Hearty laughs keep 'Mona' from 'Drowning' in absurd comedy

stars as Mona Dearly (left), Danny DeVito as Chief Rash, and Casey Affleck as Bobby Cal-zone in "Drowning Mona.



ň

0 8 S E B V E B

Newres

NEHTH GATE (R) DROWNING MONA (PGT3) THE WHOLE HINE YARDS (3) SNOV DAY (PG) THE TIGGER MOVIE (C) National Amusements Showcase Cinemas

ALL FOR COMPLETE ESTIMAT AND TIME

243-373-2660 Expen Matiens Dely, Al Shows until 6 pm Continuous Stems Dely Late Shows Wild Thurs, In Sat, RP DENOTES HO PASS Shortsase Westland 1-8 6900 Winne Rd, One bib 3-50 Winne Rd, 313-729-1060 Bargan Matines Daly All Shorts Utal 6 pm Continuous Shorts Daly Lee Shorts Wind Hara, In it Set, the protecting was also

NO DENOTES NO PASS NP WHATEVER IT TAXES

RP DERIOTS NO PASS

4P VERMITVER IT TALES

COCCUS DE CE

PER COCCUS DE CE

PER REAL DETRIVATION (R)

1P SEM EDITANTION (R)

1P SEM EDITANTI (R)

THESE STERRES (R)

1P SEM EDITANTI (R)

1P SEM EDITANTI (R)

1P SEM EDITANTI (R)

THE MYRICE NEXT VARDOS (R)

1P SEM EDITANTI (R) NP WHATEVER IT TAKES
(PG13)

NP ERRIC EROCKOVICH (R)

RP ARREICAN EEAUTY (R)

MISSION TO MARS (R)

THE HEXT BEST THIRIG (PG13)

NP MY DOG SKIP (PG) NP MY DOG SKIP (PG) THE CIDEN HOUSE NULES (PG13) PITCH BLACK (II) WORDER BOYS (II)

CASE FOR COMPLETE USTINGS AND TIMES CALL FOR COMPUTE INTRACT AND TIMES

Star Theatres

Showers Devilors 1-8
Michigan is Telegraph
313-561-3459
Engan Marken Ouly
ACP one occide par
Customer Work Duly
*Less Shows file & Sur. The World's East Thesian English Materia Daly 15:00 All Sowe Stating before 6:00 pm Now Stating before 6:00 pm Now Stating before 6:00 pm Now Stating before 7:00 Department Size Great Lakes Crossing

HP DENOTES NO PASS 248-454-0365

HP WHATEVER IT TAKES HP HERE ON EARATH (PG13)
HP WHATEYER IT TAKES
(PG13)
HP SUCH A LONG JOURNEY (PG13) ; NP ROMEO MUST DE (R) NO EMAL DESTINATION (IL NO FRIAL DESTINATION (IL NO EMAL DESTINATION (IL NOSSION TO MARS (IL)

MP SUCH À LONG JOURNEY
(A)

MP EDER ERROCKOVICH (B)

MP ROMED MUST DEC (B)

MP ROYS DON'T CRY (B)

MP BOYS DON'T CRY (B)

MP BOYS DON'T CRY (B)

MP SECOND THE MAT (B)

MESSEND TO MASS (PC)

MESSEND TO MESSEND TO MASS (PC)

MESSEND TO MESSEND

MESSEN HINTH GATE (R) MY DOG SREP (PG) THREE STRIKES (B) SNOW DAY (PG) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIME

Showcase Pontlac 1.5 degraph Sq. Lake Rd. W Side o Telegraph 810-312-0241 Burgain Matiners Daily • All Shows Until 6 pm Continuous Shows Duity * N**ep demotes no** Pass

PROBLEM FLARE FOR PROBLEM (P)

NY DOG SEEP (PG)

3 TERES (R)
PROBLEM CAMES (R)
PROBLEM CAMES (R)
PROBLEM CAMES (R)
PROBLEM CAMES (R)
SHOW DAY (PG) INP WHATEVER IT TAXES (PC13)
HP EISH BROCKOVICH (E)
AMERICAN BEAUTY (E)
HP RESSON TO MARS (L) SHOW DAY (PC)
THE TIGGER MOVE (G)
AMERICAN SEAUTY (Z)
THE CIDER HOUSE RULES (T)

Showcase Positine 6-12 2405 Telegraph Rd. East side of Telegraph 819-334-4777 Regain Mathews Unity • All Provi Unit 8 pm. Continuous Shows Delay Law Young Feb Mr.

Late Stone Fit. It Set.

