

## what's at the movies

### NEW RELEASES

**A CHANGE OF SEASONS** (R). Superfluous film about "changing values in adult relationships," but nothing about this is very adult.

**THE ELEPHANT MAN** (PG). Largely true story of grossly deformed man rescued from sordid life by compassionate doctor. Fine acting by John Hurt, Anthony Hopkins and John Gielgud balances out directorial shortcomings.

**FIRST FAMILY** (R). Bob Newhart, Madeline Kahn and Gilda Radner in offbeat satire about White House residents and politics in general. Strong cast of character actors in comic roles.

**THE JAZZ SINGER** (PG). Ridiculous remake magnifies all the faults of the first talking motion picture made in 1927. The story doesn't get any better. The songs get worse.

**KAGEMUSHA** (The Shadow Warrior) (PG). Director Akira Kurosawa's spectacular epic of the struggle for power among rival clans in 16th century Japan told through the story of a thief who takes the places of a dying warlord he resembles.

## Benefit concert stars Bill Cosby

Comedian-actor Bill Cosby will headline the entertainment at Hill Day School's 12th annual concert at 8:30 p.m. March 14 at Ford Auditorium in Detroit.

The concert, which is the Farmington Hills school's main fund raiser, generates all its income from ticket and ad book sales.

Tickets are available on an advance basis only. Further information may be obtained by calling 851-2398 or 851-2394.

Bill Cosby's career started when he was doing part-time night club work while attending Philadelphia's Temple University.

Comedian Carl Reiner saw his act and was instrumental in Cosby's being signed to appear with actor Robert Culp in the pilot for the TV series "I Spy." Cosby's performance in the series, about two spies disguised as tennis burns, won him three Emmy Awards and international recognition.

HE SUBSEQUENTLY starred in several weekly television shows including "The Bill Cosby Show" on NBC and CBS, and finally in an ABC show called "Cos." He also has written, produced, directed and starred in numerous television specials — both live and animated productions.

For years he has been a key participant in PBS TV's "The Electric Company" and more recently he has appeared regularly on "Captain Kangaroo."

To date, Cosby has released 26



Bill Cosby entertains at Ford Auditorium.

record albums. He has received the Grammy Award for the best comedy album four times and has seven gold and six platinum records.

Cosby has starred in several films including "Hickey and Boggs," "Uptown Saturday Night," "Mother, Jugs and Speed" and "A Piece of the Action." His latest, "The Devil and Max Devlin," has just been released.

He currently is an active director at several major college, acting and sporting institutions and is on the steering committee of the American Sickle Cell Foundation.

Cosby lives with his wife and five children outside Amherst, Mass.

## Barber shop quartets sing

The 13th annual "Harmony in Review," sponsored by the Oakland County Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, will be held at 8 p.m. Feb. 21 at Warren Fitzgerald High School Auditorium, Ryan Road north of Nine Mile Road, Warren.

The theme is "Songs for All Sea-

sons." Featured are the Oakland County Chapter Wolverine Chorus under the direction of Al Fisk of Rochester; the Center Stage quartet, 1980 Pioneer District Champions; and the Great Lakes Express quartet, Past Pioneer District Champions. Master of Ceremonies is "Doc" Tom Lindsay.

For tickets at \$6 contact Ron Shier at 588-5047.

**NINE TO FIVE** (PG). Comedy with Jane Fonda, Lily Tomlin and Dolly Parton as three secretaries who scheme to get rid of their boss.

**ORDINARY PEOPLE** (R). Robert Redford's directorial debut is a smash in this extraordinarily well-acted, moving film about a "perfect" family trying to cope with a son's mental illness.

**POPEYE** (PG). It will take more than spinach to save this "Popeye" from defeat brought on by slack direction, a highly forgettable musical score, and a generally mean conception of characters and situation.

**RAGING BULL** (R). Top performance by Robert De Niro in brutally realistic film about boxer Jake La Motta. Two-plus hours highlighting the life of a loathsome person.

**SEEMS LIKE OLD TIMES** (PG). Goldie Hawn, Charles Grodin and Chevy Chase in comedy about a lawyer, her ex-husband who robs a bank, and her current husband, the district attorney.

