'Mad City' takes more shots at the media excess



JOHN
JOHN
MONAGHAN
The real surprise in "Man City' is how well this sometimes preachy story works. Highlighted by performances from Dustin Hollman and John Travolta, the meth iffer from Costa-Garvas ct."." "Missing," delivers well driwn characters and, yes, some food for thought.

Tension builds during the

about a dozen times), Bracket gets the distraught man to think about his image. If he's going to get out of this, ho will have to let Bracket, an expert on public opinion, present the gunman on television in the best possible light

opinion, present the gunman on television in the best possible light.

"Mad City" is essentially a remake of "Aco in the Hole," an especially cynical Kirk Douglas/Billy Wilder picture about a newspaperman who keeps a man trapped in a mine shaft for similarly sellish reasons.

Now there was a movie with guts, so unpopular at the time of release (1951) that they repackaged it as "The Big Carnival" a year later, with no better luck at the box office. Who would have known that the movie once called unrailstic and far-fatched would become so prophetic?

Here Hoffman plays a kinder, gontler version of Douglas demonized opportunist. In Bracket you have a man who

knows all the tricks of the trude, yet also has a conscience. Two years previously, during a live broadcast from an airplane crash site, he snapped and insulted the network's top newscater (Alan Alda) for asking ghoulish questions.

Dealt this hand, he's not going to blow it. He maneuvers around the big boys from the police and the network, who both arrive to take over the situation. He effectively shapes Baily into a folk hero just trying to provide the family and the provide the family and the provide the family shapes and the provided the

a folk hero just trying to provide for his family. Hoffman and Travdita, both symbols of a generation in their youth, complement each other well in middle age. Hoffman's controlled performance allows Travolta's man at the end of his rope to chew up the scenery as he gets more strung out on caf-feine pills. You really don't know what ho'll do next. Even when the movie pum-

Even when the movie pum-mels you with its point, these performances ring true. Whether this downbeat material will play

SCREEN SCENE

A sampling of what's playing





Drama: Dustin Hoffman, left, and John Travolta star in

better than it did 45 years ago is debatable, but everyone involved leave John a voice mail message, certainly gives it their best shot.

John Monaghan welcomes tone phone, mailbox 1866.

GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

General Cinemas Eargain matinee daily plus \$3.25 (Twi Life) show daily

Canton 6 Ford Fd. 1 Marweg of 1-275-981-1900 Advanced sameday tokra makible "Denotes VV resoction. Fridday thru Thursday

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*MAD CITY (PGT3)

KISS THE GRLS (R)
*EEAN (PGT3)
*I KHOW WHAT YOU DID
LAST SYMMER (R)
SWITCHBACK (R) SEVEN YEARS IN TIBET

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Hori Town Center 8 344-0077 Advance same day baters markets FEDAY TIRKU THE FEDAY

"CENORES VERSITE COOKS EGOGLE NIGHTS (R) DEVIL'S ADVOCATE (#)
EVEN YEARS OF TIBET (PC13)
LA. CONFIDENTIAL (#)
THE PEACEMAKER (#) 'GATTACA (PG13) 'RED CORNER (R) MAD CITY (II)

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Keego Twin Chema Orchard Lake Rd. at Cass Lake Rd. 682-1900 Al Seuts \$1.50 before 6 pm family Munnet Rt. SAU SUN

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Showcase Pontlec 1:5 Telegraph Sq. Lake Rd. W Side o Telegraph 810-352-0241

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ROCKET MAN (B)
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A sampling of what's playing at alternative movie theaters across metro Detroit as reviewed by John Monghan.

Detroit Film Theatre Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward, Detroit. Call (313) 833-2323 for information. (\$5.50; \$4.50 students/seniora)

"Deep Crimson" (Mexico/Spain. 1998). Nov. 14-16 (call for showtimes). In this true story (filmed earlier as "The Honeymoon Killers") a sexually lonely woman hooks up with a philanderer in the personals and embarks on a partnership of murder and madness.

"Flamenco" (Spain-1995). 7p.m. Monday, Nov. 17. A documentary about fismenco dancers, highlighted by stirring music and dance, captured by director Carlos Saura ("Carmen") and cinematographer Vittorio Storaro ("Apocalypse Now!").

