

Novocaine's Steve Martin earns lots of laughs at movies

BY SHARON DARGAY
STAFF WRITER

If you want a few laughs next time you go to the dentist, make an appointment with Dr. Frank Sangster.

I promise, you won't even need nitrous oxide.

Comedian Steve Martin plays the well-to-do Dr. Sangster in

the black comedy and crime thriller, *Novocaine*, opening Friday at the Maple Art Landmark Theatre, located on Maple, west of Telegraph in Bloomfield Hills, on Maple, just west of Telegraph.

Martin, known for outlandish characters in his earlier films, takes on the role of a sane, orderly, "straight man," in this funny, but dark film about an

elaborate con job.

When Sangster "breaks the rules" for the first time in his perfect life — becoming involved with a sexy new patient — he finds himself caught in a web of lies and bad decisions that quickly plunge him into a life on the lam for alleged murder and drug trafficking.

Helena Bonham-Carter plays the seductive Susan, who steals

drugs from Sangster during an after-office hours tryst.

Sangster, in hot water with the DEA, tries but fails to reclaim the missing narcotics from Susan's violent brother, Duane, played by Scott Cann.

Meanwhile, Sangster hops lie upon lie in an effort to convince his obsessive-compulsive fiancée and dental assistant, Jean, (Laura Dern), that he is an

unwitting victim of Susan and her brother.

And to make matters worse, Sangster's brother, Harlan, (Ethan Phillips), is intent on betraying him.

Love-smitten dentist and patient are drawn together as Sangster acts out to elude the authorities and prove his innocence. As Sangster's former existence loses its meaning, he real-

izes that he "was supposed to be someone else," living another kind of life.

To say much more about the plot would rob viewers of the surprising twists in this sharply-written and well-acted film.

Its ending will make some viewers cringe, but visiting the dentist has never been so much fun.

GoGirls from page B1

"We're keeping it way more stripped-down," said Gustafson. This year we wanted to keep it strictly bands."

When it came to choosing a venue, the decision was easy. The GoGirls organization didn't want Anselm to change a thing.

"The Magic Bag is very conscious of sound quality and has been a great supporter of local music," added Anselm. "The owner's were very generous last year with their accommodations to the bands and with their own generous donations to the cause, Visions."

The Magic Bag's Willie Wilson is looking forward to this year's fest.

"I like the event because it not only celebrates women in music, it also helps out a good cause as

well," said Wilson. "I think the line-up is a great mix of bands. From the low-fi sound of the Doll Rods to the minimalist pop of Slumber Party, Blue and Nice Device kind of fall in somewhere between the two, kind of pop and kind of rock."

"I think the show reflects the amount of quality female music acts that are out playing in the Motor City, while at the same time showcasing the diversity among the bands."

And if that's not enough to convince you, Gustafson put it simply.

"If anything, it's just an excellent reason to get a bunch of girls together and play for a good cause."

GoGirls Music Fest: Featuring Demolition Doll Rods, a final

performance by Blush, Slumber Party, The Nice Device, 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 17, Magic Bag, Ferndale. \$10 to benefit Visions Unlimited in Farmington Hills. Call (248) 544-3030.

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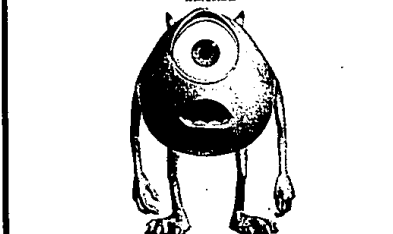
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THEY HAVEN'T QUITE FIGURED IT ALL OUT, BUT THEY'RE GETTING A LITTLE WARMER.

OUT COLD

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