

MOVIES

Mamet's 'Winslow Boy' takes close view of family crisis

BY HUGH GALLAGHER  
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David Mamet's film version of Terrence Rattigan's "The Winslow Boy" is a gemlike dissection of upper middle class British life suddenly turned upside down over a fight for justice.

Rattigan's 1946 play was based on a true story. In 1912, a young 13-year-old cadet at the Naval College at Osborne is accused of stealing a five-shilling postal order. He is expelled from the academy but maintains he is innocent. His proper banker father believes him and risks all to mount a defense which eventually becomes a national cause

celebro when the case is taken by a famous barrister.

The play was made into a fine movie in 1946 by British director Anthony Asquith with Robert Donat, Margaret Leighton and Cedric Hardwicke in the lead roles.

If that film was centered more directly on the central conflict, Mamet's version is centered around the small details of personal interaction that reveal character and motivation. Both films are worth watching for their similarities and differences.

It is easy to see why Mamet (who directs and wrote the screenplay) was attracted to Rattigan's well-made play. The clipped, emotionless, drily witty

conversations of the British characters match the deliberately clipped and artificial language of Mamet's plays and yet seem more natural in this context. In addition, the many subtexts, the words not spoken, the repressed emotions revealed by a random look or small gesture are also typical of Mamet's approach. The random dialogue of the opening scene is a wonderful example of Mamet's approach.

In "The Winslow Boy" we become observers of a family life that seems outwardly content, pleasant, structured but not too stuffy. But, in fact, there is a running tension and repression that gets sorely tested through the course of the legal battle that drains family finances and

threatens family honor. Though Mamet has opened the action to include several sets, the key scenes are played off screen—the actual crime, a triumphant Parliamentary speech, the trial, the decision. The important matters are what happens around the central story.

Nigel Hawthorne's father seems warm and jovial. He tries to be firm with his wayward son at Oxford. He is indulgent of his bright suffragette daughter. He clearly loves and respects his wife but maintains his male upper hand. He clearly dotes on his younger son, the pride of the family who finds himself in trouble. A thousand emotions seem to be captured in Hawthorne's eyes as he struggles to decide what to do and how far to push it.



Drama: Jeremy Northam as Sir Robert Morton and Rebecca Pidgeon as Catherine Winslow in "The Winslow Boy."

Jeremy Northam plays the barrister Sir Robert Morton, a seemingly cool, emotionless, vain and opportunistic lawyer-politician. He hides a passion for doing the right thing behind his stiff legal manner. Northam perfectly captures the difficult manner and the man of honor. Northam's performance is very similar to Donat's approach in the Asquith film and both actors found just the right balance.

The strongest character is the boy's suffragette sister, Catherine. The character is interesting because it focuses so intimately on the changing role of women in pre-World War I Britain, espe-

cially women in the comfortable classes who began to assert their right to equal treatment. Rebecca Pidgeon, who is married to Mamet, gives a beautiful performance, snapping off the clipped dialogue while her face reveals a myriad of conflicting emotions. Though the publicity for the film suggests some love interest, it is as repressed and subliminal as other emotions.

Other fine performances come from Gemma Jones as the mother who is finally pushed too far, Matthew Pidgeon as the irresponsible but likeable older son and Colin Stinton as a repressed solicitor hopelessly in love with the determined Catherine.

Mamet does a good job of showing the physical look of the period, but he has more successfully captured its emotional tone.

GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

**National Amusements Showcase Cinemas**

**Shoreline**  
Aurora Plaza 1-6  
2150 N. Cicely Rd.  
Between University & Wilson Blvd  
248-373-6660  
Argan Movies Daily  
All Shows until 6 pm  
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Late Show Wed Thurs, Fri, Sat  
NP DOTNETS NO PASS  
NP STAR WARS: EPISODE 1- THE PHANTOM MENACE (PG)  
NP THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR (R)  
NP NOTTING HILL (PG13)  
NP LOVE LETTER (PG13)  
NP TREKLES (PG)  
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (PG13)  
BLACK MASK (R)  
TRIPPIN' (R)  
ELECTION (R)  
THE MUMIN (PG13)  
ENTRAPMENT (PG13)  
MATRIX (R)  
CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

**Shoreline**  
Westland 1-8  
6500 Wayne Rd.  
317-281-6660  
Argan Movies Daily  
All Shows until 6 pm  
Continuous Show Daily  
Late Show Wed Thurs, Fri, Sat  
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NP NOTTING HILL (PG13)  
NP LOVE LETTER (PG13)  
NP TREKLES (PG)  
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (PG13)  
BLACK MASK (R)  
TRIPPIN' (R)  
ELECTION (R)  
THE MUMIN (PG13)  
ENTRAPMENT (PG13)  
MATRIX (R)  
CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

