OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC

GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

Now Showing

National Amusements
Showcase Cinemas

Showcase Auburn Hills 1-14
2150 N. Opdyke Rd.
Between University & Walton Blvd
248-375-2600
Bargain Matinees Daily
All Shows Until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
Late Shows Fri. & Sat.
THRU THURSDAY

PLEASANTVILLE (PG13)
1:20, 4:00, 7:10, 9:50
THE MIGHTY (PG13)
1:30, 4:30
BELOVED (R)
1:05, 4:20, 7:40
PRACTICAL MAGIC (PG13)
1:00, 3:35, 5:30, 7:45, 7:45, 9:40, 10:10
ANTZ (PG)
1:15, 1:45, 3:05, 3:35, 5:00, 5:30, 7:00, 8:30
WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (PG13)
1:25, 4:35, 6:50, 9:20
URBAN LEGEND (R)
7:30, 9:35
RUSH HOUR (PG13)
1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:50, 10:05

VAMPIRES (R)
12:45, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:10
APT PUPIL (R)
1:40, 4:20, 7:35, 9:45
THE MIGHTY (PG13)
12:45 PM
SOLDIER (R)
1:00, 1:30, 3:10, 3:40, 5:10, 5:50, 7:30, 8:00, 9:40, 10:15
PLEASANTVILLE (PG13)
1:15, 4:00, 7:10, 9:50
BELOVED (R)
1:00, 4:30, 8:00
BRIDE OF CHUCKY (R)
1:20, 3:20, 3:50, 5:20, 5:50, 7:20, 7:50, 9:20, 9:50
PRACTICAL MAGIC (PG13)
12:50, 1:05, 3:30, 4:50, 5:10, 7:45, 9:30, 10:00
ANTZ (PG)
1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00
WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (PG13)
1:20, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10
RUSH HOUR (PG13)
12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:30, 8:00, 9:40, SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (R)
1:10, 3:40, 6:35, 9:00

Showcase Dearborn 1-8
Michigan & Telegraph
313-561-3449
Bargain Matinees Daily
All Shows until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
Late Shows Fri. & Sat.
THRU THURSDAY

VAMPIRES (R)
12:45, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
APT PUPIL (R)
12:45, 3:05, 5:25, 7:45, 10:05
SOLDIER (R)
1:00, 3:20, 5:20, 7:30, 9:30, 10:05
BELOVED (R)
1:30, 4:45, 8:00
BRIDE OF CHUCKY (R)
12:55, 2:55, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20
PRACTICAL MAGIC (PG13)
12:50, 3:05, 5:15, 7:20, 9:35
RUSH HOUR (PG13)
1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:30,
ANTZ (PG)
12:45, 2:40, 4:40, 6:30, 8:15

Showcase Pontiac 1-5
Telegraph Rd. Lake Rd. W Side of Telegraph
248-332-0241
Bargain Matinees Daily
+ All Shows Until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
Late Shows Thurs. Fri. & Sat.
THRU THURSDAY

PLEASANTVILLE (PG13)
1:10, 4:00, 7:00, 9:30
SOLDIER (R)
1:20, 3:25, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
PRACTICAL MAGIC (PG13)
1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:45
ANTZ (PG)
1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:10, 9:10
SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (R)
1:30, 4:10, 6:40, 9:20,

Showcase Pontiac 6-12
2465 Telegraph Rd. East side of Telegraph
248-334-0777
Bargain Matinees Daily
+ All Shows Until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
Late Shows Thurs. Fri. & Sat.
THRU THURSDAY

VAMPIRES (R)
12:50, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
APT PUPIL (R)
1:40, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50
GHOST OF DICKENS (G)
12:45, 2:50, 4:55, 7:00
THE MIGHTY (PG13)
12:55, 3:10
BELOVED (R)
1:05, 4:30, 8:00
BRIDE OF CHUCKY (R)
1:30, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 9:30, 10:05
RUSH HOUR (PG13)
1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:30, 9:40
URBAN LEGEND (R)
1:30, 7:45, 9:55

Quo Vadis
Warren & Wayne Rds
313-425-7700
Bargain Matinees Daily
All Shows Until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
LATE SHOWS FRIDAY & SATURDAY
THRU THURSDAY

