



Young twosome steals scenes in 'Little Romance'

"Charming" has an old-fashioned ring to it and, in that sense, it seems an apt adjective to apply to "A Little Romance" (PG). Two very engaging youngsters vie with Sir Laurence Olivier for audience attention and often win.

That gives you some idea of the attractive characters created by Diane Lane (Lauren) and Thelma Houston (Daniel) in this story of adolescent love directed by George Roy Hill.

What makes Lauren and Daniel so outstanding as film characters is that they are depicted as intelligent 13-year-olds, neither absurdly sweet nor nastily wise-cracking.

Significantly, they are shown to appreciate their own and each other's intelligence. Until she met Daniel, Lauren — who's been reading the German philosopher Martin Heidegger — has been hiding the book as if it were some porno work she's forbidden to read.

She is an American living in France with her flighty, thrice-wed mother (Sally Kellerman) and her current stepfather (Arthur Hill), a corporation president who is prone to look the other way at his wife's indiscretions.

LAUREN'S QUIET existence perks up when she meets a French boy, Daniel, the son of a taxi driver. Their common interests outweigh any class or national differences. He has an intelligence to match Lauren's and much more wide-ranging interests. These include handicapped horses and watching American movies, as well as reading philosophy.

Director Hill injects an inside joke with a bit of tongue-in-cheek self-praise as we see Daniel enjoying "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" and "The Sting" (two films directed by Hill).

Some splendid color photography enhances the romantic theme as the youngsters overcome obstacles to reach their goal, Venice. They've heard that if they kiss in a gondola at sunset under the Bridge of Sighs, they will love each other forever.

Olivier, aids and abets them as a gracious, rambling and rascally companion. The confrontation of the three principals during one of their despairing moments, when they are stuck in Verona on their way to Venice, gives some insight into each one and also gives a different slant to the romantic theme.

As they bicker, each admits or recognizes that he has lied to the others or fantasized or exaggerated. The scene is important because it tilts "A Little Romance" away from the Romeo-Juliet theme. It's not likely that tragedy will befall them with the death of a lover, but that time will change them, even as they rush toward the Bridge of Sighs and vow not to change.



Fourteen-year-old Thelma Houston plays a near-genius French youngster in "A Little Romance."

Glimpses

NEW RELEASES

- ALIEN (R).** Spacecraft lands on unknown planet and discovers alien. Spacecraft in this combination sci-fi and horror film.
- BATTLESTAR GALACTICA (PG).** Essentially, a recut version of pilot film for TV series but with big sound added.
- BOULEVARD NIGHTS (R).** Authentic-looking drama about life in the barrio. Set in East Los Angeles.
- DAWN OF THE DEAD (Unrated).** George Romero's zombies are the ultimate consumers in this gory, satirical sequel to his cult classic "Night of the Living Dead."
- THE DEER HUNTER (R).** An emotionally gripping and violent film about three friends from a small steel-producing town and the affect the Vietnam war has on their lives.
- THE DREAMER (PG).** Bowling version of the "Rocky" story. About as exciting as watching bowling on TV.
- THE FIFTH MUSKETEER (PG).** Your average swashbuckling tale with heroes, villains and court intrigue. Beau Bridges deftly handles dual role as nasty king and his noble twin.
- HAIR (G).** The counter culture musical of the '60s, directed by Milos Forman, comes to the screen with amazing vitality and musical energy — if a decade late.
- HANOVER STREET (PG).** Unbelievably ridiculous World War II love story is short on imagination and long on clichés.
- THE LAST EMBRACE (R).** Bizarre, tension-filled mystery is stylishly filmed, but burdened with hopelessly complicated plot.
- LOVE AT FIRST BITE (PG).** Dracula goes disco dancing in funny, contemporary version with George Hamilton.
- MANHATTAN (R).** The inhabitants are somewhat frayed, but the Big Apple looks glorious in Woody Allen's witty peek at the pairings and partings among New York literati.
- NORMA RAE (PG).** Sally Field is outstanding in contemporary story of union organizing activities in Southern textile mills.
- PHANTASM (R).** Gory of scares in horror film about mortician who terrorizes two brothers.
- THE SILENT PARTNER (R).** Thriller about money and murder with Elliot Gould, Susanah York and Christopher Plummer. Steady yourself for shock ending.
- WIFEMISTRESS (R).** Erotic film with Marcello Mastroianni as a husband in hiding who watches his wife's sexual awakening.
- WINTER KILLS (R).** Conspiracy caper about political assassination in entertaining version of Richard Condon's adventure novel.

