



Old college gang acts like teenagers



Portraying graduates of Georgetown University, who examine how their lives have changed since college, are Andrew McCarthy (left), Emilio Estevez, Judd Nelson and Rob Lowe.

Given the movies' view of our culture, apparently no one grows up easily — or well — these days.

"St. Elmo's Fire" is "The Big Chill" for adolescents, with an engaging young cast hanging out for an hour and a half feeling sorry for itself. Self-pity is not a noble emotion, particularly when emitted by a group that has a lot going for it.

The self-pity and the immaturity of "St. Elmo's Fire" spoil what might have been a pleasant film. "Hi-Jinks Among the Freshman Class" is my suggested title, but I find it extremely difficult to believe these characters are college graduates. Georgetown University, no less.

The film begins with a flashback to graduation as the seven close friends and lovers of undergraduate days are struggling to grow up in their various employments during the first year after graduation.

SORTING OUT who was doing what to whom, or dreaming about it, takes a little doing. In this corner, decorating their incredible Hollywood-style apartment/barn/loft are the set-piece lovers: Alex (Judd Nelson) and Leslie (Ally Sheedy). She's content to live with him, but he wants to get married. I don't know who is supporting whom (psychologically as well as financially), but someone had a bundle to afford that apartment.

Meanwhile, back in his 19th-century angst, Kevin (Andrew McCarthy) pines for the love of Leslie while he struggles to express the true meaning of life, when he's not writing obituaries for the Washington newspaper where he works.

Wendy (Mare Winningham), the welfare worker, is also forlorn. She has two men to contend with, her father, Mr. Beamish (Martin Balsam), who is overly protective, and Billy (Rob Lowe), the wild and carefree saxophone player.

Balsam plays the role with a vague aura of wonder at how he got involved with all these self-destructive teenie-boppers and with a convincing air of dyspepsia.

Billy is an interesting character. He's married to Felicia (Jenny Wright) because they had a kid. He doesn't seem to know she's alive until he sees her with another guy. As far as Wendy's lost love for him, Billy's out to lunch. He's really most interested in Julie (Demi Moore), the friend in the fast lane, snorting coke and swinging with her boss.

BUT WAIT, there's one more: Kirby (Emilio Estevez), the would-be law student and waiter at St. Elmo's, the bar where they all spent their undergraduate days. He spends much of his time chasing an older gal, a med student, Dale (Andie MacDowell), who really isn't interested.

The only thing to be said for Kirby is that his self-destructive tendencies are directed outside the group whereas everyone else is picking at a friend or two. If these guys are buddies, I'd hate to see what they do to the opposition.

Meanwhile Columbia Pictures is gearing up for a big summer at the box office with a music video featuring the film's stars along with rock singer John Parr, as well as a single and a soundtrack album, all due out the week before the national release of the film on Friday.

Music videos and heavy emphasis on record albums match the teen age interest level the film maintains throughout. It probably will be successful with that crowd, although "St. Elmo's Fire" lacks the style, humor and maturity of Rob Reiner's recent success, "A Simple Thing." And Reiner's characters are only freshmen.

The most mature moment in "St. Elmo's Fire" comes when Billy explains the great symbolic meaning of the title.

His explanation is sophomoric.



the movies

Dan Greenberg



The young women in their lives from campus days to the present are Mare Winningham (left), Demi Moore and Ally Sheedy.

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Box Office Hours

The Ann Arbor Summer Festival box office in the Power Center will be open 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Beginning June 29 and continuing throughout the Festival, the box office will be open seven days a week, 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Performance hall box offices are open one hour before the scheduled performance time.

