# 'Major League': Improbable plot but sure winner

The spring season gets under way this week with five new releases — two major, two minor and one inbetween film.

Don't rush out to see the leaser ones unless something like "Cyberg" (') is your special dish. It's an Rest of touristic thriller with long the special film, whose protagonist and antagonist are named after equipment and techniques associated with electric guilars?

Gibson Richenbacker, leader of the Singers and Fender Tremolo, ethic Fiesh Pirate, those are your main men. Pily the poor people cught in that world gone mad.

"I, Madman" (') has a young octress working 'in an antique bookstore and Imagining that the bad guys in the books are coming to life. Maybe they are.

"Dead Calm" (\*) (R) hovers between major and unity. It's an Australian thriller; starring Sam Nelli ("A Cry in the Dark") as an Australian thriller; starring Sam Nelli ("A Cry in the Dark") as an Australian thriller; starring Sam Nelli ("A Cry in the Dark") as an Australian thriller; starring Sam Nelli ("A Cry in the Dark") as an Australian thriller; starring Sam Nelli ("A Cry in the Dark") as an Australian thriller; starring Sam Nelli ("A Cry in the Dark") as an Australian thriller; starring Sam Nelli ("A Cry in the Dark") as an Continued schooner.

"Dream Team" (B+, PG-13, 105 minster) is so close to great that it's a shame shey don't recall it and revise the first quarter-hour where problems east, and read the continued schooner.

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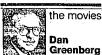
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problems exist.

Those early, and dublous, plot elements set up this story of four men-tal patients Billy Caulfield (Michael Keaton), Henry Sikorsky (Christo-pher Lloyd), Jack McDermott (Peter Bayle) and Albert Januzzi (Stenhen pher Lloyd), Jack McLermott (reter Boyle) and Albert Ianuzzi (Stephen Furst) leaving the hospital on a field trip to Yankee Stadium with Dr. Weltzman (Dennis Boutsikaris). First of all, those four patients were far too disturbed to be allowed

out with only a doctor and no other supervision — at least one orderly,

Spervisors
please.
Then, correct me if I'm wrong, but a trip from New Jersey (where the mental institution was located) to Yankee Stadium probably would be rooted up the West Side Drive rather than Eighth Avenue or 10th Avenue — which is what it locked like they were driving on. But the action in



Dan Greenberg

#### Grading the movies

	A+	Top marks - sure to please
	A	Close behind - excellent
	Α-	Still in running for top honors
٠.	B+	Pretty good stuff, not perfect
	В	Good
	В•	Good but notable deficiencies
	C+	Just a cut above average
	<u>c</u>	Mediocre
	C-	Not so hot and slipping fast
	D+	The very best of the poor stuff
	D	Poor
	Ď	it doesn't get much worse
	F	Truly swful
	Z	Reserved for the colossally bad
	1	l

the last 90 minutes of the film depends upon driving on a surface street with no orderlies, just Dr. Weltzman.

Weltzman.

There were minor continuity crrors as well — the dayroom clock
read 10:30 a.m. when the Yankees
and Orioles started their ballgame. and Orioles started their ballgame.
Also, this opening segment was uncomfortable as the four rambled
around in their psychoses. Those
guys were too far around the bend
for comedy. All that changes, however, once they hit the road for Yankee
Stadium.

Our four heroes encounter their former lives in various ways and places — a slick ad agency, an evan-gelical revival, a restaurant, several apartments, jali cells and a hospital



Billy Caulfield (Michael Keaton) is restrained by Henry Sikor-sky (Christopher Lloyd) and Jack McDermott (Peter Boyle) during an altercation with a police sergeant (Bud Sullivan) in "The Dream Machine."

plus the sidewalks of New York.

Life is a funny proposition and
these unlikely four, supposedly incompetent mental cases, rise to the
chaltenge of the big city. In the
course of a very funny film, they
make considerable progress toward
mental health and raise the issue of
who really is cray — those inside or
outside the hospital walls?

outside the hospital wolls?

"Major League" (A) (R) is top entertainment and totally unbellevable—or is it? Think about Steve Pisher, the Michigan baskethater Pisher, the Michigan baskethater from the Michigan basket

To achieve this dastardly objective, she hires minor league manager Lou Brown (James Gammon) and a team of has-beens and never-will-be's.

But it's last (and only) chance for this crowd is lead by weak-meed catcher Jake Taylor (form Berringer), prima donas third baseman Roger Dorn (Grobin Berrsen) and except little Flexible Vaughn (Charlle Sheen), who sool Whittows scheme. An accomplished cast, good music files of the property of the pro

"Major League" makes many mic observations on the American comic observations on the American ports scene. In particular, Indians sportscaster Harry Doyle (Bob Uecker, the former Milwauakee Brewerr announcer) and Wesley Saipes (Willie Mays Hayes), the guy who waste even invited to the loser's spring training yet he became a star. It's the American dream all wrapped up in one terrific movie.