MOVIE RATING GUIDE

- G** General audiences admitted.
PG Parental Guidance suggested. All ages admitted.
R Restricted. Adult must accompany person under 18.
X No one under 18 admitted.

P'Jazz opens 6th season

Concerts

Ray Charles will open this year's P'Jazz outdoor concert series on Monday, June 11, at the Hotel Pontchartrain, announced restaurateur Chuck Muer, who started the event eight years ago.

Other stars scheduled for the first six weeks of the P'Jazz concerts include Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers, Hugh Masekela, Gerry Mulligan, Stanley Turrentine, The Fifth Dimension and the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra.

P'Jazz '79 also will feature Detroit's Austin/Moro band, Brookside Jazz Ensemble, Jimmy Wilkins, and the New McKinney Cotton Pickers band.

P'Jazz concerts are held on the Pontch poolside terrace, in downtown Detroit, every Monday and Wednesday (except Wednesday, July 4) until Aug. 29.

Shows run from 6 or 6:30 p.m.-10 p.m., with general admission tickets available at the door beginning at 5 p.m. the day of the concert.

A SPECIAL SHOW featuring Doug Jacobs and the Red Garter Band has been planned for Friday, June 29, at 5 p.m., which is International Freedom Festival's fireworks night.

As in past years, advance tickets for reserved seats and tables can be purchased through the P'Jazz ticket office located on the 25th floor of the Hotel Pontchartrain (965-0200, ext. 7766) beginning Friday, June 1. Ticket office

hours will be 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday. All general admission tickets will be sold at the door prior to the concert.

"We are extremely pleased that Detroit music lovers have made P'Jazz a summer habit, and this year's series promises to be better than ever," said Louis Giordano, general manager of Chuck Muer restaurants at the Pontch.

"In addition to lots of good music, P'Jazz offers a casual, outdoor setting with food and beverages available. We also have valet parking in the Pontch and lots of additional parking right across the street at Cobo Hall," Giordano said.

Said Muer, "Last year P'Jazz regularly attracted audiences of up to 2,000. The addition of similar concerts elsewhere downtown is good not only for music lovers, but for all of us downtown boosters. Detroit has become one of the nation's most receptive cities for good music and drama offerings. We've proved that at P'Jazz for the past seven years."

"The P'Jazz schedule for the second half of the summer will be announced shortly."

'Rocky II' film shown at fund-raising event

A premiere of the sequel "Rocky II" will open at Southfield's Northland Theater at 8 p.m. June 14 as a fundraiser for the Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan (CLF).

All proceeds from the event, in conjunction with Northland's 25th anniversary celebration, will go to CLF, which serves serious blood disease patients in Michigan. The cost of the theater was underwritten by the Northland Merchants Association and Dayton Hudson Properties.

Donor tickets are \$6 for the movie only. Higher-priced patron, sponsor and benefactor tickets entitle the holder to attend the movie and afterglow held in Northland Center immediately following the movie.

Afterglow guests will attend a party catered by Jack and Harriet Goldberg who own the Stage Door Delicatessen in Oak Park.

Entertainment will be provided by the Jack Brokenbush Quartet.

In addition, dancers from the Julie Adler School of dance will perform. Joe Glover, WJBK-TV anchorman, will preside as master of ceremonies. All of the above persons have donated their services.

The Children's Leukemia Foundation had a humble beginning, springing in 1952 from a small group of parents who had lost children to leukemia.

"Our goals were to support research and see that others would not have to experience this kind of hardship alone as we had to," recalls Sylvia Brown, CLF executive director and one of the original founders.

For further ticket information, call the foundation at 353-8222.