Main Stret at 11 Mile, Royal Oak, Flims play through at least Thursday, unless noted otherwise. Call (248) 542-0180 for Hursday, unless noted othermion and matines; \$3 twilight: Washington Square" (USA-1997). Jennifer Jasen-Leigh and Albert Finney star in this sdaptation of a Henry James novel the sabout an awkward rich girl caught between her over-protective father and a penniless suit
"The Full Monty" (Britsin-1891) on of the year's more

tive father and a penniless suit"The Full Monty" (Britain1997). One of the year's most delightul films is about a group of unemployed steel workers who decide to try their luck as exotic dancers. The only problem: their non-Chippendales physiques.
"Eve's Bayou" (USA -1997). Samuel L. Jackson stars in this black-themed drama, set in a small backwater Louisiana com-



Family: Joan Allen (left to right), Christina Ricci, Tob Maguire and Kevin Kline as the Hood family in "The Ice Storm.

munity, where the story of a seemingly prosperous family is told from the perspective of a 10-year-old girl.

year-old girl.

Magic Bag Theatre 22918
Woodward, Ferndale. Call (248)
544-3030 for information. (\$2)
"Men in Black" (USA-1997).
9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19.
9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19.
Jone more chance to see the summer hit starring Tommy Leo
Jones and Will Smith as blacksuited secret agents team to save
the world from goocy aliens.

Maple Theatre 4135 W.
Maple Road (at Telegraph),
Bloomfield Hills. Call (248) 8559090 for information. (\$5.75;
\$3.75 matinees; \$3 twilight)
"The House of Yee" (USA1997). A psychological comedy
probes the mystery of a family
whose strangeness somehow
links with the JFK assasination. The debut feature from
writer/director Mark Waters is
already best known for independent film diva Parker Poscy's
turn as a young woman obsessed

with Jackie O.

Redford Theatre 13671
Lahser (at Grand River), Detroit.
Call (131) 537-2660 for information. (\$2.50)

can use so 1-2000 for informa-tion. (32.50)
"Laurel and Hardy Festi-val" (USA-1964). 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Satur-day, Nov. 15 (organ overture begins a half hour before show-time). Four classic shorts from the comedy team, with live organ accompaniment by Gus Borman and John Lauter. The titles: "Blotto," The First Mistake, "Bosu Hunks," and "Saps at. Sea."

Star Southfield 12 Mile West of Telegraph Rd., Southfield. Call (248) 372-2222. (\$6.50; \$4.50 before 6 p.m.) "The Ice Storm" (USA-1997).

"The Ice Storm" (USA-1997).
A film adaptation of Rick
Moody's confessional account of
life in the 1970s, starring Kevin
Kline, Sigourney Weaver and
directed by Ang Lee ("The Wedding Banquet," "Sense and Sensibility").

COMING ATTRACTIONS Scheduled to open Friday, Nov. 14

"CHATE THRIS 2NO" **COME MEET STAND**
Romantic drama about a merried man who has a one night stand with a marridd woman, resulting in deep repercussions for both. Stars Wesley Snipes, "THE JACKAL"
Thriller about a ruthless assassin on the move, and the FBI's Deputy Director who must track him down before he

"THE LITTLE MICHIGAND"

Re-release of the classic Disney animatied musical about a headstrong mermeld
who wants to be human.

MORTAL KOMBAT: ANNIHIKATION
The Sequel to the 1995 hit as a group of heroic fighters must save Earth in a norules Mortal Kombat tournament. Stars*
Robin Shou, Talisa Soto, Brian Thomp-

*Scheduled to open Friday, Nov. 21

"Title RAIMAKEP"

Drama based on John Grishman's bestsolling novel about a law student who
finds himself involved in a high phofile
civil litigation. Stars Matt Damon, Clair
Danes, Danny DeVito, Mary Key Place,
Mickey Rourke, Jon Volght.

Scheduled to open Wednesday, Nov. 26

FLUSSIR
Remake of the classic Disney comedy about a bumbling professor who accidentally invents an anti-gravity material. Stars Robin Williams.