PHONE ORDER FORM

Date	Performance & Time	Loc*	Price (circle)	x No.	Amount
June 29 SAT	Opening Event: Gala Garden Party 6 pm	PC	\$25		
June 29 SAT	Canadian Brass 8 pm	PC	\$15-14-13-11		
June 30 SUN	Sunday A.M. Concert: Renaissance City Players 11 am	RA	\$8 Gen. Adm.		
June 30 SUN	Luna Boyd, Guitarist 4 pm	RA	\$8-6-4-2		
June 30 SUN	Canadian Brass 8 pm	PC	\$15-14-13-11		
July 1 MON	Toronto Dance Theatre (Program #1) 8 pm	PC	\$15-14-13-11		
July 1 MON	Luna Boyd, Guitarist 8 pm	RA	\$10-8-6-4		
July 2 TUE	Toronto Dance Theatre (Program #2) 8 pm	PC	\$15-14-13-11		
July 2 TUE	Recital: Cibaurn Competition Winner 8 pm	RA	\$6-5-4-2		
July 3 WED	Paul Whiteman Historic Concert 8 pm	PC	\$16-14-13-11		
July 4 THU	William Windom plays <i>Thurber</i> 8 pm	PC	\$15-14-13-11		
July 5 FRI	William Windom plays <i>Thurber</i> 8 pm	PC	\$15-14-13-11		
July 6 SAT	National Arts Centre Orchestra 8 pm	PC	\$16-14-13-11		
July 7 SUN	Marcel Marceau (Program #1) 1 pm	MT	\$12-11-10-8		
July 7 SUN	Hal Holbrook in <i>Mark Twain Tonight</i> 8 pm	PC	\$18-14-10		
July 7 SUN	Marcel Marceau (Program #1) 8 pm	PC	\$16-14-13-11		
July 8 MON	Ballet of Montreal (Program #1) 8 pm	PC	\$15-14-13-11		
July 8 MON	Hal Holbrook in <i>Mark Twain Tonight</i> 8 pm	MT	\$18-14-10		
July 9 TUE	Ballet of Montreal (Program #2) 8 pm	PC	\$15-14-13-11		
July 9 TUE	Recital: Cibaurn Competition Winner 8 pm	RA	\$6-5-4-2		
July 10 WED	Marcel Marceau (Program #2) 8 pm	PC	\$16-14-13-11		
July 11 THU	Marcel Marceau (Program #2) 8 pm	PC	\$16-14-13-11		
July 12 FRI	Pocket Opera in <i>The Bridge of Sighs</i> 8 pm	LM	\$15-14-13-11		
July 13 SAT	Pocket Opera <i>The Bridge of Sighs</i> 8 pm	LM	\$15-14-13-11		
July 13 SAT	Chaplin's Classic Film <i>Circus</i> 8 pm	MT	\$10 Gen. Adm.		
July 14 SUN	Sunday A.M. Concert: Ars Musica (Program #1) 11 am	RA	\$8 Gen. Adm.		
July 14 SUN	Brian Glow's Magic Show 4 pm	PC	\$6 Gen. Adm.		
July 14 SUN	Maureen Forrester & Orford Quartet 4 pm	RA	\$10-8-6-4		
July 14 SUN	Pocket Opera <i>La Vie Parisienne</i> 8 pm	LM	\$15-14-13-11		
July 15 MON	Maureen Forrester & Northwest Orchestra 8 pm	PC	\$15-14-13-11		
July 17 WED	Ann Arbor Civic Theater, <i>The Robber Bridegroom</i> 8 pm	PC	\$14-12-11-9		
July 18 THU	Ann Arbor Civic Theater, <i>The Robber Bridegroom</i> 8 pm	PC	\$14-12-11-9		
July 19 FRI	Ann Arbor Civic Theater, <i>The Robber Bridegroom</i> 8 pm	PC	\$14-12-11-9		
July 20 SAT	1,000 Years of Jazz 8 pm	PC	\$10-9-8-6		
July 21 SUN	Sunday A.M. Concert: Ars Musica (Program #2) 11 am	RA	\$8 Gen. Adm.		
July 21 SUN	World Youth Orchestra/Cibaurn Competition Winner 8 pm	PC	\$10-9-8-6		
July 22 MON	German Youth Orchestra/Kremer (Program #1) 8 pm	PC	\$15-14-13-11		
July 22 MON	German Youth Orchestra/Kremer (Program #2) 8 pm	PC	\$15-14-13-11		
July 23 TUE	Michigan Theater Coupon Book (10 admissions)	MT	\$20		
	Marilyn Mason Bach Festival (6 admissions)	CC	\$20		

*Locations: PC-Power Center RA-Rackham Auditorium LM-Lydia Mendelsohn Theater MT-Michigan Theater CC-First Congregational Church Canadian attraction

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