



the movies

Louise
Snider

New film releases offer good choice at holiday season

So you say you haven't seen anything good since "E.T." and there hasn't been a decent selection of movies since last summer? Take heart. There's a bumper crop scheduled for December releases. You're sure to find some satisfying holiday fare among these.

Comedies are generally plentiful at Christmas time and this year is no exception. "Airplane II — The Sequel" continues in the vein of the hit spoof of 1980, this time with a space shuttle instead of an airplane. Robert Hays and Julie Hagerty again play the young lovers. Lloyd Bridges, Peter Graves and many other stars appear in cameo roles.

In "The Toy," Jackie Gleason is a Southern tycoon and Richard Pryor a broke journalist who accepts an amazing offer — to become a plaything for Gleason's spoiled son. Another offbeat comedy features Dustin Hoffman in drag. In "Tootsie," Hoffman plays a struggling actor who manages to land a role in a soap opera by dressing as a woman. Jessica Lange is the leading lady.

"Trail of the Pink Panther" offers footage of the late Peter Sellers as the bumbling Inspector Clouseau in this film which retraces Clouseau's career.

BURT REYNOLDS and Goldie Hawn appear in the romantic comedy "Best Friends" as a pair of screenwriters enjoying a fun-filled romance until they get married. A love triangle is at the core of "Kiss Me Goodbye" with Sally Field as a widow confronted by the ghost of her late husband (James Caan) who materializes when she is about to remarry (Jeff Bridges).

The Texas oil fields are the setting for romance and drama in "Waltz Across Texas" with Anne Archer as a geologist who tangles with wildcat Terry Jastrow. It's the kind of film in which you might expect to find Clint Eastwood, but he's trying something else this year. In "Honkytonk Man," he plays a country songwriter who goes with his teenage son (Eastwood's real-life son) to Nashville during the Depression.

The two Moores — Mary Tyler and Dudley — can be seen in "Six Weeks," a bittersweet romantic drama that also introduces Katherine Healy as Moore's daughter who brings her divorced mother and an eligible politician together.

One of the substantive dramas of the season is likely to be "Soyuzdetfilm's Choice." Meryl Streep is starred in this story about a concentration camp survivor and the two men who love her. Alan Pakula wrote and directed the film based on William Styron's best-selling novel.

The epic of this season is a biography made into a film. Richard Attenborough directed "Gandhi." The life of the legendary Indian peacemaker, Mahatma Gandhi, was filmed in authentic locations and features a stellar cast including Sir John Gielgud, Candice Bergen, Trevor Howard, Martin Sheen and Ben Kingsley as Gandhi. The musical soundtrack is by Ravi Shankar.

ANOTHER ADAPTATION into film is "That Championship Season," Jason Miller's award-winning Broadway play about a high-school basketball team's reunion with its coach (Robert Mitchum).

Paul Newman can be seen in "The Verdict." He plays a cynical, down-and-out Boston attorney who takes on an "impossible" malpractice suit involving a patient in a Catholic hospital. Charlotte Rampling and Jamie Mason also star.

The film "48 Hours" offers action-drama with Nick Nolte as a tough white detective and Eddie Murphy as a black convict. The two are forced to work together to track down two killers.

Action, drama and fantasy that audiences of all ages can enjoy will be found in several films. "Never Cry Wolf" is an action-adventure about a biologist studying wolves in the Arctic. It is directed by Carroll Ballard who directed "The Black Stallion."

Muppet's creators Jim Henson and Frank Oz co-directed "The Dark Crystal," an adventure-fantasy tale filled with elf-like creatures and a struggle between the forces of good and evil in a land that resembles J.R.R. Tolkien's Middle Earth.

"THE PLAGUE DOGS" is an animated feature about two dogs who escape from a research laboratory and their desperate efforts to remain free. It was adapted from the novel by Richard Adams who authored "Watership Down."