VAMPIRES (R)
1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
GHOST OF DICKENS (G)
12:45, 2:50, 4:55, 7:00
APT PUPIL (R)
1:05, 3:20, 5:35, 7:50, 10:05
SOLDIER (R)
1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:35, 9:45,
BRIDE OF CHUCKY (R)
1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:35, 9:20
NIGHT AT THE ROXBURY (PG13)
1:35, 3:35, 5:35, 7:35, 9:35

Showcase Westland 1-8
6500 Wayne Rd.
One blk S. of Warren Rd.
313-729-1060
Bargain Matinees Daily
All Shows Until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
Late Shows Fri. & Sat.
THRU THURSDAY

PLEASANTVILLE (PG13)
1:20, 4:00, 7:10, 9:50
THE MIGHTY (PG13)
1:30, 4:30
BELOVED (R)
1:05, 4:20, 7:40
PRACTICAL MAGIC (PG13)
1:00, 3:35, 5:30, 7:45, 7:45, 9:40, 10:10
ANTZ (PG)
1:15, 1:45, 3:05, 3:35, 5:00, 5:30, 7:00, 8:30
WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (PG13)
1:25, 4:35, 6:50, 9:20
URBAN LEGEND (R)
7:30, 9:35
RUSH HOUR (PG13)
1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:50, 10:05

Star Theatres
The World's Best Theatres
Bargain Matinees Daily $4.00 All Shows Starting before 6:00 pm
Now accepting Visa & MasterCard
"NO" Discounts No Pass Engagement

Star John R
at 14 Mile
32233 John R. Road
248-585-2070
CALL FOR SATURDAY SHOWTIMES
No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm

NP PLEASANTVILLE (PG13)
11:10, 1:35, 5:10, 7:30, 10:40
NO VIP TICKETS
NP APT PUPIL (R)
11:32, 2:10, 4:42, 7:10, 9:50
NO VIP TICKETS
THE MIGHTY (PG13)
12:10, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 8:30, 9:40, 10:50
BELOVED (R)
11:00, 1:00, 2:30, 4:30, 6:00, 8:00, 9:30
PRACTICAL MAGIC (PG13)
11:40, 12:40, 2:00, 3:00, 4:20, 5:20, 6:40, 7:45, 9:00, 10:00
ONE TOUCH COP (R)
10:10 PM ONLY
ANTZ (PG)
11:20, 12:20, 1:20, 2:20, 3:20, 4:50, 5:50, 6:50, 8:10, 9:10
WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (PG13)
1:10, 3:40, 6:10, 8:50
RONIN (R)
12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 10:30
NO 7:30 MON. TUES., WED. & THURS. 10/12, 11/3, 11/4, 11/5
URBAN LEGEND (R)
1:40, 4:10, 6:20, 10:20
SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (R)
12:00, 3:30, 7:00
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (R)
12:50, 4:00, 6:35, 9:20
KIDS SEE $5 SPECIAL
KIDS 12 AND UNDER ARE FREE AND ADULTS ARE $1 FOR
AIRBUD (PG)
11:50, 3:10, 5:30

Star Rochester Hills
200 Barclay Circle
248-853-2250
SUNDAY THRU THURSDAY
No one under age 6 admitted for PG 13 & R rated films after 6 pm

NP JOHN CARPENTER'S VAMPIRES (R)
1:00, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:30
NO VIP TICKETS
NP PLEASANTVILLE (PG13)
11:00, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15
NO VIP TICKETS
NP SOLDIER (R)
11:40, 2:30, 5:15, 7:45, 10:00
NO VIP TICKETS
NP APT PUPIL (R)
10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:25, 9:00
NO VIP TICKETS
PRACTICAL MAGIC (PG13)
11:10, 1:45, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30
BELOVED (R)
12:15, 4:00, 8:00
BRIDE OF CHUCKY (R)
11:25, 2:15, 5:00, 7:15, 9:45
WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (PG13)
12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:15, 10:45
RUSH HOUR (PG13)
12:45, 3:15, 6:45, 9:15
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (R)
12:00, 2:45, 6:10, 8:45

Star Southfield
12 Mile between Telegraph and Northwestern off I-696
248-353-STAR
No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm
FOR SHOWTIMES AND TO PURCHASE TICKETS BY PHONE
CALL 248-372-2222
www.STAR-SOUTHFIELD.com

