

MOVIES

'Enemy of the State' is thrilling and scary

BY JON KATZ
 SPECIAL WRITER
 DeMille, Hitchcock, Capra. When you want to see a movie with one of their names above the title, you know what to expect. Several filmmakers today offer that consistency of style, including Woody Allen, Martin Scorsese and Jerry Bruckheimer and Tony Scott.

Who were those last two, you say? Think "Top Gun," "Crimson Tide" and "Beverly Hills Cop II." Bruckheimer co-produced and Scott directed them all. With their latest collaboration, "Enemy of the State," you know what to expect, and you get it. "Enemy" is not just the latest Will Smith vehicle; it's a two-hour chase scene. Take a very

deep breath when you sit down; you may not take another until you get up. Smith — who continues to find new ways to lead the most-liked list of the movie-going public — plays Robert Clayton Dean, a Washington D.C. attorney on his way up, with a loving wife and son. During a chance meeting with an old college buddy, the man slips a Game Boy-type cartridge into his shopping bag. On it is incriminating evidence linking a corrupt National Security Agency official (Jon Voight) to the murder of a congressman (Jason Robards, in an uncredited appearance).

To get the tape, the NSA proceeds to unravel Dean's life. They use ultra-sophisticated surveillance equipment from tiny "tracers" planted in his clothes to a spy satellite 165 miles overhead to find him, access his financial and phone records and leak misinformation that gets him fired and thrown out of his house. In order to extricate himself, he must find and team up with a mysterious operative named Brill (Gene Hackman), whom he has dealt with before to gather case evidence, but only through a go-between (Lisa Bonet, eldest daughter from "The Cosby Show").

"I want credibility. I want people to know he's lying before he says it," orders Voight to his willing crew of computer geeks and former Marine toughs. "I want,

he says, "to get into his life." Now comes the part that makes "Enemy of the State" not only a tense thriller, but also one of the scariest movies in memory.

It has no monsters, no aliens, no wackos in goggle masks. The scary part is that all this is real. There really is an NSA, nicknamed "No Such Agency" because of its super-secret status. And these boys can do anything. They can break any lock, manipulate the media, hear your every conversation (no pun intended, but 1974's "The Conversation," with a similar theme, is still one of Hackman's best big-screen performances). With over 100 spy satellites that can even, as Hackman tells Smith, "read the time off your wrist-watch." And with every order that Voight gives him, people reply "It's already done."

So Smith goes on the run. We know so because the geeks use high-tech phrases like "He's a rabbit." There are chases through hotels, tunnels, train yards and Baltimore's abandoned Dr. Pepper warehouse. Director Scott employs what could be an all-time record for "cuts" in a major motion picture to establish the tension and never let up. The shots come at you in MTV rapid-fire fashion, but here, at least, they do so with intelligence and pace.

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OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC
 GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

