

Entertainment

Ethel Simmons editor/644-1100



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Dreams, reality mingle in comedy

IF YOU CAN IMAGINE Sigmund Freud humming down-home, country-western, bluegrass tunes on his way to a fundamentalist revival, then you can imagine the enlightened, comic madness of "Raising Arizona." (PG-13). And even if you can't see Freud singing "Hallelujah" and "Hesanna," you'll still love Nicolas Cage and Holly

Hunter as an unusual, fundamental kind of couple bond and determined to raise a family.

This unlikely duo first meet when the inept Hi (Cage) is on his way to jail for robbing a convenience store. Ed (Hunter) is the officer who photographs incoming prisoners.

That's not a promising courting scene, but Hi gets

nabbed so many times that the relationship grows.

When love of Ed finally drives him down the straight and narrow, he marries her and settles down to raise a family. Unfortunately, Ed is sterile. Naturally, they consider adoption, but adoption agencies do not consider potential fathers with long arrest records.

WHAT'S LEFT? Kidnapping, of course. Conveniently, the Arizona family has just borne quintuplets, so Hi and Ed figure one won't be missed. They couldn't have been more wrong since Nathan Arizona (Trey Wilson) is a major personality with television commercials for his chain of unpainted furniture stores.

Not only are the local authorities and FBI involved, but a bounty hunter and escaped-convict friends of Hi are attracted by the rewards posted for the return of Nathan Jr.

That sounds like quite a madcap assemblage, and it is particularly since the bounty hunter, Leonard Smalls (Randall "Tex" Cobb), is right out of Hi's worst nightmare.

Literally, the bounty hunter rides out of Hi's subconscious in one of the smoothest filmic transitions from dream to reality. But the film's reality is unusual, one that mixes equal parts of naturalism with the kind of surrealism that the motion picture is especially good at.

Because of their physical nature, movies can go anywhere the filmmaker's imagination cares to travel. Film is not tied down to cumbersome movement in the physical world. The motion picture can leap from one time or place or thought to another in a fraction of a second.

THAT ABILITY is at the heart of "Raising Arizona's" great appeal. Hi's numerous convenience-store robberies, arrests, bookings, photograph sessions with Ed, his time served in jail and his appearances before the Parole Board are all depicted in short, comic order with an upbeat music accompanied by spirited bluegrass C&W music.

Unlike most montages, this one mixes acting styles and naturalistic action with a light-hearted view of life. It's all very consciously theatrical. The flow of events is an open gag, admitted by everyone.

the movies



Dan Greenberg

This film is clearly aware of the joke it's telling, with no pretense toward the realism that often slows down comedy.

There's also a basic morality. Dormant values are awakened by Freudian concepts as Leonard Smalls, the ultimate in biker characters, rides out of Hi's dreams and into the story.

It is much to the film's credit that the bounty hunter is not at all self-conscious in his transition from dream to reality. Top this off with excellent acting by all parties and you have one of the best film comedies in a long time.

SUCH IS NOT the case with "Project X" (PG) whose best performances are by chimpanzees. This Matthew Broderick vehicle about a secret Air Force project to test radiation effects on bomber pilots is weak.

The film's major problem: It never decides whether or not it's a serious discussion of military research at its worst or simply a Pete Smith Speciality — remember "Monkeys Is the Cwaziest People"?

Broderick appears dull and listless as Airman Jimmy, a man who wants to fly but winds up in trouble for his madcap antics (just like the chimps who star in the film). Jimmy is assigned to a secret Air Force research project and becomes fond of a chimp, Virgil, who can speak sign language taught to him by Teri (Helen Hunt), a doctoral psychology student at the University of Wisconsin. Her research grant was cancelled and that led to her favorite subject, Virgil, being transferred. All this is pretty thin as is the structuring of the Air Force "Project X."

Director Jonathan Kaplan gets good results with the chimpanzees, who are the film's real stars. If he had gotten equally effective performances from the scenarist and the cast, he might have made an excellent comedy.



Nicolas Cage is "Hi" McDonnough, who marries a policewoman, Edwina, played by Holly Hunter in "Raising Arizona." When par-

enthood eludes them, they "borrow" a baby, one of quintuplets.

upcoming things to do

FOUR-WEEK RUN

Meadow Brook Theatre will present Agatha Christie's "Go Back for Murder" at 8 p.m. Thursday, April 23, on the Oakland University campus in Rochester Hills. Performances run through Sunday, May 17. Werner performs the dual roles as Carlo Crale, the daughter, and Caroline Crale, the convicted murderer. For ticket information, call the box office at 377-3300.

OPEN AUDITIONS

Will-O-Way Repertory Theatre has scheduled open auditions for its next production at 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday, April 23-24, in Birmingham. The theater will present Neil Simon's "California Suite" from Friday, May 15, through Saturday, June 13. Roles for women are available in addition to roles for men in their late 20s through early 40s. To audition, call 644-4418.