NP JOHN CARPENTER'S VAMPIRES (R)
11:00, 12:30, 1:30, 3:00, 4:00, 5:30, 6:20, 8:15, 9:00
NO VIP TICKETS
NP APT PUPIL (R)
10:40, 1:10, 4:00, 7:15, 10:00
NO VIP TICKETS
NP SOLDIER (R)
11:20, 12:15, 1:45, 2:45, 4:00, 5:00, 6:20, 7:35, 8:40, 9:40
NO VIP TICKETS
NP PLEASANTVILLE (PG13)
10:30, 12:00, 1:15, 3:10, 4:15, 6:10, 7:30, 9:30, 10:30
NO VIP TICKETS
BELOVED (R)
10:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30
NO VIP TICKETS
BRIDE OF CHUCKY (R)
11:00, 1:30, 3:45, 6:10, 7:00, 8:20, 9:15
THE MIGHTY (PG13)
10:40, 4:00, 7:15,
PRACTICAL MAGIC (PG13)
10:30, 12:00, 1:00, 2:30, 3:20, 6:25, 8:00, 10:30
NIGHT AT THE ROXBURY (PG13)
10:45, 12:45, 3:00, 5:20, 7:30, 9:45
WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (PG13)
11:10, 2:10, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30
ANTZ (PG)
10:40, 11:45, 12:45, 2:00, 3:00, 4:20, 5:00, 7:20
URBAN LEGEND (R)
3:35, 9:00, 10:50
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (R)
10:45, 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:10
RUSH HOUR (PG13)
12:20, 2:45, 5:45, 7:45, 8:30, 10:10
RONIN (R)
10:00 PM ONLY

FREE FAMILY FILM SPECTACULAR
AIRBUD 2: GOLDEN RECEIVER (PG)
12:15, 2:30, 4:45

Star Winchester
1136 S. Rochester Rd.
Winchester Mall
248-656-1160
No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm

ANTZ (PG)
11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00
A NIGHT AT THE ROXBURY (PG13)
12:30, 2:40, 4:40, 7:10, 9:10
ONE TOUCH COP (R)
9:00, 10:00
SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (R)
12:20, 3:40, 7:50
RONIN (R)
3:20, 8:20
HOLY MAN (PG)
11:40, 2:10, 4:20
HALLOWEEN H20 (R)
6:40, 9:20
THE MIGHTY (PG13)
11:10, 1:30, 4:10, 6:30, 8:50
URBAN LEGEND (R)
11:50, 2:30, 5:30, 7:50, 9:40
FREE KIDS SERIES
AIR BUD 2(G)
11:20, 1:20, 3:50

United Artists Theatres
Bargain Matinees Daily, for all shows starting before 6:00 PM
Same day advance tickets available.
NV - Not VIP tickets accepted

United Artists Fairlane
Fairlane Town Center
Valet Parking Available
313-591-4790

ALL TIMES FOR SUN-THURS
BARGAIN MATINEES DAILY FOR ALL SHOWS STARTING BEFORE 6 PM.
SAME DAY ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE

A NIGHT AT THE ROXBURY (PG13) NV
1:00, 3:00, 5:10, 7:10, 9:25
RUSH HOUR (PG13)
12:30, 1:30, 2:45, 3:45, 5:00, 7:00, 7:40, 9:15, 9:55
SIMON BIRCH (PG)
12:40, 3:15, 6:40, 9:20
RUDOLPH THE RED NOSE REINDEER (G)
12:50, 2:30, 4:50
HALLOWEEN H20 (R)
7:30, 9:45

United Artists Oakland
Inside Oakland Mall
248-988-0706
ALL TIMES SUN-THURS

A NIGHT AT THE ROXBURY (PG13)
1:00, 3:00, 5:10, 7:10, 9:25
RUSH HOUR (PG13) NV
12:30, 1:30, 2:45, 3:45, 5:00, 7:00, 7:40, 9:15, 9:55
SIMON BIRCH (PG)
12:40, 3:15, 6:40, 9:20
RUDOLPH THE RED NOSE REINDEER (G)
12:50, 2:30, 4:50
HALLOWEEN H20 (R)
7:30, 9:45

