

Nostalgic 'Mood' hits right note

RECENT RELEASES:
"Hello Mary Lou: Prom Night II" (R)
Frightening times in high school.

"I've Heard the Mermaids Singing" (I) unrated, 84 minutes
An unusual Canadian film about a free-spirited young woman, Polly Vanderma (Sheila McCarthy), who gets caught up in the chic art world of Gabrielle St. Peres (Paule Ballarçon) and her gallery.

"In the Mood" (A) (PG-13) 90 minutes
Very pleasant and amusing romantic comedy lovingly draped in nostalgia. True story of Ellsworth "Sonny" Wisecarver, a 15-year old southern California musician, who got in a lot of trouble for attracting older women. Excellent entertainment with terrific musical score.

"Stacking" (*)
1954 setting for story of a Montana ranch family.

STILL PLAYING
"Baby Boom" (C-) (PG) 105 minutes

Diane Keaton stars in yuppie comedy about single business executive whose life is changed drastically by the unexpected, unwanted arrival of a baby. Overly cute and predictable story with too few laughs and too many yawns. Reviewed by Kathy Guyor.

"Best Seller" (B+) (R) 90 minutes
Fast-paced thriller with high body count. An unusual story of psychopathic hitman, Cleve (James Woods), whose murders have built an empire for David Madlock (Paul Shenar). Madlock and Cleve part enemies so the latter enlists an exceptional cop, Dennis McEchum (Brian Dennehy), to write an expose of Mr. Madlock.

"Big Shots" (D) (PG-13) 95 minutes
Far-fetched adventure story of suburban adolescent who teams up with homeless kid. They confront violence and outwit adults in their search for homeless boy's father. Reviewed by Jeff Limattia.

"Can't Buy Me Love" (B-) PG-13 94 minutes
Money may not buy love but it sure buys unpopular Tucson (Arizona) High School student (Patrick



the movies
Dan Greenberg

Dempsey) a chance to prove himself. Unfortunately popular cheerleader (Amanda Peterson) hires as girlfriend decides she likes the real him better. Cute idea but hokey, dragged-out ending.

Chuck Berry Hall! Hall! Rock 'n' Roll" (A) (PG) 120 minutes
Rock documentary looks at Chuck Berry and his music, his life and his career. Interviews and performances by rock 'n' roll greats make this a well put together, extremely entertaining production. Reviewed by Kathy Guyor.

"Dirty Dancing" (B-) (PG-13) 105 minutes
Well-done and entertaining showbiz cliché. Rich, idealistic young girl (Jennifer Grey) falls in love with working-class dance instructor (Patrick Swayze). Music, dance, and dialogue are good, but plot has more trite twists than Chubby Checker in the Peppermint Lounge.

"Fatal Attraction" (A) (R) 110 minutes
Michael Douglas as a family man whose one-night stand turns into a nightmare at the hands of a psychotic woman (Glenn Close) in this suspenseful thriller. Riveting performances and a strong story build to an explosive, nerve-shattering conclusion. Reviewed by Kathy Guyor.

"Hellraiser" (*) (R) 94 minutes
Horror-flick with Andrew Robinson and Ashley Laurence welcoming a former lover back from the grave.

"Like Father Like Son" (B-) (PG-13) 95 minutes
Rigid father (Dudley Moore) and laid-back son (Kirk Cameron) transfer brains, courtesy of an old Indian potion. Despite plot flaws, Moore's antics are entertaining.

"Matewan" (A) (PG-13) 132 minutes
The history of West Virginia mining town's tragic struggle to organize labor is authentically portrayed in 1920s setting. Despite mining company might, the people of Matewan are moved to change when Joe Kenehan (Chris Cooper), a union man, arrives. Strong performance by James Earl Jones as "Few Clothes" Johnson. Simple and direct dialogue, with cinematography to

match, highlight this human drama. Reviewed by Jeff Limattia.

"Near Dark" (C) (R) 95 minutes
Dark thriller about family of modern vampires roaming the Bible Belt. Unsuspecting farm boy joins them and ultimately causes their destruction. Special effects, violence and gore make this almost scary. Reviewed by Kathy Guyor.