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Corner M-59 & Williams Lake Rd. 248-666-7900 24 Hours Movie Line (248) 666-7900 CALL 77 FILMS 1551 Stadium Seating and Digital Sound Makes for the Best Movie Experience in Oakland County</p> <p>\$1.25 (CASH) SHOWS DAILY</p> <p>NP THE RUGRATS MOVIE (G) NP THE ENEMY OF THE STATE (R) NP I STILL KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER (R) NP MEET JOE BLACK (PG-13) NP MEET JOE BLACK (PG-13) THE WILZARD OF OZ (G) PLEASANTVILLE (PG-13) ANTZ (PG) LYVING OUT LOUD (R)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>Yon & Mastercard Accepted</p> <p>Terrace Cinema 30400 Plymouth Rd. 313-261-3330</p> <p>All shows 11 except shows after 6 pm. All shows 11.50 7:00 pm Tuesday Would you like to see the movie? Then become a "FREQUENT VIEWER!" Come in and find out how! 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NO. 100 SEAT REVENUE \$100-45 PM</p> <p>WATERBOY (PG-13) RUGRATS (G) MEET JOE BLACK (PG-13)</p> <p>CALL THEATRE FOR FEATURES AND TIMES</p> <p>ABC Lincoln 20 Haggerty & 7 Mile 734-542-9999</p> <p>CALL THEATRE FOR FEATURES AND TIMES</p>	<p>Unlikely hero: Flick, an original thinker out of step with the rest of the more traditionally-minded bugs on Ant Island, unwittingly triggers a major confrontation with a gang of greedy grasshoppers led by the menacing Hopper in "A Bug's Life."</p> <p>Just opened on Wednesday, Nov. 25</p> <p>"HOME FRIES" An offbeat comedy about two brothers obsessed with the same woman, one wants to marry her, the other to kill her. The two's lives intertwine in unexpected ways that are orchestrated by the brothers' highly eccentric mother. Stars Drew Barrymore, Catherine O'Hara.</p> <p>"A BUG'S LIFE" Computer-animated comedy centering around a misfit ant as he tries to save his colony from a greedy gang of grasshoppers.</p> <p>"VERY BAD THINGS" Savage comedy about five men who turn on each other after a bachelor party goes horribly wrong. Stars Christian Slater, Cameron Diaz.</p> <p>"BABE: PIG IN THE CITY" The sequel to the 1995 hit as Babe travels to an overseas state fair to demonstrate his sheepherding abilities.</p> <p>"JERRY SPRINGMASTER: RINGMASTER" Comedy about a woman who suspects foul play between her husband and daughter, and their venture onto a famous TV talk show. Stars Jerry Springer.</p> <p>Scheduled to open Friday, Dec. 4</p> <p>"PSYCHO" A scene-by-scene remake of the 1960 Alfred Hitchcock classic. Stars Vince Vaughn, Anne Heche.</p> <p>Scheduled to open Friday, Dec. 11</p> <p>"JACK FROST" Fantasy adventure about a man who becomes a real father after returning to life as a cooler guy than he ever imagined possible — below freezing to be precise. Stars Michael Keaton, Kelly Preston.</p> <p>"MAKING RED DEVINE" A comedy fable about the true meaning of fortune. Someone in a small Irish town wins a lottery and the towns people want to share.</p> <p>"HARD CORE LORE" Exclusively at the Landmark Main Art Theatre. The story of four characters who struggle to reconcile their mythic punk rock past with the hangover realities of the present. A tale of lost dreams, the lure of the open road and memories of youth that fade in the rearview mirror.</p> <p>Scheduled to open Friday, Dec. 18</p> <p>"THE LAST EMPEROR" Bernardo Bertolucci's director's cut of the Academy Award-winning drama based on the life of Pu Yi, the child who was the last emperor of China.</p> <p>"YOU'RE GOT MAIL" A romantic comedy about two book store owners, rivals who accidentally fall in love in cyberspace with Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan.</p>
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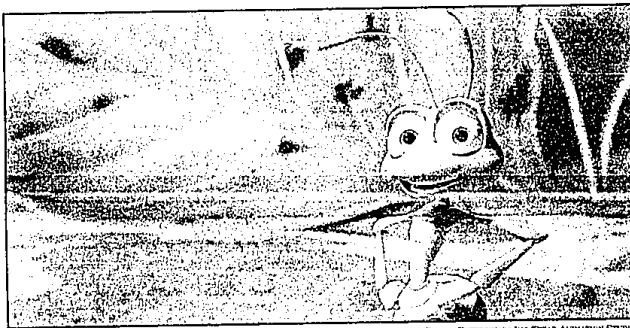
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COMING ATTRACTIONS



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scene the demon tries to transfer itself into the theologian, where the evil spirit moves through a of people like a game of tag as she tries to flee. About midway the film starts to breakdown. The plot becomes predictable as Hobbes becomes a suspect in the homicides and the threats from the demon hit closer to home. The only thing unexpected that happens in the rest of the film is how Hobbes decides to fight the demon. I won't reveal the ending but it's frankly one of the stupidest plans ever conceived and one that already had been tried unsuccessfully by someone else. I had already thought of a variation of the plan that actually would have had more potential for working and I'm sure most other viewers could do the same.

Police Detective John Hobbes pays a visit to a death row convict he apprehended for a series of murders in the opening of "Fallen," 1998 supernatural thriller. It's not the first time Hobbes, played by Denzel Washington, has witnessed an execution. This time is different — the killer singing the Rolling Stones' "Time Is on My Side" and speaks in an ancient language. The killer also gives Hobbes a riddle that eventually leads the detective, who is investigating copycat murders, to the death 30 years earlier of a decorated police officer. The cases are further complicated as Hobbes figures out that the common denominator is a demon — a fallen angel without corporal form

BY LEANNE ROGERS
 STAFF WRITER

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