United Artists 12 Oaks
Inside Twelve Oaks Mall
248-349-4311
ALL TIMES SUN-THURS

THE MIGHTY (PG13) NV
12:15, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:30
APT PUPIL (R) NV
12:00, 2:35, 5:00, 7:20, 9:50
A NIGHT AT THE ROXBURY (PG13)
12:45, 2:45, 4:45, 7:45, 9:55
ANTZ (PG)
12:30, 2:30, 4:20, 7:15, 9:15
RUSH HOUR (PG13)
12:10, 2:15, 4:30, 7:30, 9:45

United Artists West River
9 Mile
2 Block West of Middlebelt
248-788-6572
ALL TIMES SUN-THURS

JOHN CARPENTER'S VAMPIRES (R) NV
12:45, 2:55, 5:20, 7:50, 10:10
PLEASANTVILLE (PG13) NV
1:20, 4:15, 7:15, 9:55
SOLDIER (R) NV
1:15, 3:25, 5:30, 7:40, 9:45
APT PUPIL (R) NV
12:35, 3:05, 5:35, 7:45, 10:05
PRACTICAL MAGIC (PG13) NV
1:25, 4:10, 7:00, 9:30
BELOVED (R) NV
1:00, 4:35, 8:00
BRIDE OF CHUCKY (R) NV
1:05, 3:15, 5:45, 7:50, 9:50
ANTZ (PG) NV
12:50, 2:45, 4:45, 7:05, 9:10
RUSH HOUR (PG13) NV
12:45, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:35

United Artists Commerce 16
3333 Springs Drive
Adjacent to Home Depot
North of the intersection of I-96 & Fix Happiness
248-960-5901
Bargain Matinees Daily for all Shows starting before 6 pm
Same Day Advance Tickets Available
NO NV or VIP Tickets Accepted

JOHN CARPENTER'S VAMPIRES (R) NV
11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
PLEASANTVILLE (PG13) NV
10:45, 1:10, 4:00, 7:00, 9:50
SOLDIER (R) NV
11:00, 1:50, 4:20, 7:20, 9:35
THE MIGHTY (PG13) NV
11:10, 1:25, 4:35, 7:10
APT PUPIL (R) NV
11:20, 2:00, 4:45, 7:35, 10:15
PRACTICAL MAGIC (PG13)
10:55, 12:00, 1:15, 2:30, 3:45, 4:55, 6:45, 7:40, 9:15, 10:10
BELOVED (R)
12:45, 4:15, 8:00
BRIDE OF CHUCKY (R) NV
11:35, 1:35, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30, 10:40
WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (PG13)
12:15, 2:45, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30
A NIGHT AT THE ROXBURY (PG13)
11:30, 1:40, 3:55, 6:05, 8:15, 10:35
ANTZ (PG)
10:45, 11:50, 12:50, 1:50, 2:55, 3:30, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30
RUSH HOUR (PG13)
12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 7:45, 10:25
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (R)
5:25, 8:05, 10:35
RONIN (R)
9:40 PM ONLY

Birmingham Theatre
211 S. Woodward
Downtown Birmingham
644 FILM
(248) 642-FILM
NP Denotes No Pass Engagements
PURCHASE TICKETS BY PHONE! CALL (248) 644-FILM AND HAVE YOUR VISA, MASTERCARD OR AMERICAN EXPRESS READY. A 75¢ SURCHARGE PER TRANSACTION WILL APPLY TO ALL TELEPHONE SALES

NP PLEASANTVILLE (PG13)
12:15, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:50
NP JOHN CARPENTER'S VAMPIRES (R)
12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:20
NP APT PUPIL (R)
1:00, 3:20, 5:25, 7:30, 9:40
NP THE MIGHTY (PG13)
2:05, 7:55
PRACTICAL MAGIC (PG13)
12:30, 2:20, 5:20, 7:40, 9:55
BELOVED (R)
12:00, 3:15, 6:30, 9:40
WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (PG13)
12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:20
ANTZ (PG)
12:00, 2:00, 4:15, 6:15, 10:00
RUSH HOUR (PG13)
12:15, 4:10, 6:20, 8:15, 10:05

MJR Theatres

$1.00 Ford Tel $1.50
313-561-7200
$1.00 TO 6 pm
After 6 pm $1.50
Ample Parking - Telford Center
Free Refill on Drinks & Popcorn
(SUN. No children under 6 after 6 pm except on G or PG rated films)