**Shoreline**  
Pawnee 1-8  
McArthur & Telegraph  
315-561-3445  
Argan Movies Daily  
All Shows until 6 pm  
Continuous Show Daily  
Late Show Fri, Sat, & Sun  
NP DOTNETS NO PASS  
NP STAR WARS: EPISODE 1- THE PHANTOM MENACE (PG)  
NP THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR (R)  
NP NOTTING HILL (PG13)  
BLACK MASK (R)  
TRIPPIN' (R)  
ELECTION (R)  
THE MUMIN (PG13)  
ENTRAPMENT (PG13)  
MATRIX (R)  
CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

**Shoreline**  
Pawnee 1-8  
Telegraph Sq. Lake Rd. W. Side of  
Telegraph  
810-312-2241  
Argan Movies Daily  
All Shows until 6 pm  
Continuous Show Daily  
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NP STAR WARS: EPISODE 1- THE PHANTOM MENACE (PG)  
NP THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR (R)  
NP NOTTING HILL (PG13)  
BLACK MASK (R)  
TRIPPIN' (R)  
ELECTION (R)  
THE MUMIN (PG13)  
ENTRAPMENT (PG13)  
MATRIX (R)  
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**Shoreline**  
Pawnee 1-8  
2405 Telegraph Rd. East side of  
Telegraph  
810-314-4777  
Argan Movies Daily  
All Shows until 6 pm  
Continuous Show Daily  
Late Show Fri, Sat  
NP DOTNETS NO PASS  
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NP LOVE LETTER (PG13)  
NP TREKLES (PG)  
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (PG13)  
BLACK MASK (R)  
TRIPPIN' (R)  
ELECTION (R)  
THE MUMIN (PG13)  
ENTRAPMENT (PG13)  
MATRIX (R)  
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**Star Rochester Hills**  
200 Barclay Circle  
813-2260  
No one under age 6 admitted for PG13  
& R rated films after 6 pm  
NP NOTTING HILL (PG13)  
NP STAR WARS: EPISODE ONE: THE PHANTOM MENACE (PG)  
NP LOVE LETTER (PG13)  
THE MUMIN (PG13)  
ENTRAPMENT (PG13)  
CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

**United Artists**  
West 9th  
2 Block West of Middlebrook  
248-784-6372  
STAR WARS: EPISODE 1- THE PHANTOM MENACE (PG) NV  
NOTTING HILL (PG13) NV  
THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR (R) NV  
TRIPPIN' (R) NV  
THE MUMIN (PG13) NV  
ENTRAPMENT (PG13) NV  
THE MATRIX (R)  
CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

**United Artists**  
Commish 14  
Located Adjacent to Home Depot  
Just North of the Intersection of 14 Mile & Haggerty Rd.  
248-565-5881  
All Shows until 6 pm  
High-back Reclining Chair Seats  
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NOTTING HILL (PG13) NV  
THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR (R) NV  
LOVE LETTER (PG13) NV  
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (PG13) NV  
BLACK MASK (R) NV  
ELECTION (R) NV  
THE MUMIN (PG13) NV  
ENTRAPMENT (PG13) NV  
ANALYZE THIS (R)  
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**Maple Art Cinema III**  
Maine 11 Mile  
Loyal Oak  
(248) 542-0180  
GET REAL (R)  
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (PG13)  
COOLIE'S FORTUNE (R)  
NO ONE UNDER 16 ADMITTED  
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Children Under 6 Not Admitted

**Maple Art Cinema III**  
4115 W. Maple, West of Telegraph  
Bloomfield Hills  
248-833-9090  
DOCUMENTARY SHOWS  
TEA WITH MUSSOLINI (PG)  
THE CASTLE (R)  
LOVERS OF THE ARCTIC CIRCLE (R)  
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Haggerty & 7 Mile  
734-542-9999  
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**Waterford Cinema II**  
3501 Highland Rd.  
S.E. corner of 7 Mile & Highland Lake Rd.  
24 Hour Movie Line  
(248) 646-7999  
Call 77 Films 6351  
Standard and Digital  
Sound Mixes for the Best  
Movie Experience in Oakland County  
\$1.25 (TWO LITE SHOWS DAILY)  
NP NOTTING HILL (PG13)  
NP STAR WARS: EPISODE 1- THE PHANTOM MENACE (PG)  
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (PG13)  
THE MUMIN (PG13)  
ENTRAPMENT (PG13)  
CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

**Star Winchster**  
1136 S. Rochester Rd. Winchster  
Mall  
248-656-1160  
No one under age 6 admitted for PG13  
& R rated films after 6 pm  
NP THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR (R)  
NV  
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (PG)  
TEA WITH MUSSOLINI (PG)  
ELECTION (R)  
LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (PG13)  
SHREK SPEARS IN LOVE (R)  
NEVER BEEN KISSED (PG13)  
MATRIX (R)  
CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

