De Palma's 'Snake Eyes' worthy of praise

Nicholas Cago fans, be patient; we'll get to him in a moment. "Snake Eyes," a suspense thriller that starts over the speed limit, and doesn't slow down until you're halfway home, is Brian De Palma's to praise.

The versatile, veteran director's resume includes "Carrio," "Dressed to Kill" and "Body Double" in the same genre, as well as "Mission: Impossible" and "The Untouchables." With "Snake Eyes," De Palma has taken the DNA of 40°s B-movies and created a whole new high-tech species of suspense. It's more than cloning; "Snake Eyes" is "The

Maltess Falcon* on storoids.

Set in an Atlantic City hotelcasino, Nicholas Cage is Rick
Santoro, a corrupt police detective which, wo're advised, is
indeed redundant. In an opening
sequence which will be dissected
in film schools alengside that of
"Citizen Kane," De Palma's
stendicam follows, leads and
encircles Santoro from the
Boardwalk to his ringside seat of
a heavyweight title match. It's a
continuous 13-minute shot that
required incredible choreography
of actors and equipment.
And in that uncut scene, Santoro is reunited with old chum
Kevin Dunne (Gary Sinise), a
navy commander assigned to
protect the Secretary of Defense.

When Dunne is drawn away from his post by one mystery woman, while another sits down next to the Secretary, the champ is apparently knocked into next week and rifle shots ring out. The Secretary is hit, and Santone looks around at the 14,000 fleeing suspects.

A series of flashbacks, each with innovative filmmaking replays the events leading up to the assassination from the viewpoints of three winessess: Dunne, Julia Costello (Carla Gugino), the woman who spoke to the Secretary just before he was shot, only to run from the seen, and heavyweight champion Lincoln Tyler (Stan Shaw) whose loss comes under scrutiny of the pay

per-view cameras.
As the individual atories unravel while simultaneously becoming intertwined, Santore knows he's taken on a lot more than his cop's beat prepared him for, and must choosa allegiance between the old friend and the beautiful woman who lost her glasses in the fracas but never squints. A no-brainer, you say? Well, maybe.

Well, maybe.

Fresh from "City of Angels," in which he did little more than look ethereal, Cage chews the scenery with relish as the loud, on-the-take and on-the-make and the state of the

Sinise (ever-identified as For-rest Gump's Lt. Dan), is revealed soon enough as more than just the victim of a redhead's ample cleavage. From there, he turns into the intense pursuer, like the unstoppable robot in "Termina-

Suspense thriller: Detective Rick Santoro (Nicholas Cage, left) discusses the investigation into the murder of the U.S. Secretary of Defense with Navy Commander Kevin Dunne (Gary Sinise) in "Snake Eyes."

tor 2;" he just keeps coming, and so much for anyone who gets in his way.

Gugino (TV's "Spin City"), turns in a multi-hued performance as a missile specialist for he Trump-like defense contractor, but she scores more points as an innocent than as a faux hooker. Stan Shaw ("Fried Groen Stream of the third time, and stream for the third time, and

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COMING ATTRACTIONS

Scheduled to open Friday, Aug. 14

HOW STELLA GOT HER GROOVE BACK
Based on the best seller by Terry MEMIlan, the story of a 40-yper-old AfricanAmerican women who takes a spur of
the moment tip to Jamaics and meets
the man of her dreems, except he's only
haff her age. Stores Angela Bassett,
Whoopie Goldberg.

"AIR SUD: GOLDEN RECEIVER"
Buddy, the talented dog, continues his advantures when he becomes a kidnap target, Stars Kevin Zegers.

"THE AVENGERS"

Emma Peel are united again. This time to stop a diabolical scientist with plans for world domination. Stors Ralph Flannes.

"RETURN TO PARADISE" An electrifying drama about a moral dilemma that becomes a test of frier ship. Stara Vinco Yaughn, Joaquin Phoenix, Anno Heche.

Scheduled to open Friday, Aug. 21

BANCE WITH ME

A romance about a dance instructor who finds inspiration and eventually to with the arrival of a young man who has a passion for life and a flair for Latin dance. Stors Vanessa L. Williams, Kris Kristofferson.

"WRONGFULLY ACCUSED"

"WRONGFULLY ACCUSED" A violinist is wrongfully (and hilariously) accused of murdering a prominent patren of the arts. He takes flight to evade capture and works to track down the real killer, a encermed and one-legged man. Stars Leslie Nietsen.

reggeo man. Stars Lesse Newson.

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"BILLY'S HOLLYWOOD SCREEN KISS"
Exclusively at the Main Art Theater. A
modern love story of a photographer
who creates a series of photographic



Action adventure: Ralph Fiennes as John Steed and Uma Thurman as Emma Peel star in "The Avengers."

stills mimicking kisses from the movies. Sters Seen Hayes.