Heritage pose

Edith and Vern Nyman, Livonia Historical Society members, struck a pose reminiscent of the famous Grant Wood painting, "American Gothic," while helping prepare Greenmead, Livonia's historical site, for the Livonia Historical Society's annual Heritage Fair Sunday, June 3, from noon to 3 p.m. Greenmead is located on Eight Mile, west of Newburgh. Highlights of the fair include an antique auction, flea market, drill demonstrations by Revolutionary War and Civil War units, bake sale, quilt raffle, plant sale and various arts and craft demonstrations. Admission is free and the public is invited. (Photos by Bob Comps)

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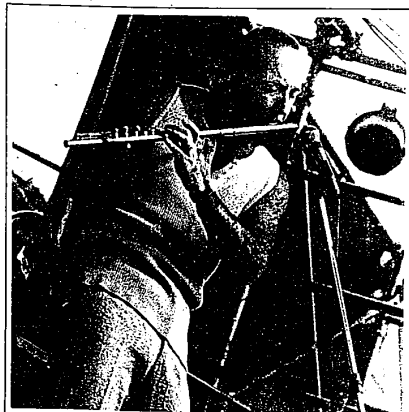
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Herbie Mann and the New Family of Mann join with Bill Cosby for Meadow Brook Music Festival's opener.

Meadow Brook announces series

Meadow Brook Music Festival has announced its new Wednesday evening Variety Series and other specially scheduled concerts. All will feature well-known entertainers.

Kicking off the four-program Variety Series on Wednesday, June 27, will be comedian/actor, Bill Cosby. Also, featured will be the jazz-disco music of Herbie Mann and the New Family of Mann.

On July 11, folksinger Joan Baez will make her first Meadow Brook appearance. Another first-timer at the festival, pop singer Neil Sedaka, will be in the Meadow Brook spotlight on Wednesday, July 25.

The Aug. 8 concert features organist Virgil Fox, who will perform his "Heavy Organ" visual-and-sound extravaganza with David Snyder's Revelation Lights.

SPECIALLY SCHEDULED programs include pianist/comedian Victor Borge who will entertain with his musical antics on Monday, July 16. This is a benefit performance for Meadow Brook Hall and Meadow Brook Music Festival.

On Monday, July 23, a musical group which has become a Meadow Brook tradition, Preservation Hall Jazz Band, returns for an evening of its New Orleans-style jazz.

One of the most popular musical revues of the past season, "4 Girls 4" starring Rosemary Clooney, Rose Marie, Helen O'Connell and Margaret Whiting, has been scheduled for four performances: Monday, Aug. 20; Tuesday, Aug. 21, and both a matinee and evening show on Wednesday, Aug. 22.

All concerts are held in the outdoor Baldwin Pavilion on the Oakland University campus near Rochester. Except for the matinee performance of "4 Girls 4," which begins at 2 p.m., all Variety Series concerts and other special programs are scheduled for 8:30 p.m.

For additional information, contact the Meadow Brook Music Festival Box Office at 377-2010.

4 Detroiters appear in 'Ladyhouse Blues'

Four Detroit talents will participate in the Birmingham Theater's upcoming production, "Ladyhouse Blues."

David Regal, artistic director of The Theater at the University of Detroit, will direct the award-winning melodrama. Regal is currently starring in "Medal of Honor Ray" at the Theater.

Lavinia Moyer, artistic director for the Attic Theater, has been cast as one of the four daughters in the play. Ms. Moyer is president of the Michigan Theater Association, Professional Unit, and has been performing in local theater for the last four years.

Janna Gjesdal, whose local credits include Honey in "Who's Afraid of Vir-

ginia Woolf?" and Blanche in "A Streetcar Named Desire" will also star.

Included in the cast is Linda Hart who has been involved in Classic Theater for Youth and is currently a company member of the Black Sheep Repertory Theater.

The fourth daughter will be played by Maria Ferrer. Ms. Ferrer is the daughter of Jose Ferrer and Rosemary Clooney and is a member of the prestigious American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco.

Kathryn Crosby will head the cast for "Ladyhouse Blues," which opens June 4-16.

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