

How to connect with 'Backstage Pass' on the Internet

BACKSTAGE PASS



ANN DELISI

It is a funny thing about the Internet. You guessed it: this is an Internet lead in. But for all you hear about the "connectivity" of the Web, sometimes it's still tough to get there from here. First you have to find a search engine with which you are comfortable. Then you have to not only think up key words, you have to think up key words that match the key words submitted by whomever made up the elusive site for which you're searching.

SCREEN SCENE

A sampling of what's playing at alternative movie theaters across metro Detroit as reviewed by John Monaghan.

Magie Bag - 22920 Woodward, Ferndale, Call (248) 544-3000 for information. (\$2)

"Wild Things" (USA - 1998). 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 17. The year's first great guilty pleasure in this trashy story of a high school guidance counselor who falls into murder and mayhem with a pair of femme fatale students. From John McNaughton, the director behind the twisted "Henry: Portrait of a Serial Killer," this movie has a few twists of its own.

Main Art Theatre - 118 N. Main (at 11 Mile Road), Royal Oak. Call (248) 542-0180 for information. (\$8.50; \$4 students/seniors and matinees; \$3 twilight)

"The Spanish Prisoner" (USA - 1998). Campbell Scott plays a young businessman who develops a dangerous relationship with a mysterious tycoon

(Steve Martin). Expect plenty of fascinating verbal interplay in this latest film written and directed by David Mamet ("Glengarry Glen Ross").

"Wild" (Britain - 1998). Stephen Fry plays the English playwright Oscar Wilde, whose brilliance in plays ("The Importance of Being Earnest") and stories ("The Portrait of Dorian Gray") were partially eclipsed by his scandalous trial involving a male lover.

"The Last Days of Disco" (USA - 1998). Whit Stillman, the introspective director of "Metropolitan" and "Barcelona," delivers what he calls the third story in a loosely woven triptych about the well-heeled young people who populate New York's club scene in the early 1980s.

Maple Art Theatre - Maple at Telegraph, Bloomfield. Call (248) 855-0900 for information. (\$8.50; \$4 before 6 p.m.)

"Artemesia" (France/Italy - 1998). Seventeenth Century painter Artemesia Gentileschi

which you're searching didn't post it under the key word "spatula." After all, you use a spatula, who you're looking ("Spatula," by the way, results in 16,131 matches.) Have we really advanced from the days of the Dewey Decimal System? For that matter, did anyone other than school librarians actually know how to use the Dewey Decimal System to begin with?

Enter into this fray the Backstage Pass Web site. It's updated every week by one of the program's producers, Jimmy Rhoads, so I asked him the first, most basic question: how do I get there? The site itself has a really long address, but there are two easy ways to get there. First you can connect to it from the Detroit Public Television Web site, which has a nice, short, easy-to-remember URL because

it's our broadcast call letters: www.wtvz.org. And because the site was designed and is hosted and maintained by the folks over at Comcast Online, you can also easily link to it from their site, which is at www.inDetroit.com. Once you're at the Backstage Pass site, you can bookmark it or add it to your favorites folder so you can return directly to it.

OK, once I'm there, what are my options? It's really a starter site, a place you go that links you to other places that probably have more actual content on a given subject. We give an overview of the arts and culture in Detroit, with a specific focus on what's coming up on the show. We like to create temporary links to sites maintained by guests of the show if they have them that are up for two weeks prior to air. We also have a list

of permanent links to many Detroit's major cultural institutions.

The Internet may be great for getting information about events at Detroit's cultural institutions, but eventually you still have to physically visit them. Unfortunately, for many people, our old "get there from here" problem pops up. Enter a new program from the City of Detroit Cultural Affairs Department called "The Culture Connection."

The Culture Connection provides senior citizens, youth and public housing residents with inexpensive bus transportation to 10 institutions in the city's Cultural Center: The Children's Museum, The Detroit Historical Museum, The Detroit Institute of Arts, The Detroit Public Library's Main Library, The Detroit Science Center, Detroit

Symphony Orchestra Hall, Heritage Museum and Fine Arts Center, International Institute, Museum of African American History, and The Scarab Club. On tonight's show, we'll welcome Marilyn Wheaton, the director of the City of Detroit Cultural Affairs Department, to tell us all about this exciting new program.

Also on the big show, we'll hear music from "Late Night with David Letterman" veteran Edwin McCain off his current CD, "Misguided Roses" and from Detroit blues band Mudpuppy from their current offering, "White Bread & Hot Sauce." And we'll take another look at our trip to the Michigan Opera Theatre production of Aida. All that's on "Backstage Pass," tonight at midnight, repeated Friday night at 7:30 on Detroit Public Television.

was the first woman of note to make it into the art history book. Writer/director Agnes Morlet focuses on her struggle to work in a male-dominated field as well as the relationship that nearly destroyed her.