Still PLAYING:
"The Accidential Tourist" (C+)

# Good pickin'

### 33 entries go for gold

Go. TO' GOIG

Jone Frener Who would have
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Marvelous fantasy, super special effects and great performances by all-star cast.

Another Cincy — Cindy Gittleman of Southfield — will also get to enjoy the movies with her AMC goests passes short sives as the surface of the control place where.

Not to be overlooked, the other Specific work with a will not be overlooked, the other Specific work with a will not be overlooked, and the surface of the will be presented with the surface of the surf

(PG) 120 minutes. Slow-paced family melodrama. "The Adventures of Baron Mun-chasen" (A) PG, 126 minutes

All's Fair" (\*) (PG-13). George Segal and Sally Kellerman is male/female "combat" on a cor-porate weekend. "Bill & Ted's Excellent Adven-ture" (B-) (PG-13).

George Carliin gives the boys the key to a time-traveling, A-plus histo-

key to a time-traveling, Aspita insta-ry project.

"The 'Burbs' (D) (PG) 95 minutes.

Tom Hanks in slow-paced, absurd sattre of horror films.

"Chances Are" (") (PG).

Cybil Shepard, Robert Downey Jr.

and Ryan O'Neal in a romantic com-cive about two lives mixed together. edy about two lives mixed together. "Cousins" (A-) (PG-13) (115 min-

utes).
Charming romantic comedy about life, love and marriage.

#### ALTERNATIVE VIEWING

### DFT does double 'take' for 'Dorrit'

In 1902, Peter Ackroyd published a novel,"The Great Fire of London," in which a British production compa-ny films a somewhat distorted verny films a somewhat distorted ver-sion of Charles Dickens' novel, "Lit-tle Dorrit." Outraged by what's being done to her story, the fictional Little Dorrit materializes like a venegeful ghost and sets fire to the illm studio.

PARK THEATRE, 804 Erie St. E., Windsor. Cail (519) 971-9985 for date and time (§4 regular and \$2.50 seniors, children and members).

"Track 29" (1980), April 19-17. Nicolas-Rocg's post-modern melodrama about a woman's remion with her long-lost son. "Dabette's Fessa" (1983), April 13-17. Adaptation of Isak Dineson's tale about a servant who regales her friends with a lavish banquet. tilm studio.

Apparently, Dorrit amiled upon this latest cinematic retelling of her life and adventures. French-born director Christine Edzard's painstaingly crafted sets and costumes remained untorthed during production and her completed six-hour version of "Dorrit" (at the Detroit Institute of Arts Film Theatrer the next three weeks) played to numerous accounts.

ness) and adapted screenplay (by Edzard herself).
"Dorrit" is a relatively minor work from the prolific Dicken's middle period before his reputation as a leading English morellat was made with such page hits at was more with such mega-hits as "Great Ex-poctations" and 'A Tale of Two Cit-ics."

pectations" and 'A Taic of 'Two Citis."

In light of the revelations about his private conduct — he abandoned his wife and a dozen-odd children in a contract of the contrac

with in "Dorrit." His own father was, for a time, forced into debtor's prison. As was common in Victorian London, his family went to live with the father in his cell being otherwise

the father in as cen being once when homeless.

Like Dickens, the lovely, virtuous Amy Dorrit (Sarah Pickering) re-sides with her debtor father (Alec Guiness) in prison — only ahe was born there and after 20 years, it's starting to look like a permanent ar-rangement.

rangement.
Fate brings her into contact with the kindly businessman, Arthur Clemman (Derek Jacohl), who sets out to battle the deadly bureaucracy of the Circumboculum Office to get Mr. Dorrit released.

Dorrit released.

An unexpected inheritance for Arrhur, and a bad break for Arrhur, make for major complications.

Edzard's "Dorrit' turns up a clever narrative device. She tells the story twice, from two complementary

points of view. Part one, "Nobody's Fault," relates the tale from Ar-thur's viewpoint. Part Two, "Little Dorrit's Story," gives Amy's version of things.

of things.

THE ROYAL Shakespeare Company's famous "Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickelby," a Dickensation that beats out this "Portit" by three hours, was presented on stage in full every night. Theatergoers could either watch it in one nine-hour shot or in two segments on sweeksive nights.

The Detroit Film Theatre offers moviegoers similar flexibility with "Dorrit." Part One will be screened April 14-16 and Part Two April 21-3. Viewers can see the entire Illm over two weekends.

16, however, they would prefer

If, however, they would prefer ack-to-back viewings, they can see

<u>ONLY AREA APPEARANCE!</u>

9 BIG SHOWS!

## SCREEN SCENE

APTERNOON FILM THEATRE, De-cit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward, tren insurate of Arts, 2200 Woodward, Detrolt, For Information, call 832-2730. "The Penalty" (1920), April 11-16. Bi-zarre Lon Chancy chiller about a double amputee who becomes an underworld kingpla.

