

MOVIES

'A Life Less Ordinary' not the usual comedy fare

TICKETS PLEASE



JOHN MONAGHAN

"Shallow Grave" may be tighter; "Trainpotting" more outrageous and in-your-face. But if you really want to see where Danny Boyle's head is at, then check out "A Life Less Ordinary," the Scottish director's third and quirkiest feature.

The recommendation comes with a warning. This is not the best movie of the year. In fact, much of it doesn't work at all. But Boyle and his compadres (including producer Andrew Macdonald and writer John Hodge) bounce so many crazy ideas at you that the whole enterprise entertains despite itself.

Borrowing freely from old screwball comedies (especially

"It Happened One Night"), a recently fired janitor (Ewan McGregor) kidnaps a spoiled heiress (Cameron Diaz), daughter of the man that fired him. Once safely away, he has no idea why he's doing it. She doesn't mind being kidnapped (it's happened before) and ends up giving him lessons so that he doesn't botch the job. The whole ordeal, it turns out, has been orchestrated by a pair of angels (played by Holly Hunter and Delroy Lindo). According to heavenly law, they must happily unite these two star-crossed lovers or spend eternity stuck back on earth.

In a clever treatise on the way movies work, the angels decide to place them in perpetual jeopardy. After all, how many movies have you seen where a mismatched couple becomes lovers after a few close brushes with death?

Hunter, especially, is a host. Outfitted with a mane of Breck

Girl blonde hair and Nancy Sinatra boots made for walkin', her portrayal lurches back and forth between a cigar-chewing bounty hunter to a Bond-style Russian agent. She's obviously having a ball so why can't we?

Much of the charm in "A Life Less Ordinary" lies in Boyle's regular McGregor ("Trainpotting" memorable toilet diver), who plays loser Robert as a likable slacker with a lousy haircut. After losing his job, his girlfriend, his apartment and car in a single day, Robert does the impossible by growing more hapless as the film goes on.

The leggy Diaz, in her most substantial role to date, is one of the film's wild cards. In moments she's incredible, like the pleading call she makes to her father, pretending that she's tortured. But in the longer bouts of dialogue with McGregor, she's emotionally out of her depth.

"A Life Less Ordinary" gives Diaz her second opportunity this

year to croak through a karaoke song, this time in a redneck bar where kidnapper and kidnappee stop out for a night on the town.

The resulting dream sequence becomes yet another clever movie reference, with the black-clad Diaz striking a classic Ann Margret pose from "Viva Las Vegas."

Far more fun than someone like Godard (who the movie also owes a debt to) would have made it, "Life" goes on with one improvised idea after another. If this one doesn't work, another clever shot or plot twist is close behind.

Though not everyone's cup of tea, the movie has received a surprising number of pans, especially by those kind to Oliver Stone's criminal "U-Turn." While both take on the overindulgent road movie genre, Boyle's trip is the one worth taking.

John Monaghan welcomes your calls and comments. To leave John a voice mail message, dial (313) 953-3047, a touch-tone phone, mailbox 1866.



Comedy: Ewan McGregor and kidnap "victim" Cameron Diaz take a break in "A Life Less Ordinary."

GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

General Cinemas

Bargain Matinee: 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (Fri-Sat) Show Day

Carlton 6
Ford Rd., 1 Mile W of I-275
981-1900
Advanced one-day tickets available
(\$10.00) Pre-Bookings
Friday thru Thursday

"LIFE LESS ORDINARY" (R)
PLAYING GOD (R)
KISS THE GIRLS (R)
"KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER" (R)
THE EDGE (R)
IN AND OUT (PG-13)
"SEVEN YEARS IN TIBET" (PG-13)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

North Town Center 8
1501 E. South of I-55
344-0077
Advanced one-day tickets available
Friday thru Thursday
\$10.00 Pre-Bookings

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE (R)
SEVEN YEARS IN TIBET (PG-13)
L.A. CONFIDENTIAL (R)
THE PEACEMAKER (R)
GATTACA (PG-13)
PLAYING GOD (R)
KISS THE GIRLS (R)
"KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER" (R)
THE EDGE (R)
IN AND OUT (PG-13)
"SEVEN YEARS IN TIBET" (PG-13)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Reese-Ehrlich Cinema
Oakland Lake Rd.
at Cass Lake Rd.
682-1900
All times \$11.50 before 6 p.m.
Family Matinee: 10:30-1:30 p.m.