**STIR CRAZY** (R). Comedy with Richard Pryor and Gene Wilder as a couple of stranded show biz types who get framed for a bank robbery.

### MOVIE RATING GUIDE

G General audience admitted.  
PG Parental guidance suggested. All ages admitted.  
R Restricted. Adult must accompany person under 18.  
X No one under 18 admitted.

## Encore screens 'The Searchers'

The classic western film "The Searchers" will be shown by Cranbrook P.M./Encore Cinema at 8 p.m. Feb. 23-24 at Cranbrook Institute of Science, 500 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills.

Director John Ford and star John Wayne are teamed in this tragedy about a loner. Also featured in the film are Natalie Wood and Jeffrey Hunter.

"The Searchers" is considered by many to be one of the best westerns ever made. Discussion moderator will be Elliot Wilhelm, film theater director, Detroit Institute of Arts.

Tickets, \$5 at the door, include the film and its commentary, an open discussion and gourmet dessert with coffee served at 7:30 p.m.

## Cast alternates in 2 productions

Two realistic dramas by British playwrights are being presented by the same cast on alternate evenings at Oakland Community College's Southeast Theatre Center in Royal Oak.

"The Shadow of a Gunman" by Sean O'Casey alternates with "The Widowing of Mrs. Holroyd" by D.H. Lawrence. Curtain time is 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays and 7 p.m. Sundays.

For ticket information, call 552-8900 weekdays or 552-8974 weekends. Reservations are suggested but some tickets will be available at the door.

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William Hurt portrays a scientist who conducts a sensory deprivation experiment in "Altered States."



## 'Altered States' moves dizzily through past eons

If you are going to see "Altered States" (R), better wear your rubber-soled sneakers as a precaution. This movie can zap you with its electrifying energy.

Ken Russell, no conservative when it comes to striving for spectacular, nerve-shattering effects, directed this unusual sci-fi thriller.

It's unusual because the suspense and terror don't arise from the rampages of demented killers or monsters from outer space but from the evocation of mythic memories lying dormant within us.

That's what makes "Altered States" so interesting. For all its astounding silliness, there is a fascinating premise supporting the barrage of optical and electronic stimuli. Locked within every cell it postulates is the whole marvelous, painful, chancy history of human evolution. To tap these ancient memories is to relive that history.

WILLIAM HURT is the scientist (and the term must be regarded loosely in view of his conduct) who gets himself involved in a sensory deprivation experiment and can't quit.

Sealed in an ominous-looking metal tank, he experiences strange visions. First they are personal recollections and fears. Then when he intensifies the experience by taking a hallucinogenic drug, they become increasingly more bizarre.

His states of expanded consciousness rush beyond individual history to events from a biblical and scientific genesis. The viewer is hurtled along in the journey through time, space and evolutionary memory.

The psychedelic trip goes back to primordial man and, by kaleidoscopic suggestions, beyond that to the creation of the earth and even of the universe.

Unfortunately, this magic carpet ride ends in a crash landing. Specifically, this is where the movie goes awry. The scientist undergoes a temporary physical transformation in which he regresses to a simian-like creature. He bounds out of the tank and ends up spending an active night at the zoo.

THE SEISMIC swing in mood, from the exhilarating imaginary landscape to the real world with a ridiculous looking man-ape who resembles a discarded extra from "The Island of Dr. Moreau," is this movie's most disastrous episode.

By itself, it would be difficult to explain, but as stated earlier, "Altered States" stretches far enough to be silly as well as provocative.

It is at its worst when dealing with reality. The actions of the scientists indicate they are blissfully uncumbered by principles of scientific inquiry, method or ethics. Even so, this does not stop the central character from uttering ponderous statements about "Truth."

They probably are intended to give the movie a respectable philosophic weight. They may have been present in Paddy Chayefsky's novel, from which this movie was made, but Russell would have had a more dramatically consistent work if he had ignored them.

Why not just admit the so-called scientist enjoys the extraordinary experience and forget the puffery and explanation?

No apology is needed for exploring a question that always has been with us. Not, "Where are we going?" which some generation or other will discern, but "Where did we come from?"



Blair Brown and Hurt appear in a scene from the film with bizarre special effects.

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