EVER AFTER (PG13)
SUN. 12:15, 2:30, 4:45
MON. - THURS. 4:45,
SMALL SOLDIERS (PG)
SUN. 12:15, 2:30, 4:45
MON.-THURS. 4:45
NEGOTIATOR (R)
7:10, 9:45
ARMAGEDDON (PG13)
7:00, 9:45

Waterford Cinema 11
7501 Highland Rd.
S.E. corner M-59 & Williams Lake Rd.
24 Hour Movie Line
248-666-7900
CALL 77 FILMS 45551
Stadium Seating and Digital Sound
Makes for the Best Movies

NP JOHN CARPENTER'S VAMPIRES (R)
1:20 (4:30 @ $3.25) 7:20, 9:50
NP PLEASANTVILLE (R)
1:30 (4:15 @ $3.50) 7:10, 9:45
SOLDIER (R)
1:15 (4:00 @ $3.25) 7:00, 9:40
APT PUPIL (R)
1:45 (4:20 @ $3.25) 7:30, 9:55
BRIDE OF CHUCKY (R)
2:00 (4:50 @ $3.50) 7:50, 10:00
PRACTICAL MAGIC (PG13)
1:10, (4:10 @ $3.50) 7:00, 9:30
BELOVED (R)
1:50 (4:30 @ $3.25) 8:00
ANTZ (PG)
1:00, 3:00 (3:15 @ $3.50) 7:15, 9:15
A NIGHT AT THE ROXBURY (PG13)
1:10, 3:15, (3:15, @ $3.50) 7:45, 10:00
WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (PG13)
1:50 (4:40 @ $3.50) 7:20, 9:45
RUSH HOUR (PG13)
1:45 (5:00 @ $3.50) 7:35, 9:15

Visa & Mastercard Accepted

Terrace Cinema
30420 Plymouth Rd
313-261-3330

All Shows $1.50 except shows after 6 pm on Friday & Saturday & 75¢ at 1st show
Tuesday
Box Office opens at 4:00 pm
Monday - Friday only
Call Theatre for Features and Times
NO Passes Accepted

Main Art Theatre
18 Mile, just W. of Woodward
Royal Oak
248-542-0180
call 77-FILMS ext 542
Phone Orders 2 pm - 10 pm call
(248) 542-5199

(DISCOUNTED SHOWS)
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE BOX OFFICE OR PHONE 248-542-0180
VISA AND MASTERCARD ACCEPTED

TOUCH OF EVIL (PG13)
(2:00, 4:30) 7:00, 9:35
PECKER (R)
(2:30, 5:30) 7:30, 9:55
PERMANENT MIDNIGHT (R)
(2:15, 4:30) 7:15, 9:45

Maple Art Theatre II
4355 W. Maple West of Telegraph
Bloomfield Hills
248-855-9090
(DISCOUNTED SHOWS)

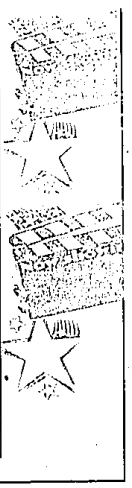
SOLDIER'S DAUGHTER NEVER CRIES (R)
(2:00, 4:35) 7:00, 9:35
FIREFLIGHT (R)
(2:30) 5:00, 7:30, 9:45
THE IMPOSTERS (R)
(2:15, 4:45) 7:15, 9:55

Oxford 3 Cinemas, I.I.C.
Downtown Oxford
Lessor Rd. (M-24)
(248) 628-7100
Fax (248) 628-3300
Detroit's Lowest Priced Theatres
and Only Two Dollar Theatre
$3.00 4 6 pm

FRACTICAL MAGIC (PG)
SUN. 1:00, 3:00, 7:00, 9:00 (9:20)
MON-THURS 1:00, 3:00, 7:00, 9:00,
ANTZ (PG)
SUN. 1:10, 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10, 10:45
MON-THURS. 1:10, 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10,
RUSH HOUR (PG13)
SUN. 12:45, 2:45, 4:45, 7:20, 9:15, 11:05
MON-THURS. 12:45, 2:45, 4:45, 7:20, 9:15
BARNEY (G)
11:00 AM SUNDAY ONLY

AMC Lincoln 20
Haggerty & 7 Mile
734-542-9929

Call theatre for Features and Times



BOOKS

'Woman's novel' incomplete but displays excellent writing

Pears on a Willow Tree
By Leslie Pietrzyk
(Avon, $20)

VICTORIA DIAZ

Set mostly in Detroit, this fictional tale of Polish-American life is told from the viewpoints of four of the "Marchwka women." It begins in 1919, with Rose, shortly after she has left Poland to seek a new life in the promised land of America. We first meet Rose through her letters home to her beloved Matka, letters that reveal a young woman who is as tradition-bound as she is excited about the *future, as fearful as she is brave,* and both happy and sad about the imminent arrival of her first-born.