"No Way Out" (B) (R) 115 minutes
This last espionage thriller is well-done, but the movie goes one way while the unsupported, unexplained ending goes another. Kevin Costner and Gene Hackman star, with an excellent performance by Sean Young.

"The Pick-Up Artist" (B) (PG-13) 80 minutes
Pick-up artist Jack Jericho (Robert Downey) meets his match in Randi Jensen (Molly Ringwald). Good performances, especially by Ms. Ringwald, don't fully overcome weak direction. But it's still cute and entertaining.

"The Princess Bride" (A-) (PG) 98 minutes
Rob Reiner's delightful fantasy, based on William Goldman's novel, involves farmboy-turned-hero, Westley (Cary Elwes), and Princess Buttercup (Robin Wright). They encounter miracles, villains, the swamp-fire-forest and "the pit of despair" in a land long ago and far away. Chivalry and swashbuckling suspense interact with slashing wit but "true love" conquers all. Reviewed by Jeff Limattia

"The Principal" (B-) (R) 105 minutes
Jim Belushi, the principal of inner city high school, uses unorthodox methods to combat moral decay of faculty and students and thereby discovers his own identity. Suspense, drama and a believable plot. Reviewed by Jeff Limattia.

"Robocop" (B) (R) 110 minutes
Interesting film about corporate struggles to mechanize police forces of the future. Detroit, as usual, gets bad rap as crime capital. Excellent performance by Peter Weller in title role but film is longer than it needs to be and is marred by excessive violence. But, hey, that's life.



Patrick Dempsey plays legendary ladies' man "Sonny" Wisecarver, and Beverly D'Angelo is an older woman who falls for him in "In the Mood."

"The Besary Murders" (C) (R).
Bobby Laurel's Detroit production about a killer of Catholic priests and nuns would have been better without some of its shocking horror and darkness. Early on you're clued in to whodunit, but not the whydunit. Donald Sutherland and Charles Durning star. Reviewed by Victoria Diaz.

"Slaughterhouse" (*) (R).
Something unusual in slaughterhouses with — for good reason — a cast of unknowns.

"Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" (A+) (G)
Delighting another generation on her 50th birthday.

"Someone to Watch Over Me" (C+) (R) 100 minutes
Slick visuals wear thin in this predictable story of married detective (Tom Berenger) falling in love with lovely witness to whom he is assigned as bodyguard. Facial close-ups, flashing lights and rising steam get tiresome but story has entertaining moments.

"Stakeout" (A-) (R)
Entertaining, well-done police adventure with Richard Dreyfuss and Emilio Estevez as unconventional cops on night-shift stakeout for major criminal. Story twists and turns in clever ways, with plenty of comic relief and good dialogue, but more gore than necessary. \$50 million in the till and still going strong.

"Surrender" (B+) (PG) 95 minutes
Slick, contemporary romantic-comedy with Michael Caine as an appealing novelist disenchanted with greedy women. Sally Field is poor, but a good-hearted, struggling artist. Throw in Steve Guttenberg as spoiled, yuppie attorney, and the result is a comic plot with unique twists and a great supporting cast. Reviewed by Kathy Guyor

"Three O'Clock High" (D-) (PG-13) 85 minutes
Tasteless and generally stupid story of Jerry Mitchell, poorly acted by Casey Siemaszko, who has to fight school bully. Unpleasant photography with exaggerated close-ups and uncomfortable angles repeated ad nauseum.

"Wish You Were Here" (C-) (R) 92 minutes
I was there and wish I wasn't. In spite of fine performance by Emily Lloyd, this British comedy of young, rebellious girl in conventional 1950s town is unpleasant and largely unentertaining. The dialogue is so British it needs subtitles, and it beats me why it's still playing.