HERCULES (G)
CONSPIRACY THEORY (R)
EVENT HORIZON (R)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

National Amusements
Showcase Cinemas

Showcase
Ashburn Hills 1-14
2150 N. Capital Rd.
Between University & Wilson
Bldg.
810-375-2660
Bargain Matinee: 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
All Shows and 6 p.m.
Continuous Show Day
Late Show: Wed. Thru. Fr. & Sat.

FAIRY TALE (PG)
GATTACA (PG-13)
DEVIL'S ADVOCATE (R)
PLAYING GOD (R)
"KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER" (R)
MOIST WANTED (R)
ROCKET MAN (PG)
7 YEARS IN TIBET (PG-13)
CANG RELATED (R)
KISS THE GIRLS (R)
SOUL FOOD (R)
L.A. CONFIDENTIAL (R)
PEACEMAKER (R)
IN AND OUT (PG-13)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Star Theatres
The World's Best Theaters
Bargain Matinee: 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Now accepting Visa & MasterCard
No Pre-Bookings

Showcase: Parkview 1-8
McKinnon & Telegraph
313-541-3449
Bargain Matinee: 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Continuous Show Day
Late Show: Fr. & Sat. & Sun.

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE (R)

PLAYING GOD (R)
"KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER" (R)
7 YEARS IN TIBET (PG-13)
ROCKET MAN (PG)
MOIST WANTED (R)
CANG RELATED (R)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Showcase: Pontiac 1-3
Telegraph & Lake Rd. W. Side of
Telegraph
810-312-0241
Bargain Matinee: 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Continuous Show Day

FAIRY TALE (PG)
DEVIL'S ADVOCATE (R)
7 YEARS IN TIBET (PG-13)
SOUL FOOD (R)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Showcase: Pontiac 6-12
2405 Telegraph Rd. East side of
Telegraph
810-344-4777
Bargain Matinee: 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Continuous Show Day
Late Show: Fr. & Sat.

GATTACA (PG-13)
"KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER" (R)
PLAYING GOD (R)
ROCKET MAN (PG)
KISS THE GIRLS (R)
L.A. CONFIDENTIAL (R)
IN AND OUT (PG-13)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

One Yards
Warm & Wayne Rds.
313-425-7700
Bargain Matinee: 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
All Shows and 6 p.m.
Continuous Show Day
Late Show: Wed. Thru. Fr. & Sat.

GATTACA (PG-13)
PLAYING GOD (R)
"KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER" (R)
SOUL FOOD (R)
PEACEMAKER (R)
ROCKET MAN (PG)
L.A. CONFIDENTIAL (R)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Star Theatres
Westland 1-8
5800 Wayne Rd.
One W. of Wayne Rd.
313-729-1060
Bargain Matinee: 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
All Shows and 6 p.m.
Continuous Show Day
Late Show: Wed. Thru. Fr. & Sat.

FAIRY TALE (PG)
BOOGIE NIGHTS (R)
DEVIL'S ADVOCATE (R)
7 YEARS IN TIBET (PG-13)
KISS THE GIRLS (R)
IN AND OUT (PG-13)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Star Theatres
The World's Best Theaters
Bargain Matinee: 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Now accepting Visa & MasterCard
No Pre-Bookings

Star John R.
McKinnon & Telegraph
313-541-3449
Bargain Matinee: 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Continuous Show Day
Late Show: Fr. & Sat. & Sun.

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE (R)

CALL FOR SATURDAY SHOWTIMES
FRIDAY - THURSDAY
No one under 18 admitted for PG-13 & R rated films after 6 p.m.

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE (R)
SEVEN YEARS IN TIBET (PG-13)
KISS THE GIRLS (R)
THE PEACEMAKER (R)
IN AND OUT (PG-13)
THE GAME (R)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Star Rochester Hills
200 E. Main Rd.
853-2260
FRIDAY THRU THURSDAY
No one under age 18 admitted for PG-13 & R rated films after 6 p.m.

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE (R)
"KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER" (R)
NP SEVEN YEARS IN TIBET

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

United Artists
12, 24th
Inside Uptown Mall
810-585-7041

A LIFE LESS ORDINARY (R) NV
"KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER" (R) NV
KISS THE GIRLS (R) NV
IN AND OUT (PG-13) NV
ROCKET MAN (PG) NV
THE EDGE (R) NV

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Star Southfield
12 Mile between Telegraph and
Northwestern, Off I-596
248-333-3348
No one under age 18 admitted for PG-13 & R rated films after 6 p.m.