"My body doesn't want to let go of this baby," she laments (much lamenting – especially female lamenting – takes place in this novel), "... again and again this child will find new ways to leave me. There's no end to leaving ... already I know this."

Jump ahead to the following chapter (there is also much jumping around in this novel), and we are introduced to Rose's daughter, Helen, now grown and expecting her own baby. Though Helen strays far from her mother's side (never actually strays out of Detroit), her daughter, Ginger, will prove to be another story. On high school graduation, she is out of Detroit, hurrying to find a new life in sunny Arizona, a place that's as different from her birthplace ("always that same gray sky") as she can imagine. Not too long after, Ginger's inner demons will begin to cast another kind of pall over her life in the desert, however.

Through an adventurous spirit that is at the same time marked by an abiding love of tradition and family, Ginger's daughter, Amy, eventually brings the story full circle.

Does this book work? Yes, and no.

If I have ever encountered a book that deserved to be labeled "women's fiction," this is it. Very few men even make appearances in these chapters and, if they do, they come off as flat or murkily portrayed. On most occasions when the author introduces a male character who promises to *be of some interest,* he's allowed to glimmer only briefly before being extinguished forever, and any reader who may want to meet him again is simply out of luck. The upshot of all this is that the novel appears not only curiously incomplete but implausible to an extent.

Since many of these characters, with slight alterations, originally appeared as short fiction, each of the chapters in the novel reads something like a complete short story in itself. On the surface, this may seem a fine idea, since it allows us to see things from the viewpoints of each of the four women. But does a group of thematically linked short stories equal a successful novel? Anything is possible, I suppose. But "Pears on a Willow Tree" seems more as if it is merely posing as a novel. The words and pages are here, events occur and accumulate, a rather large cast of characters appears, but, ultimately, much remains under developed, leaving a certain thinness to characters and plot that may bother some readers.

Still, "Pears on a Willow Tree" most definitely succeeds in a number of ways. Pietrzyk's highly readable style simply dances across these pages at times, and her way with lush, sensory detail makes each of these story-chapters a little jewel unto itself. Detroit-area readers will find this especially palatable, as she goes through the years and points this story's main, familiar backdrop – from Luna Pier to an overcrowded public pool on a humid, summer afternoon to a Polish kitchen redolent of "bacon in the morning, fried bologna at lunch and sauerkraut or kielbasa at supper" to a Polish wedding reception complete with hokey-pokey bedlam to a fine scene in the fine china department at Hudson's downtown...

Dialogue rings astonishingly true with every single character who speaks a line and touches of glittery wit bring comic relief, just when it's most needed. Finally, and maybe most importantly, Pietrzyk's sensitive insights concerning the complex, often explosive nature of relationships between mothers and daughters provides profound dimension.

Victoria Diaz is a Livonia free lance writer who specializes in book and theater reviews. You can reach her by voice mail at 953-2045, then press 185-1.

BOOK HAPPENINGS

Book Happenings features various happenings at suburban bookstores. Send news leads to Hugh Gallagher, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers Inc., 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, or fax them to (313)591-7279, or e-mail him at hgallagher@oe.homecomm.net

BORDERS (ROCHESTER HILLS)
Billy Squier launches his first album in five years, "Happy Blue," 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3; Janice Connell discusses and signs her book "Prayer Power," 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3, at the store 1122 S. Rochester Road, Rochester Hills. (248)652-0558.

PAPERBACKS & THINGS
12th Annual Book Lovers Day features several local authors signing their books, 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7, at the store, Oak Plaza on Wayne Road, Westland. (734)522-8018.

COOPERSMITH (LIVONIA)
Barbara Barris discusses and signs her book "Callie & Zora," 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7, at the store, Laurel Park, Six Mile and Newburgh, Livonia.