HP BOMEO MEST ME (B)
HP BEYOND THE MAY (B)
HP BEYOND THE MAY (B)
HB WHOLE MARE TABLE (B)
HB OOG SEEP (PC)
THE CEDER HOUSE BALES
(PC) 17 (PG13) WONDER ROYS (R)

CALL BOT COMPANY INTRACT WAS ARREST

One Yarlis
Warren is Wayne lists
313-425-7740
Burgain Matiness Delily
Aff Shows Until 6 pin
Commons Shows Delily
Late Shows Wed Thans. Fil. in Sat.

(PCIS)
THE CHARM BELL (II)
HOTHER AND (II)
HOW BUT (PC)
HOME BUT (PC)



CONTROL CONTROL LEGISLES AND THESE

NO BOOMED MINIST DIE (B)
INF EMIN SMOCKLOWICK (B)
INF MICHON THE MINI (B)
INFORMATION TO MAKE (PG)
THE MONTH CHICA (PC-12)
THE MEAT MEST THRUC (PC-13)
THE MONTH CHICA MAKE (M)

AMERICAN MANTY (II) The Cideo Money Males

Star Rochester Hills 200 Barcley Circle 853-2260 No one under age 6 admitted for PGI for it noted fains after 6 pm

KP WHATEVER IT TAKES

NO WANTERE IT TAKE

(PC13)

PO HES ON EARTH (PC13)

HE HEST TRINKS (PC13)

HE HEST EAST TRINKS (PC13)

HE HEST EAST TRINKS (PC13)

HE HEST EAST EAST (PC13)

MEDICAL EAST (PC13)

CALL FOR COMPLETE DISTINGS AND TIME!

Star Southfield 12 Mile between Telegraph and Northwestern, Off 1696 248 353-5TAR No one under age 6 admitted for PCTS & Reated Dates after 6 pm

KP ROMEO MUST DIE (R) NP ROMEO MUST DEZ (8)
NP RESE ON CAUTH (PC 13)
NPAINTER'S AT TAMES (PC 13)
NP RESE MEDICONOVICE MAT (8)
NP RESENDATION (PC 13)
NP ROMEO MONA (PC 13

MATERIA IT TAKES (PC13) NY
MESE ON LEATH (PC13) NY
MESE ON LEATH (PC13) NY
MESE ONE DAMEN (PC13) NY
MESE ONE DAMEN (PC13) NY
MESE ONE DAMES (PC)
THE NEXT SERVICE (PC)
THE NOCES MESE (PC)
THE TRICES MOVIE (C)
MESE COLOR (PC)
MESE COLOR (PC

AMERICAN BEAUTY (R) CIDER HOUSE RULES (PG13)

Star Windhester 1136 S. Rocheste Rd, Winchester Atal 248-656-1160 Ho one under age 6 atmitted for RC 6 B trated lilms after 6 pm

CLOSED THANKS FOR ALL YOUR PATBONAGE

Linited Artists Theatres Bargin Matiness Dally, for all show starting before 400 PM Same day advance lickets available NV - No YLP, lickets accepted

WEATEVER IT TALES (PG13) MEM ON EARTH (PC13) MONNER CAMES (II) MONNER BOYS (III) MY BOYS DON'T CITY (II)

CALAN CONTRACTOR OF THE 7.16.

Maked Artists 12 Oaks Inside Funder Colo Mail 246-349-4311

WITHOUT OF O

ME WEST AND

ROMEO MUST DIE (R)
EEIN BROCKOVICH (R) RV
FEHAL DESTINATION (R) RV
MISSION TO MARS (PC)
MY DOO SUSP (PC) RV
THE REXT BEST THING (R) RV
THERES STRIES (R) RV
SCREAM 3 (PC)
REINDEER GAMES (R) RV HITH THE NEW DOLLEY DX.(THE EX SOUND STSTEM AND MORE... CHECK US OUT!! OUR EMPANDED PARCHOC LOT IS NOW OPEN HERE HEFLE DX.P PORCORN AND POP HERE HEFLE DX.P PORCORN AND POP

CALLEGE CONSELECTION OF SAND LINES

Valted Artists Commercs
Township 14
Located Adjacent to Home Depot
just Risult of the interaction of 14
ALE is Happeny Rd.
248-966-3801
ALI Salten Seiting
High East Locking Charlestin
Two Day Abance Texture

WHATEVER IT TAXES (PG13)

CALLACT CONSTITUTION CONTROL

Birmingham Theatre 211 S. Woodward

Downtown Birmingham 248-644-3456 W Denotes No Pass Engageme

Order Movie tickets by phone! Call 644-1456 and have your VISA or Master Card ready! (A 51's surcharge per transaction will apply to all talephone sales)