NP BOOGIE (R)
NP FAIRY TALE A TRUE STORY
NP GATTACA (PG-13)
NP DEVIL'S ADVOCATE (R)
NP "KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER" (R)
NP PLAYING GOD (R)
NP SEVEN YEARS IN TIBET (PG-13)
NP ROCKET MAN (PG)
NP SOUL FOOD (R)
NP THE EDGE (R)
NP PEACEMAKER (R)
NP IN AND OUT (PG-13)
NP L.A. CONFIDENTIAL (R)
NP KISS THE GIRLS (R)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Star Westchester
1136 S. Rochester Rd., Westchester
Mail
248-656-1160
No one under age 18 admitted for PG-13 & R rated films after 6 p.m.

NP FAIRY TALE A TRUE STORY (PG)
NP GATTACA (PG-13)
NP DEVIL'S ADVOCATE (R)
NP ROCKET MAN (PG)
NP SOUL FOOD (R)
NP THE FULL MONTY (R)
NP THE MATCHMAKER (R)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

United Artists Theatres
Bargain Matinee: 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
No one under age 18 admitted for PG-13 & R rated films after 6 p.m.

NP FAIRY TALE A TRUE STORY (PG)
NP GATTACA (PG-13)
NP DEVIL'S ADVOCATE (R)
NP ROCKET MAN (PG)
NP SOUL FOOD (R)
NP THE FULL MONTY (R)
NP THE MATCHMAKER (R)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

United Artists Theatres
Bargain Matinee: 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
No one under age 18 admitted for PG-13 & R rated films after 6 p.m.

NP FAIRY TALE A TRUE STORY (PG)
NP GATTACA (PG-13)
NP DEVIL'S ADVOCATE (R)
NP ROCKET MAN (PG)
NP SOUL FOOD (R)
NP THE FULL MONTY (R)
NP THE MATCHMAKER (R)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

SOUL FOOD (R) NV
KISS THE GIRLS (R) NV
IN AND OUT (PG-13) NV
THE EDGE (R) NV
MEN IN BLACK (PG-13) NV
THE GAME (R)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

United Artists Oakland
Inside Oakland Mall
810-585-7041

GATTACA (PG-13) NV
FAIRY TALE (PG) NV
SOUL FOOD (R) NV
PLAYING GOD (R) NV
AIR FORCE ONE (R)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

United Artists
12, 24th
Inside Uptown Mall
810-585-7041

A LIFE LESS ORDINARY (R) NV
"KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER" (R) NV
KISS THE GIRLS (R) NV
IN AND OUT (PG-13) NV
ROCKET MAN (PG) NV
THE EDGE (R) NV

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

United Artists
West 9th
2800 West of Middlebelt
810-788-6572

A LIFE LESS ORDINARY (R) NV
FAIRY TALE (PG) NV
DEVIL'S ADVOCATE (R) NV
"KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER" (R) NV
PLAYING GOD (R) NV
PLAYING GOD (R) NV
CANG RELATED (R) NV
KISS THE GIRLS (R) NV
IN AND OUT (PG-13) NV
L.A. CONFIDENTIAL (R) NV

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Birmingham Theatres
211 S. Woodward
Downtown Birmingham
248-644-3419
No Pre-Bookings

Order Movie tickets by phone
Call 644-3419 and have your VISA or
MasterCard ready! (All 12 surface
mail apply to all telephone sales)

SPECIAL OFFER
10% OFF ON ALL \$10, \$20
AND \$30 GIFT CERTIFICATES FOR A
LIMITED TIME ONLY
AVAILABLE AT THE BOX
OFFICE

NP A LIFE LESS ORDINARY (R) NV
NP "KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER" (R) NV
NP SEVEN YEARS IN TIBET (PG-13) NV
NP ROCKET MAN (PG) NV
NP KISS THE GIRLS (R) NV
NP THE EDGE (R) NV
NP IN AND OUT (PG-13) NV
NP L.A. CONFIDENTIAL (R) NV

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

NP THEATRES
\$1.00 Hard Sell \$1.50
\$1.50 Soft Sell \$2.00
\$1.00 6 p.m. \$1.50
After 6 p.m. \$1.50
Ample Parking - Telford Center

Free Ref on Onix & Popcorn
Please Call Theatres for Showtimes

CONSPIRACY THEORY (R)
HERCULES (G)
MY BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING (PG-13)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