**United Artists**  
Theatre  
Bargain Movies Daily, all shows  
starting before 6:00 PM  
Some show advance tickets available  
NV - No V.I.P. Seating Accepted  
NP THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR (R)  
NV  
ELECTION (R)  
THE MUMIN (PG13)  
ENTRAPMENT (PG13)  
ANALYZE THIS (R)  
SHREK SPEARS IN LOVE (R)  
SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (R)  
LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (PG13)  
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**United Artists**  
Theatre  
Inside Oakland Mall  
248-988-0706  
THIRTEENTH FLOOR (R) NV  
BLACK MASK (R) NV  
ELECTION (R)  
THE MUMIN (PG13)  
ENTRAPMENT (PG13)  
MY FAVORITE MARTIAN (PG)  
PATRACE (R)  
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**United Artists**  
12, 12B  
Inside Twelve Oaks Mall  
248-349-4111  
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A WALK ON THE MOON (R)  
TRIPPIN' (R)  
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NP NOTTING HILL (PG13)  
NP STAR WARS: EPISODE 1- THE PHANTOM MENACE (PG)  
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (PG13)  
THE MUMIN (PG13)  
ENTRAPMENT (PG13)  
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Drama: Held captive in a prison for the criminally insane, primatologist Ethan Powell (Anthony Hopkins, right) who is accused of murder and has not spoken in years, is remanded to psychiatrist Theo Caulder, Cuba Gooding in "Instinct."

Strong performers follow 'Instinct' in morality tale

BY JON KATZ  
SPECIAL WRITER

Sir Anthony Hopkins is being held in a maximum-security prison. Convicted of horrendous murders, he's unable or unwilling to communicate with his jailers. A minister sends a concave whatever it is that has driven him to his own personal madness. Perhaps one especially chosen person can get through and unlock the door to release his terrible secret.

From that description, too many of you will either see "Instinct" or avoid it altogether because it certainly sounds like "Silence of the Lambs, Part II." It isn't, and should it be marketed or perceived that way, this elegant morality tale would be dealt as much an injustice as its lead character.

The convict Ethan Powell (Hopkins), is, in fact, a noted primatologist who spent years living among the mountain gorillas of Rwanda. After brutally killing two, a park ranger who was hunting the docile animals, Powell was extradited to Florida, and remains imprisoned in the psychiatric "Coo Coo's Nest" ward of a facility that makes Devil's Island

look like Club Med.

His self-imposed silence and simian behavior come to the attention of ambitious hot-shot psychiatrist Theo Caulder (Cuba Gooding Jr.), who in given thirty days to evaluate the case for the court. Well again, Gooding's Doctor Caulder seems just too close to Jody Foster's Agent Starling. And again, we caution that the similarity stops there.

"It's not the usual therapeutic environment," Caulder tells his mentor, Ben Hillard (Donald Sutherland). "Then don't be the usual therapist," he's advised.

Through flashbacks, Powell transpires Caulder and us back to Africa. There, amidst the lush, rolling greenery (actually filmed in Jamaica), we come to understand Powell's attraction to the quite-civilized family of gorillas. "I liked them. I even named them," he admits. Slowly at first, he eases into their world. "I lived as man did 10,000 years ago, before the takers."

The takers - that's us. And that pretty much boils "Instinct" down to its foundation. We're the guilty ones, don't you see. We've pillaged and plundered and mur-

dered to save our own species. As for the rest of the food chain: tough.

And when the psychiatrist gets too close to the patient, he's reprimanded, "you're not his defense attorney and you're not his pal."

Hopkins and Gooding have many powerful moments together. They seem to alternately feed off each other dramatically, like two mountain climbers who switch off taking the lead. Sutherland wears the role of yet another pipe-smoking figure of authority like a favorite pair of slippers; perhaps it's better not to get so comfortable that you lose your edge. Maury Tierney ("Primary Colors") is fine as the scientist's estranged daughter; familiar character actors George Dzundza and John Ashton are strong as, respectively, the prison psychiatrist and head guard.

Ultimately, "Instinct" breaks no new ground, and the balance of footage is tipped too far away from the fascinating jungle world in favor of repetitive prison scenes of brutal guards and defenseless inmates. We'll paraphrase Gooding's signature line: "Show us the gorillas!"

Jewish film fest set for June 10-16

A variety of speakers, including an Academy Award-winning filmmaker, a funeral director, producers and directors will give their perspectives on the films to be shown at the first Jewish Community Center's Lenore Marwill Jewish Film Festival, June 10-16.

For a brochure or tickets, call Nitzanna York at the Jewish Community Center (248) 661-7649.

The festival begins 2 p.m. Thursday, June 10 in the Aaron DeRoy Theatre of the Jewish Community Center. Funeral director David Teicher and Academy Award-winning filmmaker will speak following a free presentation of the film, "Generation to Generation: Jewish Families Talk About Death."