NP EBIN BROCKOVICH (T)
NP WHATEVER IT TAKES (B)
NP FINAL DESTINATION (E)
BROUNE BOOM (E)
BROSHON ITS MARES (PG)
CIDENHOUSE MARES (PG)
THE WHOLE NIME YARDS (E)
THE TIGGER MOVER (G)

CALL POR COMPUTE DEFINES AND THAT

NUM THEATRES Brighton - Chemos 9 196 Ed. Cored Beer 810-277-4700 Call 77-47tm Ext. 548

APP WINAST PARTS

(PG 27)

(PG 27)

(PG 28)

(PG

ME INI SION SION 4/2 12 & CHIDER FREE

ADULTS \$1.40 DUDLEY DO MICHT

ECCBSTRIC

NP HERE ON EARTH (PG13)
NP WHATEVER IT TAXES
(PG13)
NP ROMEG MUST DIE (R)

NP ROMES MIST DE (8) NP ERM BROKENER IN MEETING MET MALE (PC) MISSION TO MALE (PC) THE NAME (ATE (8) DROWNER KNOKA (PC13) MY DOG STAP (PC) REMOBER CAMES (8) AMERICAN BEAUTY (8) THE WHIGH MIRE YARDS (4) THE THICKER MOVIE (C) SNOW DAY (PC). THE CREEN MILE (8)

FREE KIOS SHOW SAT. & SUN. DUDLEY DO RIGHT

CALL FOR COMPLETE USTNCS AND TIME

(PG13) WAKING THE DEAD (II)

Haple Art Cinema III 4135 W. Maple, West of Telegraph Boomfield Hills 248-855-9090 DISCOUNTED SHOWS!!

Downtown Oxford
Laper M. (A-24)
(ANS 628-7100
Fits: (2487-628-1300
DETIONS LOWEST HIST HUN HICCES
INCLIONIC TWILEGAT MICHIG \$3.00
4-5 7M.
NOW OPEN

COLUMN TO REPORT AND THE

\$1.00 Facel Tail \$1.50 \$1.3.561-7200 \$1.50 M6 pm After 6 pm. \$1.50 Ample Parking - Tellord Center free Edit on Drink & Popcom Manus Call Theather for Shore/Lines

BY BOB THOMAS ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BY BOB THOMAS
ASSOCIATE PEARS WHITER

Early in "Drowning Mona,"
Betto Midder commanders he son's battered yellow Yugo and barrels down a country read. As she approaches a turn at the top of n cliff, she discovers to her horror that the brakes have been disconnected. She crashes through a fonce and flies through the air, landing in the Hudson River and a damp grave. What's this? The Divine Miss Mrelegated to a bit part? No, she returns in flashbacks that illustrate that her character, Mona Dearly, is the opposite of divine. She is a supervitch who spreads misery to all around her. "Drowning Mona" takes place in the New York hamlet of Verlanck, where all the inhabitants seem to have 10% in the lower rouble digits, Most of them drive rattletrap Yugos, remnants of a long-ago promotion by the car

A PARTY DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF THE P

company.
Only police chief Wyatt Rash
(Danny DeVito) seems to be a bit
higher on the intelligence scale.
He quickly deduces that at least
half-dozen people might have
been motivated to disable the
yellow Yugo and assure Mona's
demise.

yellow Yugo and assure Mona's set the Memiss.

The suspects include: Mona's this husband Phil (William Fichtner) and son Jeff (Marcus Thomas), sottom have endured years of her calumny; the trampy diner wait-ress Rona (Jamie Lee Curtis), who is having a hot affair with Fhil and would like to see Mona out of the picture; Jeff's partner in a landscape firm. Bobby Calzone (Casey Affleck), who has been cheated and persecuted by Mona.

Even the chief's daughter, Bobby's finnece Ellen (Neve Campbell), might have a motive for offing Mona.

Fashioning a murder face

with dull-witted characters in absurd situations requires skill, and writer Peter Steinfeld and director Nick Gomoz come through remarkably well. Some dry patches remain, but there are enough hearty laughs to off-set them.

set them.
The ensemble actors give it their all, and that's as it should be in an absurdist comedy of this sort. Bette Midler has never been nastier, and Jamie Lee Curtis and Neve Campbell play their havinger roles with straight. brainless roles with straight faces. Casey Affleck as the pic-ture of innocence is a real find; he could give Leo a run for his

Danny DeVito, whose company coproduced the film, provides some much-needed sanity amid

all the nut cases.

