

Coppola captures 1940s in 'Tucker'

Monday, August 15, 1988 O&E

(O&E)

RECENT RELEASES:

"Tucker: The Man and His Dream" (A) (PG).

Excellent production that really looks like the '40s. Soft-focus filters and lots of dusty old shots make this story of Ypsilanti machine tool shop owner Preston Tucker (Jeff Bridges) and his dream of the car of the future. Bridges, Joan Allen as his wife, and Martin Landau as the financial adviser deliver fine performances. Entire supporting cast adds to production. Too bad Mr. Tucker tried to take on the Big Three.

"Mac and Me" (S) (PG).

A young boy in a wheelchair and a kidnapped alien.

"Young Guns" (D) (R) 90 minutes.

This film wouldn't have been so long and boring if they'd cut the slow-motion footage. It added absolutely nothing to this dull and dumb story of Billy the Kid (Emilio Estevez) leading a gang of young outcasts to avenge the murder of their mentor (Terrence Stamp). The evil Mr. Murph (Jack Palance) caused all the trouble. Despite help from Charlie Sheen and others, this is a loser. Maybe they can redo it after the writer's strike is settled.

"A Handful of Dust" (C) (PG) 110 minutes.

A boring story of marital problems between Tony (James Wilby) and Brenda (Christine Scott Thomas). Brenda has an affair and Tony



the movies
Dan Greenberg

goes to South America. Cameo appearances by Angelica Huston and Sir Alec Guinness are the only bright spots. Reviewed by Jennifer Morris.

SPECIAL SCREENING:

A rare opportunity to see "Angie" (1934), "The Baker's Wife" (1938) and "Maritus" (1931), three films from Marcel Pagnol, author of the "Jean de Florette/Manon des Sources" saga. Shown at the Detroit Film Theater (Detroit Institute of Arts) in the above order on Friday and Saturday (7 and 8:30 p.m.) and Sunday (5 p.m.), Aug. 19-20.

STILL PLAYING:

"Bambi" (A) (G) 70 minutes.

Short but good animated story of young fawn growing up. Great for kids, and for adults on a nostalgia trip.

"Big" (A) (PG) 95 minutes.

A shy 12-year-old boy's wish is granted when he wakes up one morning in a man's body. Tom Hanks skillfully captures the innocent, childlike qualities and gestures of a 12-year-old trying to live in an adult world. Reviewed by Cathy Guyer.

"Big Business" (A-) (PG) 95 minutes.

Mistaken identity is comedy's strong suit and that's what Bette Midler, Bette Midler, Lily Tomlin and Lily Tomlin do so well in this story of two sets of twins mixed at birth. Technically superb production but pace falters occasionally.

"Big Top Pee-wee" (B) (PG) 80 minutes.

Kids and Pee-wee Herman fans will love this - talking farm animals, dumb jokes, a circus and Pee-



Jeff Bridges (right) portrays innovative car designer Preston Tucker, Joan Allen is his wife and Martin Landau his friend and associate Abe Krantz in Paramount Pictures' "Tucker: The Man and His Dream."

Wee in love. Reviewed by Kathy Guyer.

"The Blob" (D) (R) 90 minutes.

This remake just doesn't cut it. Horror film fans may love this blob with an '80s touch, but too much blood and guts and too little story... But don't worry, Kevin Dillon and Shawnee Smith save the day. Reviewed by Jennifer Morris.

"Ball Durham" (A-) (R) 105 minutes.

Wonderfully wacky, but slightly overdone summer in the minor leagues. Veteran catcher Crash Davis (Kevin Costner) is brought in to steady hotshot young pitcher Nuke LaLoosh (Tim Robbins). Susan Sarandon and Jenny Robertson compile matters. Film is as explicit as possible while remaining an "R."

"Caddyshack II" (*).

All-star cast starring Jackie Mason, Robert Stack, Dyan Cannon, Diana Merrill, Randy Quaid, Chevy Chase and Dan Aykroyd in sequel to 1980 hit.

"Cocktail" (C-) (R) 110 minutes.

Adolescent fantasy, populated

with overdone, soapy melodrama about a high concept bartender, Brian (Anastasia) and assorted "chickies" led by Jordan Mooney (Elizabeth Shue). Some clever lines by Bryan Brown but only Cruise addicts will sail on this one.

"Coming to America" (B-) (R) 120 minutes.

Hollywood and sexist view of Africa, but Prince Akeem (Eddie Murphy) rebels against an arranged marriage and visits New York City to find his own bride. The good news is Murphy plays a character instead of playing Eddie Murphy and has some touching scenes with his American girl, Lisa (Shari Headley). The bad news is, despite some funny stuff, there's too much adolescent humor.

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

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

"The Dead Pool" (B-) (R) 95 minutes.

Clint Eastwood is back in Dirty Harry's fifth adventure. This time its multiple celebrity deaths. Action-packed with quite a few bloody scenes. Dirty Harry fans will appreciate their hero's usual endurance.

"Die Hard" (*) (R).

Bruce Willis and Bonnie Bedelia in story of hostages trapped in L.A. building seized by terrorists on Christmas Eve.

"Eat the Rich" (Z) (R) 86 minutes.

An absolutely ridiculous British satire that is exaggerated beyond any sense. British accents are so thick that about half the movie is incomprehensible. The other half is disgustingly dumb.

"A Fish Called Wanda" (A) (R) 110 minutes.

A very funny film with the whackiest gang in town. Principals include Jamie Lee Curtis as Wanda the Wonderful, jewel thief extraordinaire. Among her colleagues are Kevin Kline in an absolutely inspired performance as a berserk American in London. John Cleese is a proper bar-

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

ristor, but... The whole thing is beyond words. The only solution is to see the movie.

"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.

"Midnight Run" (F) (R) 115 minutes.

An absolute disappointment, wasting two acting talents in weak script. Bounty hunter Jack Walsh (Robert DeNiro) suffers through overly familiar chase scenes, the FBI and the Mob to bring accountant-embroiderer Jonathan Mardules (Charles Grodin) back to L.A.

"Monkey Shines" (C) (R) 100 minutes.

George Romero escapes the zombies and lightens up on the gore. The film seems to be a horrific appeal to anti-violence, but comes across more like an elongated "Creep Show" story. Reviewed by Brian Nichols.

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