

MOVIES

More Moore: Demi Moore stars as both Marty and Marie in Alain Berliner's "Passion of Mind."



ISABELLE WINGERT

# Demi Moore's latest has her in intriguing dual role

BY CHRISTY LEMIRE  
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Demi Moore plays a woman living two lives in "Passion of Mind."

That's not even the most unusual part of the movie. What's immediately striking is how much clothing Moore wears in both lives. After showing off her perfectly toned body in "Striptease" and "G.I. Jane" and here Moore's character wears baggy overalls in the garden and pajamas and socks to bed.

Her wardrobe is only the most obvious indication of how different a film this is for her. Look closer and you'll see Moore has immersed herself in a complex role that depends on subtle nuance to convey two separate lives. She plays Marie, a widowed mother of two young daughters who lives in the French countryside. She spends sunny, lazy days working in the garden and writing free-lance book reviews for The New York Times.

But when she goes to sleep at night, she wakes up as Marty, a high-powered Manhattan literary agent who lives alone in a spacious, eclectic loft.

Then the next morning, she wakes up again as Marie. Which life is real and which is

imaginary? It's impossible to tell. Both are so rich in detail, they feel completely real to the audience.

She confides her confusion to therapists in France and New York, and friends in both places try to convince her they're the ones who are real. She also falls in love with a man in each life.

In France, it's the aggressive and seductive William (Stellan Skarsgard), a writer whose most recent novel she has just trashed. In New York, it's Aaron (William Fichtner), a shy, thoughtful accountant who becomes her friend first and then her lover.

Is she cheating on one with the other? She can't discern which man is an illusion, and fears choosing the wrong one. Writer Ron Bass, known for big box office movies like "Entrapment," "My Best Friend's Wedding" and "Rain Man," keeps the audience guessing until the very end in this slower, subtler film.

Much of Bass' dialogue does feel stilted, however, and his romantic interest for Marie/Marty are completely annoying and create little chemistry.

Both men lay their cards on the table way too early. William tells Marie during one of their early meetings, "I've decided I

want you to like me," and after their first date, "I'd like to come home with you." On Marty's first informal date with Aaron in Central Park, he tells her wistfully, "There's something about two people sharing their souls on a Sunday morning."

Who would date either of them? And why do either of them stay with her after she admits she has a secret, second life? They should write her off as a nut and run for the hills, but for some reason they stick around. This latest film from Belgian director Alain Berliner couldn't be more different from his earlier "Ma Vie en Rose" ("My Life in Pink"), about a 7-year-old boy who believes he's a girl, wears makeup and dresses, and plays with dolls.

Both feature main characters who struggle with identity crises, but that's where the similarities end. "Ma Vie en Rose," which earned Berliner a Golden Globe for best foreign language film in 1998, was bright, colorful, even campy at times.

"Passion of Mind" is more subdued and introspective. It's flawed and a bit convoluted, but worth seeing simply because the idea behind it is so intriguing.

"Passion of Mind" is a Paramount Classics release; it runs 105 minutes.

## GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

<b>National Amusements Showcase Cinemas</b>  <b>Showtimes</b> Antares 11:14 2150 N. Oakdale Rd. Between University & Walton Blvd. 248-315-3600 Korean Matinee Daily All Shows until 6 pm Continuous Show Daily Late Show Wed. Thurs. Fri. Sat. NP DENOTES NO PASS  NP SHANGHAI MOON (PG13) NP MISSISSIMPOUSABLE 2 (PG13)  NP DONGSAUN (PG) NP ROAD TRIP (R) NP GLADIATOR (R) CENTER STAGE (PG13) HELD UP (PG13) FREQUENTLY (PG13) FLINTSTONES IN VIVA ROCK VEGAS (PG) LOVE AND BASKETBALL (PG13) FINAL DESTINATION (R) EDIN BROCKOVICH (R)  CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	<b>Showtimes</b> Broadland 1:14 6500 Wayne Rd. One Mile S. of Warren Rd. 313-729-1060 Korean Matinee Daily All Shows until 6 pm Continuous Show Daily Late Show Wed. Thurs. Fri. Sat. NP DENOTES NO PASS  NP MISSISSIMPOUSABLE 2 (PG13) NP DONGSAUN (PG) NP SHANGHAI MOON (PG13) NP SMALL TIME CROOKS (PG13) CENTERTAGE (PG13) GLADIATOR (R) LOVE AND BASKETBALL (PG13) FREQUENCY (PG13)  CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	<b>(PG13)</b> NP MISSISSIMPOUSABLE 2 (PG13) NP SHANGHAI MOON (PG13) NP DONGSAUN (PG) NP ROAD TRIP (R) SMALL TIME CROOKS (PG13) CENTERTAGE (PG13) GLADIATOR (R) LOVE AND BASKETBALL (PG13) FREQUENCY (PG13)  CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	<b>U571 (PG13)</b> CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES  Waterford Cinema 16 7501 Highland Rd. S.E. corner M-59 & Williams Lake 248-666-7900 CALL 77 FILMS 1551 WE'VE TALKED OUR LOGO AND ACCORD TO NEW SCENES, THE ONLY THEATRE IN OAKLAND COUNTY WITH THE NEW DIGITAL EXCEL SOUND SYSTEM AND MORE CHECK US OUT OUR DANCING PRINCESS LOT 6 NOW OPEN FREE REEL ON POPCORN AND POP  NP BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE (PG13) NP SHANGHAI MOON (PG13) NP MISSISSIMPOUSABLE 2 (PG13) NP DONGSAUN (PG) NP ROAD TRIP (R) CENTER STAGE (PG13) GLADIATOR (R) FLINTSTONES: VIVA ROCK VEGAS (PG) FREQUENCY (PG13)  CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES  Viva & Mastercard Accepted	<b>Main Act Theatre III</b> Main 11:14 Royal Oak (248) 542-6160  THE BIG KAHUNA THE VIRGIN SUICIDES (R) TIME COOK (R)  CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES Children Under 4 Not Admitted	<b>Maple Art Cinema III</b> 1135 N. Maple West of Telegraph 248-555-9999 DISCOUNTED PRICES  SMALL TIME CROOKS (PG) UP AT THE VILLA (R) EAST IS EAST (R)  CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	<b>Oxford 3 Cinemas, L.L.C.</b> Downtown Oxford Lanes Rd. (M-10) (248) 428-7100 Fax (248) 428-1300  DETROIT'S LOWEST FIRST RUN PRICES INCLUDING THURSDAY PRICING \$1.50  NOW OPEN  AMC Uptown 20 Huggins & 7 Mile 734-542-9999  CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	<b>Birmingham Theatre</b> 211 S. Woodward Downtown Birmingham 248-444-3456 NP Denotes No Pass Engagement  Order Movie tickets by phone Call 664-3156 and have your VISA or MasterCard ready! A \$14 charge per transaction will apply to all telephone sales  NP MISSISSIMPOUSABLE 2 (PG13) NP SHANGHAI MOON (PG13) NP DONGSAUN (PG) NP ROAD TRIP (R) KEEPING THE FAITH (PG13) CENTER STAGE (PG13) U-571 (PG13)  CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	<b>MP THEATRES</b> <b>Irishman - Cinema 2</b> 1/4 E. Grand Ave. 810-227-4700 Call 77 Film Ecl. 548  NP BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE (PG13) NP SHANGHAI MOON (PG13) NP MISSISSIMPOUSABLE 2 (PG13) NP DONGSAUN (PG) NP ROAD TRIP (R) GLADIATOR (R) FREQUENCY (PG13) U-571 (PG13)  CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	<b>Star Showplace</b> 12 Mile between Telegraph and Woodward, Cal 456 248-353-3500 No one under age 4 admitted for PG13 & rated films after 6 pm  NP SHANGHAI MOON (PG13) NP ROAD TRIP (R) FLINTSTONES IN VIVA ROCK VEGAS (PG) FINAL DESTINATION (R) FREQUENCY (PG13) CENTER STAGE (PG13)  ALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	<b>One Yolk</b> Warren & Wayne Rds. 313-425-7700 Korean Matinee Daily All Shows until 6 pm Continuous Show Daily Late Show Wed. Thurs. Fri. Sat. NP DENOTES NO PASS  NP SHANGHAI MOON (PG13) NP ROAD TRIP (R) FLINTSTONES IN VIVA ROCK VEGAS (PG) FINAL DESTINATION (R) FREQUENCY (PG13) CENTER STAGE (PG13)  ALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES
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# 'Momma' showcases Martin Lawrence's comedic skills

BY NEKEESA MUMBI MOODY  
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Whether it's "Bad Boys," "Blue Streak" or the new "Big Momma's House," Martin Lawrence always ends up playing the same character in his movies — which is Martin Lawrence.