The Destination Films release was produced by Al Corley, Bart Rosenblatt and Jonathan Weis-

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Scheduled to open Friday, March 31

HIGH FIDELITY

HIGH FIDELITY
An adaptation of Nick Hornby's best-seller, the film features John Cusack as a thirty-something owner of a second-hand vinyl shop who's forced to confront his arrested addlescence when his long-

THE SKULLS

and Hill Herber, Rob Cohen directs this film about an over-achieving student at an lvy League college who joins a secret society colled The Skulls with hopes to

THE CLOSER YOU GET

At the State Theatre in Ann Arbor. The single men of a small village in Iroland hatch a scheme to entice American women to the annual village dance. The

object matrimony, but the women of the village might have a surprise or two for the men tolk. A charming remarkle com-edy starring lan Hart, Seen McGinley, and Ruth McCabe.

Scheduled to open Friday, April 7

Comedy about two wrestling fans willing to do whatever it takes to restore their fallen idol to the WCW champlonship. Sters David Arquette and Oliver Platt.

'High Fidelity' re-mixes pop music, love



Visa & Mestercard Accepted

Main Art Theatre III Main - 11 Mile Royal Oak (248) 542-0180

GHOST DOG (R)
THE CIDER HOUSE RULES

CHLI FOR COMPLETE LESTINGS AND TIMES Children Under 6 Not Admitted

TUMBLEWEEDS (PG13) BOYS DON'T CRY (B) TOPSY TURYY (B)

Oxford 3 Cinemes, LL.C. Downtown Oxford

AMC Limeia 28 Haggerly & 7 Mile 734-542-9909

THE SEATH SENSE (PG13) STUART LETTLE (PC) THE BEACH (II)

Willy. CALL FOR COMPLETE LIETURGS AND TIMES 1 166 Winterferd Geens 16 7501 Highland Rd. S.E. comer 14-59 & Williams Lake VIII If there's one place in the world I feel most at home, it's a record store.

Growing up I was constantly accused of accused of spending too

much money on cassettes. I remember rush-ing from school

A. CASOLA

A. Cassettes. I remember rushing from school to the record store to buy a tape
the day it came out and knowing
the songs word-for-word by
lunchtime the next day. There's
just something so personal about
shopping for music – perusing
the alphabetized rows, scanning
for that record you always wantd. Shoppers are all in search of
a quick pop-music fix.
in any case, record stores full
into roughly two categories these
days. You have your polished,
ultra-modern houses of music,
filled with neat rows of CD bins,
flashy lighting and life-size
posters. You can bet a welldressed thirty-something guy
will be hovering around the
high-tech listening booths, his
hands gently cradling the headphones and clicking to whatever
track radio stations are offering
up for mass consumption. The
employees may not be familiar
with popular music beyond the
likes of Britney Spears."

Then there's the dimily-lit,
somewhat disheveled indie
record shop, found on an uneasuming street corner. It lives up
to its name by carrying actual
selections on vinyl and attracts a
more diverse crowd of music
lovers who won't mind hunting
for just the right album. They'll
struct in, pull out their walletson-a-chain and buy the latest,



In HIFI: Jack Black, John Cusack and Todd Louiso spin conversation and a range of musical hits on screen.

most obscure recording possible.
Call it a subculture strictly
defined by musical preference.
Its employees are a reflection of
those customers, their minds
brimming with disposable music

Tune in to "High Fidelity"

Tune in to "High Fidelity"
While both varieties of record stores are scattered about the metro area, the latter is a focal point and setting for the latest Touchstone Pictures romantic comedy "High Fidelity," directed by Stephen Frears. Set at Championship Vinyl, a struggling independent Chicago record shop, the film's hera, owner Robert of Gordon (John Cusack) Banters hilariously with his employees: the mild-mannered Dick (Todd Louise) and obnoxiously opinionated Barry (Jack Black), who's known for harassing customers into buying his picks and bullying others right out of the store. Pop music is an obsession for

them - and there's a little Rob. Dick and Barry inside all of us. Those who religiously consume pop music are particular about what they like and when they like to hear it. This is depicted onscreen when Barry bursts in, takes Dick's CD out and replaces it with "Walking on Sunshine," while gyrating rhythmically about. He upsats everyone else and the tape is edicted.

For me, quality listening time occurs in my car. I adopt a short attention span. Sometimes I want to belt out Fiona Apple songs and pretend I can sing in tune. Sometimes I want to slide in Ben Folds Five and hear my friends yell out the words we know by heart. The rules of the car storeo are simple - you know if you like it by the second note, you don't change the station if someone's singing along and sometimes you just have to keep driving until the song is over.