BARNES & NOBLE (BLOOMFIELD HILLS)
Red Wings legend Alex Delvecchio appears to promote the new book "Total Hockey: The Official Encyclopedia of the National Hockey League," 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6, at the store 6575 Telegraph Road, Bloomfield Hills.

SHAMAN DRUM (ANN ARBOR)
Matthew Flickstein reads from "Journey to the Center: A Meditation Workbook," 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 1; Dany LeFerriere signs his books "How to Make Love to a Negro," "Eroshima" and "An Aroma of Coffee," 5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 2; Joseph Natoli reads from "Speeding to the Millennium: Film and Culture, 1993-1995," 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3; Iris Chang reads from her "The Rape of Nanking: The Forgotten Holocaust of World War II," 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4; Saline MacCormack signs "The Shadows of Poetry: Vergil in the Mind of Augustine," 4 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5; Kathe Koja signs her new book "Extremities," 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6 at the store, 313 South State Street, Ann Arbor (734)662-7407.

WALDENBOOKS (SOUTHGATE)
Robert Jordan signs his book "Path of Daggers," 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6, at the store, 13667 Eureka Road, Southgate.

BOOK LECTURE
Author the Rev. Joseph Girzone will lecture on "A Modern Portrait of Jesus," 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6, at Clarenceville High School, Middlebelt south of Eight Mile in Livonia. Tickets are $10 and available at the door.

Audition for wedding party, or put your car in pictures

If you want to get into show biz, here are a couple of opportunities.

The producers of "Tony N' Tina's Wedding," a smash hit interactive comedy that has played Off-Broadway for over a decade, are searching for people who are great on their feet, but not necessarily dancers.

Auditions for roles and parts in "Tony N' Tina's Wedding," opening in Pontiac, Dec. 3, will be held between 4-10 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, Nov. 10-11 at Baci Abbracci, 40 W. Pike Street, downtown Pontiac. Callbacks are scheduled Thursday, Nov. 12.

The long-running comedy is ideal for thespians, comedians, and general hams. Also encouraged to audition are those with improvisational skills. Persons familiar with Italian culture will have an edge.

Appointments for tryouts are required. No walk-ins will be accepted. All candidates should come with a resume, and head shot if available. Equity and non-equity members will be accommodated.

For more information on the cast call, or to schedule an appointment, call (248) 745-8668.

"Tony N' Tina's Wedding" will also be staged at Baci Abbracci, 40 W. Pike St., Pontiac. Tickets for Thursday and Sunday performances are $50. Friday-Saturday performances are $44. The curtain rises 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, with additional shows 2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, and 7:30 p.m. Sunday.

Tickets are available at 8 W. Lawrence St., or by calling (248) 745-8668. Tickets can also be purchased at all Ticketmaster outlets, (248) 645-6666.

VINTAGE CARS SOUGHT
Motion Picture director Barry Levinson is seeking more vintage vehicles for his current Hollywood film.

If you are the owner of a 1935 to 1956 vehicle, and your vehicle is in good condition, inside and out, plus in good running condition, your car can be in the movies, and you'll get paid for it.

You must provide non-returnable photos of your car along with your name, address, day evening telephone numbers.

Filming has begun in Baltimore, Maryland, and the producers need more cars.

If you're interested, send your photos, along with your name, address and phone numbers to Mr. Dave Ross c/o WYUR-1310 Radio, 860 W. Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

Southfield Symphony begins new season

The Southfield Symphony will begin their 46th season with a performance of the Brahms Requiem 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 1, at Highland Park Baptist Church in Southfield. The church is at 28600 Lahser Road, just south of 12 Mile Road.

Tickets for the Brahms Requiem performance will be available the door. Tickets are $12 adults, and $9 children, students under 18, and seniors. For more information on the Symphony, call (248) 540-6688.

Performing with the orchestra will be three special guests: Southfield's Highland Park Baptist Church chorus, under the direction of Gary W. Matthews; Soprano Gail Mitchell, Director of Music at U of D Mercy; and Baritone Keith Brautigam, Vocal Professor at Baldwin-Wallace College Conservatory of Music in Ohio.

The Southfield Symphony is conducted by Valery Leonov, who is in his eighth season as conductor and music director.