"The Horse Whisperer" (USA - 1998). Robert Redford directs and stars in this quiet tale of a man who has the power to heal, in this case a horse who, along with his young rider, was traumatized in a freak accident. Early Oscar predictions have already

surfaced for the film and its excellent cast, including Kristin Scott Thomas ("The English Patient") and Diane Wiest as a no-nonsense ranch wife.

Redford Theatre - 17360 Lahser (at Grand River), Detroit. Call (313) 537-2660 for information. (\$2.50)

"An American in Paris" (USA - 1951). 8 p.m. June Friday, 12:2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, June 13 (organ overture begins a half hour before showtime.) George and Ira Gershwin provid-

ed the tunes in this colorful MGM musical which won eight Academy Awards, including Best Picture. Gene Kelly plays the painter, an American expatriate living in Paris.

Windsor Film Theatre - 2135 Wyandotte Street, Windsor, Canada. Call (519) 254-FILM for information. (\$5.25 Canadian; \$4 U.S.)

"Nil By Mouth" (Britain - 1998). 9:15 p.m. Thursday-Sunday, June 11-14. Actor Gary Oldman takes a turn in the director's chair. He wrote and directed this drama about a dysfunctional family in South London, presumably based on his own troubled life which has been filled with violence, alcoholism, and drug addiction.

DOUGLAS PAT FROW

"A KILLER THRILLER"

PROPELLED BY POWERFUL PERFORMANCES FROM MICHAEL DOUGLAS AND GWYNETH PALTROW AND A SHOCKER ENDING. A REAL NAIL-BITER."

★★★★★

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SHOWCASE "HILL"	SHOWCASE "HILL"	SHOWCASE "HILL"
SHOWCASE "HILL"	STAR GRATIOT	STAR LINCOLN PARK
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AMC WONDERLAND <td>GCC NOVI TOWN CTR. <td>QUO VADIS </td></td>	GCC NOVI TOWN CTR. <td>QUO VADIS </td>	QUO VADIS
SHOWCASE "HILL" <td>SHOWCASE "HILL" <td>SHOWCASE "HILL" </td></td>	SHOWCASE "HILL" <td>SHOWCASE "HILL" </td>	SHOWCASE "HILL"
STAR GRATIOT <td>STAR LINCOLN PARK <td>STAR SOUTHFIELD </td></td>	STAR LINCOLN PARK <td>STAR SOUTHFIELD </td>	STAR SOUTHFIELD
STAR TAYLOR <td>STAR WINCHESTER <td>STAR WYOMING </td></td>	STAR WINCHESTER <td>STAR WYOMING </td>	STAR WYOMING
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HARRISON FORD ANNE HECHT

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AMC EASTLAND	AMC LAUREL PARK	AMC SOUTHFIELD CITY
AMC STERLING CTR.	AMC WONDERLAND	BIRMINGHAM 8
OLD ORCHARD	SHOWCASE "HILL"	SHOWCASE "HILL"
SHOWCASE "HILL"	SHOWCASE "HILL"	SHOWCASE "HILL"
STAR GRATIOT AT 13 MILE	STAR ROCHESTER HILLS	STAR SOUTHFIELD
STAR TAYLOR	STAR WYOMING	STAR TAYLOR
UNITED ARTISTS 12 OAKS	UNITED ARTISTS WEST RIVER	FORD WYOMING

NO PASSES OR COUPONS ACCEPTED

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STARTS FRIDAY, JUNE 12

AMC ABBEY	AMC AMERICANA WEST
AMC BEL AIR	AMC EASTLAND
AMC LAUREL PARK	AMC SOUTHFIELD CITY
AMC STERLING CTR.	AMC WONDERLAND
SHOWCASE "HILL"	SHOWCASE "HILL"
STAR GRATIOT AT 13 MILE	STAR SOUTHFIELD
STAR TAYLOR	STAR TAYLOR
UNITED ARTISTS FAIRLANE	UNITED ARTISTS OAKLAND
UNITED ARTISTS WEST RIVER	UNITED ARTISTS WEST RIVER

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NEWSWEEK

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ESQUIRE MAGAZINE, ONE MONTH

JIM CARREY

the TRUMAN show

STARTS FRIDAY, JUNE 12

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AMC LAUREL PARK	AMC SOUTHFIELD CITY
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SHOWCASE "HILL"	SHOWCASE "HILL"
STAR GRATIOT AT 13 MILE	STAR SOUTHFIELD
STAR TAYLOR	STAR TAYLOR
UNITED ARTISTS FAIRLANE	UNITED ARTISTS OAKLAND
UNITED ARTISTS WEST RIVER	UNITED ARTISTS WEST RIVER

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