MOVIES

Moore: Demi Moore stars as both Marty and Marie in Alain Berlin-



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MY DOG SEEP (PG) SHOW DAY (PG) CEDER HOUSE BULES (PG13) SKULLS (PG13)



BY CIGHSTY LEMTRE
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER
Demi Moore plays a woman
living two lives in "Passion of
Mind." she confides her confusion to

Demi Moore's latest has

living two lives in "Passion of Mind."

That's not even the most unusual part of the movio. What's immediately striking is how much clothing Moore were in both lives. After showing off her porfoctly toned body in "Striptease" and "C.I. Jane" and on magazine covers in the "90s, 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 Maric, 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 ence.

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

In France, it's the aggressive and seductive William (Stellan Skarsgard), a writer whose made recent movel she has just trashed. In New York, it's Anny 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 Base, 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 Brass' dialogue dee feel stilted, however, and his sommantic interests for Marie/Marty are completely annoying and create little chemistry.

Both men lay their cards on

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, electic loft.

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

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

her in intriguing dual role 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 Cen-tral Park, he tells her wistfully. imaginary? It's impossible to tell. Both are so rich in detail, they feel completely real to Marie/Marty and to the audi-

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 "tyear-old boy who believes he's a girl, wears makeup and dresses, and plays with dolls.

Both feature main characters

makeup and dresses, and plays with dolls.

Both feature main character who struggle with identity criese, but that's where the similarities and. "Ma Vie on Rose," which earned Berliner a Golden Globs 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.

'Momma' showcases Martin Lawrence's comedic skills

Whether its "Bad Boys," "Blue Streak" or the new "Big Momma's House," Martin Lawrence always ends up play-ing 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 com-binations as possible.

binations 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 grand-daughter is being investigated by federal authorities.

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 pariner, 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 deadly bank.

and chase the bad guys.

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

The guyreillance is running

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



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 white 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 adopt Momma himself.

Lawrence has long been adept at donning women's clothes for laughs: His Shenench character on his defunct siteom "Martin" still has people in stitches in

Lawrence's turn as Big Momma is certain to draw com-parisons to Eddie Murphy's The Nutty Professor,' in which Mur-phy played at least five different

characters, some requiring fat-suits and prosthetics and mak-ing him completely unrecogniz-able. (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, Mitchells 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.

humorous.

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

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Scheduled to open Friday, June 23

Scheduled to open Friday, June 9

COME IN SIXTY SECONDS

Remake of a 1974 film by H.B. Halloki in which Nicholas Cage plays a farmer car third who is commissioned to steal 50 cars in one night. The hitch is another gang is planning to do the same.

Told from the perspective of an insider, Groove details one event-fitted night in the underground rave scene in San Fran-

cisco.

Scheduled to open Fridey, June 18

SOYS AND GREE

Romantic comedy explores the games that men and women play. Stars Freddle Prinze, Jr., Claire Forteni, Jason Biggs.

in a journey that begins after Earth ends, a reballious teenager named Cale emberks on an adventure through space to find the legendary spacecraft, the Titan, which holds the secret to salva-

MAJT

TEBUS, BOH

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 Bale.

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

SUNSTINE
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 tolerance and acceptance in
modern seciety.

modern society.

Soft against the beckdrop of civil war in Spain 1938, the story of a shy young boy and his compassionate leacher who teaches him to find his way in an increasingly frightening world.

ME, MYSELF AND INTER
Comedy about a mild-mannered Rhoda
Island cop with a spill-personality disorder who escents a woman back to her
home town. Stare im Carrey.