

Superb acting makes 'Empty' one of 10 best

RECENT RELEASES:

"Running on Empty" (A±) (PG-13) 115 minutes.
Superb performances by Judd Hirsch, Christine Lahti, River Phoenix and Martha Plimpton highlight poignant drama of two radicals on the run 20 years after anti-war bomb-throwing in the '60s. Now they have two boys. The film is about family in the very best sense of the word. This family has nothing, but they have everything, because they have each other. "Running on Empty" is one of the top 10 films this year.

"The Accused" (C) (R) 109 minutes.

Sara Tobias (Jody Foster) is gang raped by three men, but Deputy D.A. Kathryn Murphy (Kelly McGillis) believes it's impossible to "win" because of Sara's background. She sells out to defense, realizes her mistake and prosecutes spectators who encouraged the rape. This poignant drama about how our judicial system mishandles rape cases is too long and too slow to get the point across effectively. Rape scene is particularly horrible. Reviewed by Kim Brown.

"Ground Zero" (B-) (PG-13) 95 minutes.

Government cover-up is basis for this thriller. Twenty-five years after Britain tests H-Bomb in Australian outback, Aborigines are dying of cancer. News of hidden, incriminating film leaks out and it's a race between government agents and a photographer to find the negatives. Reviewed by Kathy Guyon.

"The Kiss" (F) (R) 90 minutes.

"The Kiss" by any other name would still be the same senseless figment of someone's imagination, featuring voodoo, gore, sex and more gore, as curse is passed on to a young woman in each generation via a bloody kiss. Reviewed by Verdeli Waites.

"Pumpkinhead" (C) (R) 86 minutes.

Mediocre monster movie with Ed Harley (Lance Henriksen) summoning evil to punish bikers who killed his son. Low-level lighting keeps the gore-impact down, but this

Henriksen discovers education in acting

By Dan Greenberg
special writer

"Acting has been a university for me, a forum, the one place to ask questions."

There are a lot of thoughtful, talented people around, devoting their lives to amusing us. One such neat guy is actor Lance Henriksen.

Henriksen was in town last week promoting his latest film, "Pumpkinhead" and to videotape comments on acting and good film for OCC-TV's "Arts in Review."

Although "Pumpkinhead" is a typical demon/monster movie, there are several nice touches — low key lighting, which defuses the impact gore usually has, and the acting.

Henriksen is a fine actor with a long list of credits, one of the multi-talented who amuse us and whom we've seen but probably don't recognize. "Aliens," "Close Encounters," "Dances with Wolves," "Dog Day Afternoon," "Network" and "The Terminator" are among his most notable films.

He also has many on- and off-Broadway dramatic credits, but his best "name" part was as astronaut Wally Schirra in "The Right Stuff."

FOR HENRIKSEN, acting has provided the education he missed as a child. Because his parents moved around so much, "I was only in grade school for three years" and "spent quite a few years as a seaman."

When he left the sea, he was cast — typically, really — in one of Eugene O'Neill's sea plays.

"It was easy to get the role, but I had to work 10 times as hard as everyone else because I was nearly illiterate," he said.

The university of acting has



the movies

Dan Greenberg

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

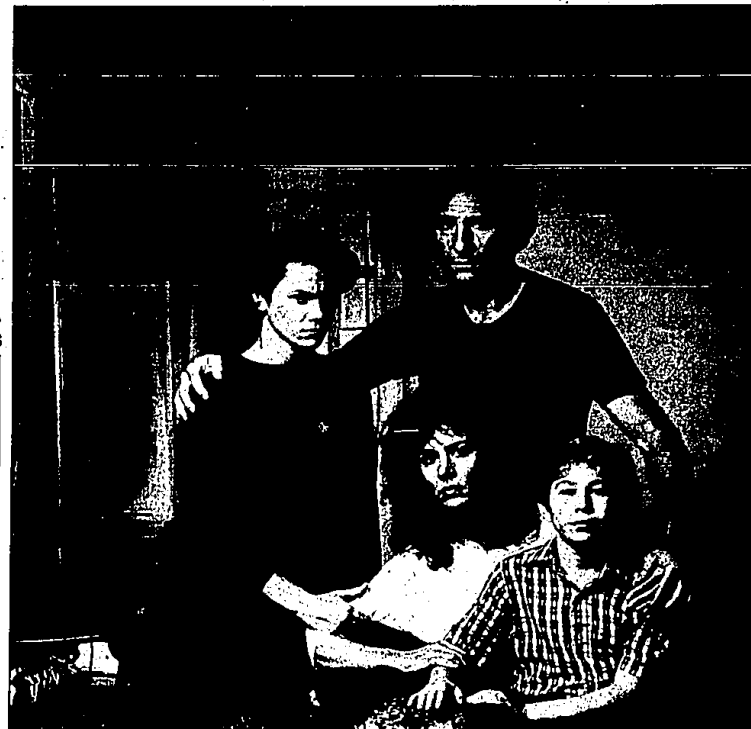
Limited, unimaginative morality tale is right on time for Halloween. Too bad Pumpkinhead doesn't have a pumpkin head.