999 Uptown Mall
Uptown Mall at 7 Mile
810-476-8800
ALL SHOWS \$9.95 ALL SHOWS
FREE Ref on Onix & Popcorn
FREE SHOWS DAILY FOR CHILDREN 12
& UNDER ADULTS SEE THIS FEATURE
ONLY

CONSPIRACY THEORY (R)
FIRE DOWN BELOW (R)
HERCULES (G)
SPAWN (PG-13)
GOODWILL (PG)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Waterford Cinema II
2301 Highland Rd.
516-849-1139 & 516-849-1140
24 Hour Movie Line
(810) 666-7000
31.25 (70) LITE SHOWS DAILY

FAIRY TALE (PG)
GATTACA (PG-13)
LIFE LESS ORDINARY (R)
"KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER" (R)
DEVIL'S ADVOCATE (R)
SEVEN YEARS IN TIBET (PG-13)
ROCKET MAN (PG)
KISS THE GIRLS (R)
THE EDGE (R)
IN AND OUT (PG-13)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Terrace Cinema
30400 Plymouth Rd.
313-261-3330

All shows \$1 except show after 6 p.m.
+ All shows \$1.50
75¢ every Tuesday
Would you like to see free movies?
No Pre-Bookings
COME IN AND FIND OUT NOW!

SUN - THURS
Box Office opens at 4:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday only

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Main Art Theatre II
Mar. 11 Mile
Royal Oak
(248) 542-0180
\$1.00 (70) LITE SHOWS
DAILY

WASHINGTON SQUARE (PG)
THE FULL MONTY (R)
LA PROMISE (R)
THE MYTH OF FINGERPRINTS (R)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Washington Square (PG)
The Full Monty (R)
La Promise (R)
The Myth of Fingerprints (R)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

NP THEATRES
\$1.00 Hard Sell \$1.50
\$1.50 Soft Sell \$2.00
\$1.00 6 p.m. \$1.50
After 6 p.m. \$1.50
Ample Parking - Telford Center

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\$1.00 6 p.m. \$1.50
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Ample Parking - Telford Center

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\$1.50 Soft Sell \$2.00
\$1.00 6 p.m. \$1.50
After 6 p.m. \$1.50
Ample Parking - Telford Center

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Scheduled to open Friday, Oct. 31

"ICE STORM"

Based on Rick Moody's extraordinary confessional novel of life in the high '70s, a comic and tragic look at a culture foundering in the backwash of the sexual revolution. Stars Kevin Kline, Sigourney Weaver, Joan Allen, Jamey Sheridan, "FRED CORNBER" Courtenay. Theater about a high-powered attorney who travels to China to broker a multi-million dollar television deal only to be accused of murder. Stars Richard Gere, Bradley Whitford, Bai Ling, Byron Mann. "SWITCHBLADE" An FBI agent finds himself in a cat and mouse game with a brilliant-minded serial killer who has kidnapped his son. Stars Dennis Quaid, Danny Glover. Scheduled to open Friday, Nov. 7

"MAD CITY"

Two strangers struggling with their fates accidentally cross paths at a pivotal moment. They form a bond of mutual need that is so profound it will forever change the course of their lives. Stars Dustin Hoffman, John Alda, Mia Kirshner, Alan Alda.

"STARSHIP TROOPERS"

A tale of the future that charts the lives of elite members of the Mobile Infantry, a group of dedicated young men and women soldiers fighting side by side in the ultimate intergalactic war - the battle to save humankind. Based on the book by Robert A. Heinlein. Stars Casper Van Dien, Dina Meyer, Denise Richards.

"TELLING LIES IN AMERICA"

The story of a Hungarian immigrant boy's experiences in the world of rock and roll and his assimilation into American society in the early 1960s. Stars Kevin Bacon, Brad Renfro.

"BEAN"

In this big screen version of the popular British sitcom a quiet but spastic muse-

"WINGS OF THE DOVE"

um curator finds himself the victim of mistaken identity.

"EVEN BAYOU"

Exclusively at the Main Art. In this mystic tale an eccentric family in a predominantly black Louisiana town is seen through the eyes of a high-spirited 10-year-old girl.

"REAR"

In this big screen version of the popular British sitcom a quiet but spastic muse-

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Drama: Catherine Slopers (Jennifer Jason Leigh, right) is a shy, awkward but wealthy young woman who suddenly finds herself courted by smooth and dashing, but penniless Morris Townsend (Ben Chaplin) in "Washington Square."

Based on Henry James' passionate turn of the century romance, the story of a woman whose head and heart are in conflict between 19th century values and 20th century passions. Stars Helena Bonham Carter.

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