the new album

comes out," adds Nova, also known as Shawn Jimmerson, a 1987 graduate of Plymouth-Canton High School who married and moved to San Francisco a year ago.

"The melodic, hum-inducing 'Wireland' (album), Wig's strongest effort to date, hits the streets Tuesday, Sept. 9."

"We're growing as musicians. We started out as a really abrasive band. Now we're starting to write more melodies."

Please see WIG, E2



New album: Wig — from left, drummer John Burke, former Canton resident and singer Clark S. Nova, bassist Fran Falls, and guitarist Rob Schurgin — will release its second album for Island Records, "Wireland," on Tuesday, Sept. 9.