A movie which has received exceptional reviews in Australia where it was filmed is "The Man from Snowy River," the story of a boy's passage into manhood in a trek through Australia's Great Divide and the taming of a stallion that leads the wild herds.

what's at the movies

BEST LITTLE WHOREHOUSE IN TEXAS (R). Burt Reynolds is Sheriff Ed Earl and Dolly Parton the whorehouse madam in musical comedy based on the Broadway hit.

A BOY AND HIS DOG (R). Exploits of a young man and his telepathic dog as they struggle to survive in a post-apocalyptic wilderness of dried mud that has covered the earth.

THE CHOSEN (PG). Dramatization of Chaim Potok's novel about father-son relationships, the interlocking lives of two teenage friends and the faith that divides and unites them.

CREEPSHOW (R). Film of terrifying tales and creepy monsters directed by George Romero from a screenplay by Stephen King.

DON'S PARTY. The acclaimed director of "Breaker Morant," Bruce Beresford, is back with an outrageous comedy.

THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK (PG). Second in the "Star Wars" saga, the further adventures of Luke Skywalker, Darth Vader and the rest.

E.T. THE EXTRA TERRESTRIAL (PG). Steven Spielberg's best film yet, and probably the best film of the year, develops story of an alien being stranded on earth and befriended by a young boy.

FANTASIA (G). The original, not the re-recorded, Disney masterpiece of sight and sound returns, in four-track, magnetic stereo.

FIRST BLOOD (R). Sylvester Stallone is a Vietnam vet who goes berserk when harassed by the local police and wages a guerrilla war against the sheriff's men and the state police.

FRANKENSTEIN (R). Andy Warhol's film by Paul Morrissey returns to frighten anew as Dr. Frankenstein's creature comes to life in 3-D.

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.

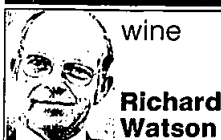
French beaujolais arrives in 3 days

A touch of France has come to us. By Nov. 18, careful shopping has enabled us to buy as many as seven different 1982 wines, the first product of last summer's harvest. Thanks to the enterprise of several area wine distributors, as well as the speed of the air freight business, we will have a marvelous choice of nuevo beaujolais wines only three days after their release in France.

This event in the beaujolais region truly heralds the beginning of the new year in the French wine trade.

Each year, on Nov. 15, the new crop of wines is released to the public among much ballyhoo and panache. To the world of wine lovers, this is "the beginning" each year. In these bottles are found light, fresh quaffing wine, generally associated with joy and merriment. Beaujolais wines are not serious things of great depth and substance, for the most part.

THE WINE* used to celebrate the event is the gamay, and it is treated in a special way for this event. A special



wine

Richard
Watson

process is used to crush and ferment these grapes to ensure complete freshness and lightness, thereby enabling a waiting wine world to see a hint of the quality of the wines to come from that year.

This particular wine is made to be especially light and fresh yet reflect the quality of the grape. Drinking nuevo beaujolais is a unique experience, one considerably more festive than cerebral.

In the past we have had, by mid-December, perhaps one or two French nuevos available to us with which to

celebrate the "new year." Now we wait only two or three days and have a far wider selection. Vive Le Concord!

Available, though no one store will carry them all, are seven choices from six wine houses. Robert Sarrau, one we have had in the past and sometimes less than wholly successful, offers a beaujolais nouveau. Chateau de la Corolle shows with a beaujolais village, a somewhat higher appellation.

Georges Dubouet, largest of the beaujolais shippers, offers both a standard nuevo as well as a village. Both Pierre Ferraud and Nicolas ship a nuevo and, finally, bouchard offers a beaujolais village.

Each of these should be priced in the \$4.50-\$5.50-a-bottle range which, considering shipping costs, is not at all bad.

FOR THOSE dedicated to California wines and/or keeping the dollar at home, the Lotus Land will have its parties as well this year, as it has in the last decade. However, these will not arrive until somewhat later, the Atlantic being presumably somewhat easier to travel than the Continental Divide.

Look for a 1982 Sebastiani gamay beaujolais nuevo to drink with your Thanksgiving turkey.



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