YOUR FIREMD AND NEIGHBORS
Exclusively at the Main Art Theater. A sophisticated look at dysfunctional urban relationships among three couples who are each asked to describe the best sex they ever had. Stars Jason Potric, Nastassja Kinski.

"BLADE"
An action adventure based on the Mar-vel Comics character who is the son of a vampire and a mortal woman who becomes an obsessive vampire hunter. Stars Wesley Snipes, Kris Kristofferson.

"DEAD MAN ON CAMPUS"
Comedy about a pair of partying college frealmen who realize their any hope of passing lies in the biszere myth they live with a roommate who has committed suicide. Stars Tom Everett Scott.

Scheduled to open Friday, Aug. 28
"NEXT STOP, WONDERLAND"
A meditation on romance, friendship and dostiny. Stars Hore Davis.

"64"
Story of the legendary nightclub –
Studio 54, Stors Mike Myers.
"WHY DO FOOLS FALL IN LOVE" was responsible for a number of the records but whose self-destructive living ended tragically early. Stars Holle Berry.

Scheduled to open Tuesday, Sept. 1

GOODAYE LOVER
A darkly satisfied thriller about a group
of people all scheming to Inherit a 54
million insurance policy, Stars Patricia
Arquette, Dermot Mulroney, Ellen
DeGenercs.

Scheduled in open Fride Capt. 4

"RNOCK OFF"
Against the backdrop of Hong Kong's
transfor to China, a CIA agent must
thwart a conspiracy that could incite a
wave of worldwide terrorism. An action

Soul Asylum bass player happy

Karl Mueller, bass player for the rock band Soul Asylum, is completely satisfied at this

competery surstead at temment.

"I'm sitting in a Red Bank, NJ., hotel room right now. It looks pretty nice outside. I didn't crawl off the bus until about an hour ago," Mueller said at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6.

After doing banks of interviews in support of the hend's latest album "Candy from a Stranger" (Columbia), ho's going exploring.

Stranger" (Columbia), hes going exploring.
"I'm going to go down to the marina and see if I can find myself a fishing pole."
Cities with marinas have boded well for Soul Asylum, he

explained.
"We played Traverse City once.
A friend of ours from Chicago
booked us a show in some empty
building. We drove up through
the U.P. We had a rockin' good
show in Traverse City," Mueller

said.

For the thousands of shows that Soul Asylum has played in its 17-year career, Mueller, has the ability to vividly recall shows that took place years ago.

Soul Asylum's Detroit history

includes a gig about 12 years ago at 3-D in Royal Oak, a small neighborhood dance club now known as The Groova Room.

That thing was kind of a zoo, he said with a laugh. The stage was tiny. They didn't have enough power to keep the back line from shutting down. There's a car in the middle of it, right? I remember walking down to the McDonald's down the street for dinner."

dinner."

This time around, Soul Asylum is returning to Pine Knob on Tuesday, Aug. 18, to perform on a bill with Matchbox 20 and its fellow Minnesotana Semisonic.

Soul Asylum is touring in support of its third album for Columbia Records, "Candy from a Stranger," which includes the recent radio hit 'I Will Still Be Laughing." For "Candy from a Stranger," Soul Asylum tapped Chris Kimsey (Rolling Stones, Stranger, "Soul Asylum tapped Chris Kimsey (Rolling Stones, Ciper Kings Killing Jakot to produced Super producer and Carbago drivmmer Butch Vig produced its provious effort, 1096's "Let Your Dim Light Shine." "He (Vig) was a little more par-

ticular. When we were working with Chris this time, he put us in a little room that we could all the within 15 feet of each other. We

within 15 feet of each other. We retty much set up and played in a way that it felt kind of like practice."

The recording session, Mueller explained, was the closest Soul Asylum has come to recording live since "Soul Asylum and the Horse They Rode 10 On" (Twin/Yone, 1990).

"It's a more relaxing way to do thing. On this record I hope you get that feeling that, you could tell we were relaxed and enjoying ourselves."

The only pressure the band felt, Mueller explained, was "to make a record we can be proud of."

Soul Asylum is scheduled to

. Soul Asylum is scheduled to Soul Asytum is scheduled to perform at 8:15 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 18, between Semisonic (7:15 p.m.) and Matchbox 20 (9:30 p.m.) at Pinc Knob Music The atre. 1-75 and Sashabaw Road, atte, 1-10 and Sasmode Road, Independence Township, Tickets are \$29.50 pavilion and \$20 lawn for the all-ages show. For more information, call (248) 377-0100 or visit http://www.