

Isabelle Huppert and Kris Kristofferson portray Ella Wat-son and James Averill in Michael Cimino's "Heaven's Gate."



the movies

Louise Snider

## Audiences unlikely to cause a jam-up at 'Heaven's Gate'

"Heaven's Gate" (R) has one thing in common with writer-director Michael Cimino's previous film, "The Deer Hunter." Both present incredibly rich and detailed portraits of some particular aspect of our culture.

In "The Deer Hunter" the portrait consisted of vivid scenes of a Russian-Orthodox wedding in a Pennsylvania steel town. In "Heaven's Gate" the imagery is more historical than ethnic. The film begins with a surprising prologue that presents a Harvard graduation in 1870.

"Heaven's Gate" had a disastrous New York opening last November. Climino has pared down the movie from about 3 hours and 0 minutes to about 2 hours and 20 minutes, but he couldn't make himself cut the Harvard graduation scenes. Little wonder, when you think about the time, expense and effort that went into their creation.

BUT THIS IMPRESSIVE prologue, with its (presumed) authenticity of costume and pageantry, has almost no relevance to the rest of the movie. The same is true of the epilogue.

Climino's attention to detail, which captures the flavor of an era or a society, fails him here because it doesn't advance the story. It seems as if the director got so carried away with establishing the right mood, the right historical setting, the right look, that he forgot the purpose these elements serve.

The story is never clearly presented. The editing is terrible, the movie jumps about erratically. Characted evelopment is neglected. Relationships are obscure. Consequently, the talents of some fine actors, particularly John Hurt, who received an Academy-Award nomination for "Elephant Man," are wasted.

The historical episode which provides the linchpin of "Heaven's Gaite" is the Johnson County, Wyo, range wars of the 1890s.

Eastern European immigrants were pouring into the West to establish themselves as settlers and farmers. The cattlemen resented the foreigners, who were reducing the area of open range. Furthermore, many of the immigrants, starving while waiting for the government to act on their land claims, were stealing cows for food.

THE STOCK GROWERS' Association decided to take the law into its own hands. It compiled a death list of 125 persons, virtually every male immigrant in the county, and hired an army of mercenaries to do the job.

Kris Kristofferson is the Federal marshal, sympathetic to the settlers. Hurt is a member of the Stock Growers' Association. The marshal and cattleman were classmates at Harvard. Why they nent to Wyoming, and how Kristofferson became a marshal are questions left unanswered.

Nor does the movie ever clarify the relationships among the characters. It is suggested that the marshal and Christopher Walk-en, a hired gun for the cattlemen, were once good friends, but we don't know how they came to be friends or why their friendship ended.

don't know how they came to be friends or way usen a resource ended.
Walken, like Hurt, is a blank in this movie. His character's background, motivations, values, ambitions are never revealed. The same is true of Isabelle Huppert who plays the young French madm of a brothel. Kristofferson and Walken are Both in love with Ms. Huppert. She seems to be in love with Kristofferson but she agrees to marry Wilken.
"Heaven's Gate' doesn't provide explanations or answers, only a series of disjointed episodes that culminate in the anticipated shoot-out between the immigrants and the cattlemen. It just reminds us that directing traffic at this "Heaven's Gate' is Michael Cimino, pot Saint Peter.



Immigrants are crowded inside and atop a box car, headed for settlement in Wyoming's Johnson County.

#### what's at the movies

EXCALIBUR (R). Sweeping adventure of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table, with Nicol Williamson as the wizard, Merlin.

GOING APE (PG). What to do when you are willed \$\$ million under condition that you take care of three orangutans.

HARDLY WORKING (PG). Slaspitck comedy with Jerry Lewis as middle-aged, unemployed circus clown creating havoc in a variety of jobs.

THE HOWLING (R). Oddball movie mixes horror and humor in were wolf story.

werewolf story.

LA CAGE AUX FOLLES II (B). Albin and Renato get involved with spies in this sequel to "La Cage aux Folles." It's not as funny as the first, but it does offer some sharp commentary on sex roles and expectations.

tions.

MODERN ROMANCE (R). Unusual comedy about a quarrelling couple.

Albert Brooks is a worrying, suspicious lover who can't be happy
whichever way the romance works out.

NIGHT HAWS (R). Fast-action drama as a pair of special N.Y. cops
(Sylvester Stallone and Billy Dee Williams) confront a vicious terrorist.

ist.

NINE TO FIVE (PG). Comedy with Jane Fonda, Lily Tomlin and Dolly Parton as three secretaries who scheme to get rid of their boss. HIE FOSTMAN ALWAYS RINGS TWICE (II), Jack Nicholson and Jessica Lange in sexually emphatic remake of James M. Cain's novel of lust and murder.

#### Folk guitarist gives concert

Folis guitarist Marcia Taylor will apen in concert at 8 p.m. Saturday at the Birmingham Unitarian Church, 651 woodward at Lone Pine.

Ma. Taylor is a graduate in classical guitar from Michigan's Interloction Art's Academy, She has developed an electric style ranging from folk to twing to blues. She uses her miscal presentations to support women's issues, ecological awareness and international page. Ms. Taylor is a graduate in classical guitar from Michigan's Interlochen Arts' Academy. She has developed an eclectic style ranging from folk to swing to blues. She uses her musical presentations to support women's is-sues, ecological awareness and interna-tional peace.

#### Auditions open at Will-O-Way

Will-O-Way Repertory Theatre will hold auditions at 8 p.m. Wednesday and 2-6 p.m. Sunday for William Shake-speare's comedy classic "As You Like It."

It." Actors should bring their resumes to the readings at the theater, 775 W. Long Lake Road, between Telegraph and Lahser roads, Bloomfield Town-ship.

Althugh four roles have been precast by Director Celia Merrill Turner, many choice parts for men and women remain, a Will-O-Way spokesperson said. Mime and Elizabethan music will enliven the production.

"As You Like It!" will run Fridays-Saturdays from June 12-27.
Call Will-O-Way at 644-4418 for more information.



#### **MOTHER'S DAY**

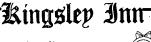
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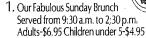
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#### 

#### **Watch Mom Beam** at Our Brunch Buffet!

She's given the family so many reasons to smile. Now here's your chance to do the same for her. This Mother's Day, the Grand Ballroom of Somerset Inn will provide the setting for an amazing array of culinary delights—l will be live entertainment by noted harpists, Kathy West and Kerstin Aevin

We'll have four seatings for this sumptious buffet at 10 a.m., 12 p.m., 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. And reservations are a must; so please be sure to call early. Adulta \$9.95 Children 12 & under \$5.95

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# mom's a peach!

Mother's Day Brunch/Dinner Buffet 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Jacques will be offering a special holiday brunch/buffet. Exquisite varieties of hot and cold delicacies and Jacques' continental pastries served tableside for your personal selection.

from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at a price of '10.95 per person, Children under 10 half price. Dinner buffet will be served from 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Dinnet uniter was eserved notal 3 p.in. 50 p.in.
tal a price of 13 per person
children under 10 half price.
Cocktalls will be served in the Atrium.
Mom's Reach Daiquiri courtesy of Jacques Seafood.
Reservations Required 642-1373