And playing Martin Lawrence basically consists of making exaggerated facial expressions, exhibiting a comically defiant attitude and using off-color words in as many different combinations as possible.

Even though Lawrence's act is getting repetitive, it's still good enough to make for an amusing time in "Big Momma's House," in which he not only plays an FBI agent, but dons a fat suit and rubber face to go undercover as a 70-year-old woman whose granddaughter is being investigated by federal authorities.

Malcolm Turner (Lawrence) is a federal agent and master of disguises who loves the dangerous elements of his job and shuns the ho-hum family life. His partner, John (Paul Giamatti), is of course the complete opposite — preferring to stay in the station rather than go out and chase the bad guys.

When Lester, a dandy bank robber (Terence Howard), busts out of jail, Malcolm and John are assigned to monitor the house of Big Momma (Ella Mitchell), the feisty Southern grandmother of Lester's gorgeous ex-girlfriend Sherry (Nicole Long). Authorities suspect that Sherry has hidden the loot from Lester's earlier bank robbery and is planning to run away with Lester and the \$2 million booty.

The surveillance is running smoothly until Big Momma is suddenly summoned out of town on an emergency. With Sherry heading to visit her, Malcolm figures the only way to keep Sherry from leaving is to become Big



TELEVISION CENTURY FOX

At the movies: Martin Lawrence stars in "Big Momma's House" at theaters today.

Momma himself.

Just the sight of Lawrence dressed as a hefty old woman with a blond wig and huge breasts is enough to garner a few laughs. But watching him try to stay in character as Big Momma while admiring Sherry's sexy body, fighting off the advances of a randy old coot and bouncing his large frame off some young punks on the basketball court is hysterical. While Lawrence is not always confined to the fat suit — Malcolm does emerge to woo the beguiling Sherry — it's as Big Momma that he is most entertaining.

Lawrence has long been adept at donning women's clothes for laughs: His Sheneneh character on his debut sitcom "Martin" still has people in stitches in reruns.

Lawrence's turn as Big Momma is sure to draw comparisons to Eddie Murphy's "The Nutty Professor," in which Murphy played at least five different

characters, some requiring fat suits and prosthetics and making him completely unrecognizable. (A sequel is scheduled to hit theaters this summer.)

But the makeup job here is less convincing. First, to make Lawrence and Mitchell look alike, Mitchell's face was altered with prosthetics, making her look distractingly unnatural. Lawrence's face has similar problems, although since it is supposed to have been made on the quick by Malcolm and John, it's more forgivable — and kind of humorous.

Darryl Quarles and Don Rhymur wrote the mostly formulaic screenplay. But it has enough funny moments and Lawrence antics to keep the audience from concentrating on the predictability of it all. "Big Momma's House," directed by Raja Gosnell, is distributed by Twentieth Century Fox; it's rated PG-13 and runs 105 minutes.

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

Scheduled to open Friday, June 9

**COME IN SOFTY BECOMES**  
Remake of a 1974 film by H.B. Halicki in which Nicholas Cage gives a formal case brief who is commissioned to steal 50 cars in one night. The hitch is another gang is planning to do the same.

**GROOVE**  
Told from the perspective of an insider, Groove details one event-filled night in the underground rave scene in San Francisco.

Scheduled to open Friday, June 16

**BOYS AND GIRLS**  
Romantic comedy explores the games that men and women play. Stars Freddie Prinze, Jr., Claire Forlani, Jason Biggs.

TITAN A.E.

In a journey that begins after Earth ends, a rebellious teenager named Cale embarks on an adventure through space to find the legendary spacecraft, the Titan, which holds the secret to salvation for the human race.

BLAFT

Samuel L. Jackson is Shaft, a private detective on the trail of a murderer who wants to eliminate the key witness to a crime. Stars Vanessa Williams, Christian Gale.

JEAN'S SON

Based on Denis Johnson's cult novel this saga stars Billy Crudup, Denis Leary and Jack Black.

Scheduled to open Friday, June 23

**BUNNIES**  
Directed by Istvan Szabo, the film conjures up three themes: the inhumanity of human species, the symbolic meaning of a family name and the aching loneliness and acceptance in modern society.

**BUTTERLY'S TONGUE**  
Set against the backdrop of civil war in Spain 1936, the story of a shy young boy and his compassionate teacher who teaches him to find his way in an increasingly frightening world.

MR. INTERIOR AND IRENE

Comedy about a mild-mannered Rhode Island cop with a split personality disorder who escorts a woman back to her home town. Stars Jim Carrey.