

'Crocodile II' lacks punch

RECENT RELEASES:

"Crocodile Dundee II" (C) (PG) 110 minutes.

Dundee (Paul Hogan) is "exploring" New York while living with journalist Sue (Linda Kozlowski). They get involved with Colombian drug dealers, but Dundee saves the day and wins Sue off to Australia. It's cute, but not like the original. Reviewed by Jennifer Morse.

"Housekeeping" (*) (PG) A film starring Christine Lahti.

"Nightfall" (*) (PG-13)

Based on the story that established noted science fiction writer Isaac Asimov as a giant of the genre.

"White Mischief" (B-) (R) 110 minutes.

Kenya 1940: Lust, greed and murder. Sir Broughton's (José Asturias) much younger wife (Greta Scacchi) has an affair with Erroll (Charles Dance). Broughton gives his OK, but

then Erroll is murdered. But who done it? Broughton or maybe one of Erroll's many mistresses. Bizarre ending, wacky characters and some grousing scenes equal a so-so product. Reviewed by Jennifer Morse.

STILL PLAYING:

"Above the Law" (C-) (R) 97 minutes.

A ragged story filled with holes. Former special forces member is the good guy Nico Tasconi (Steven Seagal). Now a street-wise Chicago cop, he employs violence, martial arts and "tough-guy talk" in film with more action than substance. Reviewed by Jeff Linnatta.

"Beetlejuice" (*) (PG)

Michael Keaton and Geena Davis in ghost story with a twist: The ghosts are nice quiet folks and the people are noisy and pretentious.

"Biloxi Blues" (B+) (PG-13) 105 minutes.

"Carrier" (F) (R) 100 minutes.

Gays in plastic bags with axes, whacking each other at one another over which one eats that are inexplicably important in staying off the virus spread by the hero. Amateurish acting, hokey special effects and one of the axe-wielders must have chopped up the continuity director.

"Colors" (F) (R) 120 minutes.

Trite, radically absorbing film about veteran cop (Robert Duvall) trailing roadie (Seth Pen) as they cross the Los Angeles street gang, an addition to last year's stereotypes, the film rambles on and Penn's acting reaches new depths of ineptitude. Even the normally excellent Duvall is wooden and uninspiring.

"Dead Heat" (*) (R)

A little bit of everything from action, fantasy and comedy with Treat Williams, Joe Pesci and Vincent Price, among others.

"Domalek & Eugene" (A±) (PG-13) 105 minutes.

A really absorbing story of brotherly love. Tom Hulce puts in an Academy Award performance as the "slow" brother who works on a garbage truck to help put his twin, Ray Liotta, through medical school. You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll love it.

"Five Corners" (B) (R) 90 minutes.

Picture the Bronx, 1964: Heinz (John Turturro) returns from prison after serving time for attempting to rape Linda (Jodie Foster). Set against civil rights and political action of those days, this interesting, entertaining film is not bad.

"The Last Emperor" (A) (PG-13) 25 minutes.

Bernardo Bertolucci's stunning production of the epic tale of China's last emperor, Puyi. A fascinating story of survival through two world wars and Mao's takeover of mainland China.

"The Manchurian Candidate" (B+) (PG-13)

They may not make movies like they used to, but they do re-release the old ones. This 1962 all-star espionage thriller features Frank Sinatra, Laurence Harvey, Angela Lansbury and Janet Leigh. Worth the trip to your local film house.

"Milagro Beanfield War" (*) (R)

Robert Redford returns to the director's chair in this story of a courageous New Mexican farmer. With Rubin Blaib, Richard Bradford, Sonia Braga and Daniel Stern.

"My Best Friend is a Vampire" (C) (PG) 90 minutes.

Cher as a 37-year-old Italian widow in Brooklyn about to remarry. She's terrific, and Nicolas Cage, Vincent Gardenia and Danny Aiello are great in this puro distillation of the American ethnic stick.

"New Morning Vietnam" (A) (R) 120 minutes.

Non-stop Robin Williams at his very best as Armed Forces Radio DJ in Vietnam.

"Rambow III" (C±) (R) 100 minutes.

Who sez they don't make "B" movies anymore? They do but with "A" budgets. Stallone's macho heroics, destroying Russians in Afghanistan, are mislabeled for release now as Soviets pull out. But not bad for what it is.

"Shakedown" (D+) (R) 90 minutes.

Colorful dialogue is good for a few

laughs, but simple-minded plot must have been conceived during writer's strike. Peter Weller ("Robocop") is effective, but all the characters are sidelined for action-packed scenes and tidy, clichéd ending. Reviewed by Brian Nichols.

"Stormy Monday" (B) (R) 90 minutes.

British import is OK action/romance about sleazy English night club operator fighting off takeover attempt by Mr. Big from Texas, U.S.A.

"Stand and Deliver" (D) (PG) 100 minutes.

Si and he bore. Aside from slow pace and half dozen unexplained plot complications, this story of math teacher in underprivileged school is tedious.

"Willow" (A) (PG) 126 minutes.

Marvelous medieval adventure and romance with dragons, trolls, brownies, elves, witches and wizards as well as a bunch of grown-ups. Excellent entertainment in the best tradition of Disney, George Lucas and Hollywood. You can even take the kids.

Grading the movies

A+	Top marks - sure to please
A	Close behind - excellent
A-	Still in running for top honors
B+	Pretty good stuff, not perfect
B	Good
B-	Good but notable deficiencies
C+	Just a cut above average
C	Mediocre
C-	Not so hot and slipping fast
D+	The very best of the poor stuff
D	Poor
D-	It doesn't get much worse
F	Truly awful
Z	Reserved for the colossally bad
*	No advanced screening



"Crocodile Dundee II" features Paul Hogan as the adventure-some Michael "Crocodile" Dundee and Linda Kozlowski as newspaper reporter Sue Charlton.

"Moonstruck" (A+) (PG) 102 minutes.

Cher as a 37-year-old Italian widow in Brooklyn about to remarry. She's terrific, and Nicolas Cage, Vincent Gardenia and Danny Aiello are great in this puro distillation of the American ethnic stick.

"My Best Friend is a Vampire" (C) (PG) 90 minutes.

Cute, but not does bite. Jeremy (Robert Sean Leonard) is seduced by a "vampire." Result: He must learn to cope. Enter Modo (Rene Auberjonois), a fellow vampire. Movie is repeat of "Once Bitten" and "Teen Wolf." Scenes are inconsistent — for example, the boys take driver's ed, but in previous scene drove legally. Cute, but corny. Reviewed by Jennifer Morse.

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Dan Greenberg

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