

MOVIES

Hamtramck stars in disappointing 'Polish Wedding'

The word Hamtramck never appears in the film, but metro Detroit's Polish enclave was for me the true star of 'Polish Wedding'...

enough to send metro Detroiters swooning. Spontaneous claps, laughs or "that's me" peppered the auditorium whenever a crowd scene with extras appeared.

Daughter Hala, meanwhile, seems to take after the old lady, snacking off into the night for rendezvous with a handsome young policeman, a friend of her brother's.

As the family matriarch, Olin does what she does best: look doe-eyed when she's not making the simplest task - from kneading pierogi dough to scrubbing floors - look so sensual.



Romantic comedy: Gabriel Byrne and Lena Olin star in 'Polish Wedding.'

Connelly also misses the boat by making the family so insular. There are virtually no minor characters in the film - no prudish neighbors, no fellow workers at the bakery - to put the family in perspective.

John Monaghan welcomes your calls and comments. You can listen to him on Dave Dixon's Radio Show AM 1270, 8 p.m. to midnight Saturdays.

GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

Grid of movie listings categorized by theater (National Amusements, Showcase, Star Theatres, etc.) with movie titles and showtimes.

Some grumblings have come from the Polish American community about this skewed portrayal. But, mostly, 'Polish Wedding' is an inoffensive lark.

SCREEN SCENE

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

wrecks the lives of virtually everyone she encounters. 'The Hanging Garden' (USA - 1998). An offbeat drama about a 25-year-old gay man who returns home to his seriously dysfunctional family after a 10-year absence.

ed by Theresa Connelly. "Smoke Signals" (USA - 1998). In this first independent feature made by Native Americans, a boy embarks on a journey to claim the remains of his estranged father.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Scheduled to open Friday, July 24 'SAVING PRIVATE RYAN' A story based on the true events of six U.S. Army soldiers on assignment behind enemy lines to save one private.



War-time drama: Captain John Miller (Tom Hanks, right) and the Sarge (Tom Sizemore) lead a squad of soldiers behind enemy lines to find a retrieve one man, Private James Ryan, in 'Saving Private Ryan.'