STILL PLAYING:

"Bagdad Cafe" (B) (PG) 91 minutes.

Except for a confusing opening, this is a wonderful comedy about friendship, love and understanding. Jasmine (Marianne Sägebrecht) leaves her husband in the middle of the Mojave Desert and winds up in Bagdad where she rents a room from Brenda (C.C. Pounder), who has kicked her husband out. The two women, who start out with nothing in common, form strong bonds. Jack Black also appears. Reviewed by Jennifer Morris.

"Betrayed" (A) (R) 115 minutes.



Living on the run for the past 15 years, the Pope family to keep their family together in Warner Bros.' content — Danny (River Phoenix), Annie (Christine Lahti), Ar — thur (Judd Hirsch) and Harry (Jonas Abry) — struggle

"Dead Ringers" (F) (R) 115 minutes.

Can identical twin gynecologists (Jeremy Irons and Jeremy Irons) find happiness sharing girls, pills, patients and their practice? It's not worth watching this boring, slow-paced, sicko film to find out.

"Die Hard" (F) (R). Bruce Willis and Bonnie Bedelia in story of hostages trapped in L.A. building seized by terrorists on Christmas Eve.

"Eight Men Out" (D) (PG) 115 minutes.

Say it ain't so, John Sayles ("Matteawan," "The Brothers from Another Planet"). Tell us you didn't make a film with poorly identified characters, confusing plot, choppy editing and half-lit staccato images. But I guess you did. Music track is nice, but it is hard to believe the 1919 Chicago "Black" Sox threw the World Series just because Mr. Comiskey paid them poorly. There had to be more to it than that. Same goes for the movie.

"Elvira, Mistress of the Dark" (D-) (PG-13) 96 minutes.

Thisodge-podge tries everything and falls because you need a lot more talent than this crowd has to pull off a satiric-comedy-horror-cult-sex film. Timing is off, pacing erratic and everything is flat except Elvira.

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

A very funny film with the whackiest gang in town. Principals include Jaime Lee Curtis as Wanda the Wonderful, jewel thief extraordinaire. Among her colleagues are Kevin Kline in an absolutely inspired performance as a berserk American gunsel in London. John Cleese is a proper barrister, but... The whole thing is beyond words. The only solution is to see the movie.

"Gorillas in the Mist" (C-) (PG-13) 120 minutes.

Welcome to the wonderful world of gorillas. Sigourney Weaver plays it like the Magic Kingdom and the film's erratic pacing largely misses the point of Dian Fossey's life and her obsessive reverence for gorillas living freely in their natural habitat.

"Heartbreak Hotel" (B) (PG-13)

Welcome this, Elvis fans: Taylor, Ohio, 1972. Dad's gone, Mom's alcoholic, her boyfriend's abusive and she lives in a rundown hotel with her two kids. To the rescue, son Johnny (Charles Schlatter) who gets Mom (Tuesday Weld) a date with Elvis (David Keith) because the King can fix anything. He does in an entertain-

ing, amusing film with 12 original Elvis songs on a great sound track. Reviewed by Kim Brown.

"Imagine: John Lennon" (D) (R) 85 minutes.

If you believe, as I do, that there is life after rock'n'roll, you'll be bored by this pedestrian documentary about John Lennon. Even if you're rockin' round the clock and think that the Beatles made major contributions to western culture, you'll still be disappointed. This film is home movies at their worst, with limited music and low quality newsreel footage taken off the tube. John and Yoko lying around in bed talking about peace may be a media event but it ain't great culture.

"The Last Temptation of Christ" (B-) (R) 164 minutes.

Controversial portrayal of Christ as a disturbed person who struggles with his duality and tries to reject his divinity. Well-photographed and has fine acting, but choppy editing in complex rendition makes this one questionable.



Lance Henriksen portrays Ed Harley, a man who summons a demon of vengeance and pays the ultimate price in "Damned Artists Pictures" "Pumpkinhead."

changed all that and Henriksen is a literate gentleman whose resonant baritone (famously discussing acting films, the theater and what hard work lies behind the surface glamour).

Henriksen also writes film scripts, and his next appearance will be in one of those scripts. But only as an actor, never as a director.

"For the producers, movie making is a war and for the actors, it's a love affair," he said. "The director sits on the fence like a masochist. Acting is going back to zero all the time and you have to retrain yourself, learn new things."

That's how the university of acting has helped Henriksen grow and mature.

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