Personal touch is the difference at Mexico Inn

Your traveling taster visits area eateries and rates them on a 100-point scale. Up to 30 points are awarded for ambience, which includes general atmosphere and service; 55 points for food; and 15 points for price/value rating. A total of 59 points or less indicates a restaurant is not recommended; 60-74 points signify from passing to good; 75-89 points designate very good with some extraordinary features; and 90-100 points show that a very special dining experience awaits you.

MEXICO INN, 910 S. Wayne Road, Westland (728-8010), was recommended by reader Ms. F.P. of Westland. The restaurant is decorated with Mexican hats and hanging grape clusters, which create an informal relaxed atmosphere for dining. This family-owned eatery shows the extra care and attention of the owners — from the clean surroundings to the very gracious waitresses. There is a wholesome crowd of families and casually attired groups, and people seem to enjoy themselves here. Reservations are available, although we walked in and were seated at once without reservations. Dinner took an hour. Lunch is served on Wednesday through Saturday, and dinner is served every night of the week. **GENERAL ATMOSPHERE** — 15 points maximum. Points awarded — 13.

In addition to being a good-will ambassador for the restaurant, our waitress offered a number of helpful dinner suggestions. She was unusually pleasant, and her attention to needs was good. The pace of our meal was fast but not hurried. On the one occasion when we asked for more water, she brought us a pitcher for the table.

Unfortunately, our appetizer, chips, salsa and drink stayed on the table until dessert arrived. On the other hand, we received clean silverware with each course. **SERVICE** — 15 points maximum. Points awarded — 13.

Portions are quite large here, and we surprised our waitress when we ordered appetizers. She was correct when she told us that there would be plenty of food left for doggy bags. The small super nachos (\$5.25) were enough for dinner for one or almost two. They were crisp, loaded with fresh vegetables, beans and meat. It was not just a mishmash of ingredients; you could taste the food, and it was good.

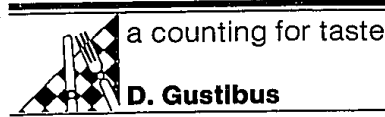
Warm chips and salsa sauce are served, and the salsa is spicy but not so hot that your taste buds are destroyed. We sampled the margaritas (special that night, two for \$4.50) and found them to be strong and much better than average. **BEFORE THE ENTRÉE** — 15 points maximum. Points awarded — 14.

One of the house specials is the wet burrito (\$6.50). It was a delight, with rich tomato flavor and plenty of cheese on top. The accompanying rice and beans also were quite appealing.

The No. 2 combination plate (\$8.95) provided a sampling of other Mexican dishes: a taco that had a tasty shell and fresh ingredients; a tinga which was spicy and unusual with a great guacamole topping. After eating these and getting filled, we had difficulty even trying the burrito and enchilada, but both tasted very good, even reheated the next day. **ENTRÉE, VEGETABLES AND GARNISHES** — 30 points maximum. Points awarded — 26.



The family-owned Mexico Inn in Westland shows the extra care and attention of the owners — from the clean surroundings to the very gracious waitresses.



We were really too stuffed for dessert, but — conscious of our obligations to you, our readers — we sampled the fried ice cream with caramel (\$1.95). It was sweet, refreshing and fabulous. As a final gesture we also had the sopapillas (\$2) which were surprisingly outstanding and plentiful. The dough was cut in strips with a liberal cinnamon topping — delicious. **DESSERT** — 10 points maximum. Points awarded — 10.

Our mammoth meal for two was \$35 with tip, which is higher than usual for Mexican food. However, considering the delightful atmosphere, friendly service and delicious food, the price seemed quite appropriate. **PRICE/VALUE** — 15 points maximum. Points awarded — 13.

A COUNTING FOR TASTE — 100 points maximum. Total points awarded: 89. Mexico Inn demonstrates what a difference the personal attention of the owners can make in all aspects of the dining experience. This is a wonderful place for couples or families; it's a meal you will enjoy, and you certainly won't leave feeling hungry.

D. Gustibus welcomes your reactions, comments and suggestions of favorite restaurants in the Observer & Eccentric communities. Write to D. Gustibus, in care of Observer & Eccentric, Street Scene, 32251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.