FOR KIDS

Peanut Butter Players of Lathrup

Village has added two extra performances of "The Electric Sunshine Man," playing at Austin Hall in Detroit. The performances, during spring break, will offer lunch at noon and show at 1 p.m. Thursday-Friday, April 23-24. The musical salute to Thomas Edison on the occasion of his 140th birthday runs through Sunday, April 26. For tickets at \$5 call 559-6PDP.

SUMMER FESTIVAL

The Ann Arbor Summer Festival, fourth annual celebration of the performing arts, will run from Saturday, June 20, to Saturday, July 18. Heading the festival will be New York's Circle Repertory Company, with its acclaimed production of Sam Shepard's "Fool for Love." Marcel Marceau will return to the festival for the fourth consecutive year, performing as his alter ego, Bip. Opening night attraction will be jazz star Dave Brubeck and his quartet. Dance events include the Momis company, under the direction of cho-

reographer Moses Pendleton, a co-founder of Pilobolus Dance Theatre. Tickets to festival performances go on sale Monday, May 11, at all Ticket World outlets. For phone orders, call 763-TKTS. For more information, or to request a free brochure, write to the Ann Arbor Summer Festival, P.O. Box 4070, Ann Arbor 48106 or phone 747-2274.

PINE KNOB

Pine Knob Music Theatre in Clarkston has announced its 1987 Miller Concert Subscription Series. The 18th season of entertainment under the stars includes nine series packages. Among stars appearing are Liza Minelli, Frank Sinatra, Mikhail Baryshnikov, George Benson, Anita Baker, John Denver, Whitney Houston, Tina Turner, Barbara Mandrell, Hank Williams Jr. and Willie Nelson. A few of the musical groups are Air Supply, Beach Boys, Monkeys, Moody Blues, Chicago, Heart and Crosby, Stills and Nash. For information about subscription series

packages, call the Pine Knob ticket office at 872-1600.

ISIS NAMED

Pine Knob has designated ISIS as its exclusive nightclub for the 1987 season. After-concert parties, including celebrity appearances, will be held at ISIS, which is 10 minutes from Pine Knob.

JAZZ PLAYERS

A Jazz Master Series featuring top jazz players in the Detroit area will be presented at Jazz Wednesdays during April and May at Elan, a downtown Detroit nightclub. Reserved table seating at Elan's Centre Court is \$7. General admission to the Jazz Ante Room is \$5. Sets begin at 7, 8 and 9 p.m. For reservations call 965-2196.

MEL TORME

Singer Mel Torme will perform at 8 and 10 p.m. Saturday, April 25, at Cleary Auditorium in Windsor. Torme was a Grammy winner in 1953 for the best male jazz vocalist.

Concert tickets are available at all Ticket Master outlets. To charge tickets and for information call 423-6686.

SUNNY TALES

Detroit Youththeatre will present Chicago's Melkin Puppet Theatre in "Tales of Beatrix Potter" at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, April 21-24, in the Detroit Institute of Arts 400-seat retail hall. Tickets are \$3.50 for children and adults. For more information, call 832-2730 during regular business hours.

NEW MUSICAL

"We the People Remember," a new musical production commemorating the Michigan Sesquicentennial and the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution, will be presented at 8 p.m. Friday, May 1, Law Day, at McGregor Auditorium on the Wayne State University campus in

Detroit. The show offers true-to-life accounts of events involving citizens in Michigan's past. Performances are targeted for secondary-school-age students, whose teachers will be given lesson plans and materials on the production. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$2 for students. To order, send a self-addressed envelope with ticket order and check payable to the State Bar of Michigan, 306 Townsend, Lansing 48933. Tickets also will be available at the door.

'BRIGHTON BEACH'

Vito Guerra of Starfield stars in the Theatre Guild of Livonia-Redford production of "Brighton Beach Memoirs" at 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, April 24-25, May 1-2 and 8-9, in Redford. Another area resident in the cast is Kathleen L. Lietz of Redford. For tickets at \$6, call 522-8057.

Only Area Appearance

Avenue Promotions presents

MEL TORME

One Night Only!

Saturday, April 25

Shows at 8 & 10 P.M.

CLEARY AUDITORIUM
201 Riverside Dr. W., Windsor (Next to the Hilton)

Tickets available at the Box Office or at all TicketMaster Outlets.
423-6666 for charge tickets & info

DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

On the Town

a BROADWAY HOLIDAY

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FOR SECRETARIES' WEEK

Let's do lunch.

Treat your special office assistant to a Kingsley "thank you." We'll honor her with complimentary flowers when you bring her to lunch on Secretaries' Day, Wednesday, April 23. We'll offer a special menu and give her an informal luncheon fashion show presented by Miner's Bagley Inn at Bloomfield Hills. The special elegance of a Bloomfield Hills tradition.

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