DETROIT FILM THEATER, Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit. Call 832-2730

Institute of Arts, Detroit. Call 33:2739
for Information.

"Little Dorrit" (1887), 7 p.m: April 1415, 2 and 7 p.m. April 16. Part One of
Christine Ezard's six-hour adaptation of
the Charles Dickens novel. (Part Two will
be shown next weekend. A \$10 admission
gets you into both events.)

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY, Strong Additorium, Ypolianti. Call 437-2935 for Information, 482 all 2024; "Allen Nation" (1983), 8 and 10 p.m. Ayril 11-13, 8, 10 pm. and midgish April 14, Foturistic thriller about extracerra-trial immilgrants in Los Angeles, starring Many Fattakin and James Casa.

HENRY FORD CENTENNIAL LI-BRARY, 16301 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. Call 943-2330 for information. (Free)

"Oliver!" (1963), 7 p.m. April 10. Mark Lester plays the lovable Victorian orphan who wants more in this musical version of Dickens "Oliver Twist."

MICHIGAN THEATRE, 16301 E. LID ly, Ann Arbor. For information, call 9-8397. (\$4 regular and \$3.25 students

erty, Ann Arbor. For Information, call 69-8397, (if regular and \$3.25 students and sentor cilizens)

"Voices of Sarafina" (1988) 8 pm. April 10, 930 pm. April 11, 715 pm. April 11, 1970, m. April 11-10, 930 pm. April 11, 715 pm. April 11-10, 930 pm. April 11-13 pm. April 11-10, 930 pm. April 11-13 methylaride decumentary about black South Arican youth, starting in the anti-spart-beid Broadway musical "Sarafinat"

"Chinatom" (1970), 7 pm. April 11-13. The greatest detective film ever made, Broana Polizanki's laie of unsavery doings in 1930s L.A. Scaturer Jack Ni-cholon, Fayp Bonnavay and John Huston.

"Jimi Inve" (1973), 8 pm. April 12-13. Concert film featuring legendary acid rock getiarist Jimi Hendriz.

"Tunning on Empiry" (1988), 8 th pm. April 15, 7 pm. April 16, 10 there Phocenic second an Occar pomination for his role as the child of lett-wing terrorists on the Limit this Stindy Jamest Him. "The Average II" (1975) Average II" (1975), 8 pm. April 10, 1 pm. Average III (1975), 8 pm. April 10, 1 pm. Average III" (1975), 8 pm. April 10, 1 pm. Average III" (1975), 8 pm. April 10, 1 pm. Average III" (1975), 8 pm. April 11, 11-10, 1 pm. Average III" (1975), 8 pm. April 11, 11-10, 1 pm. Average III" (1975), 8 pm. April 11, 11-10, 1 pm. Average III" (1975), 8 pm. April 11, 11-10, 1 pm. Average."

"The Accidental Tourist" (1988), 8 pm. April 11, 11-10, 1 pm. April 10, 1 pm. Average."

"The Accidental Tourist" (1988), 8 pm. April 11, 1 pm. Accidental Tourist" (1988), 8 pm. April 11, 1 pm. April 10, 1 pm. April 10,

April 10. Lawrence Assours entertain-ing, faithful adaptation of Anne Tyler's novel features Big Bill Hurt as a travel writer and Occar winner Geens Davis as

the dog trainer who brings him to a beel.

REDFORD THEATRE, 17360 Lahser, Detroit. Call 537-2560 for information.

"All About Eve" (1950), 7:30 p.m. April 14-15. Acid-laced backstage drama about a Broadway actress (Bette Davis) done in by a scheming young rival (Anne Baxter).

TFLE-ARTS, 1540 Woodward, Detroit. Call 963-8690 for dates and times. (\$2 matinee, students and seniors, \$3.50 regu-

lar)
"Law of Desire," April 12-16. Spley feature by saucy Spaniard Pedro Almodovar. dovar,
"Big Time" (1988), April 14-16. Concert
film starring Tom "Stop talking like that
or you'll ruin your voice" Walts.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-ANN
ARBOR, showings at Auditorium A, Angell Hall; 435 S, State; 1429 Hill St; Lorch
Hall, corner of Tappan and Monroe; Modern Language Bulkling, 812 E. Wazhington, and Natural Science Auditorium, 839
M. Mattania (Pedeca Public 1844)

ern Language Bulkling, 812 E. Washing, ton, and Natural Science Auditorium, 839 N. University, (Prices usually \$2.50 for single film and \$3.50 for a double fea-ture.) "Heartland Reggae" (1983), 9 p.m. April 13, Hill Street Cinema. Concert film featuring a cavalcade or reggae greats, including Bob Marley and Peter Tosh.

film featuring a cavalcade or reggae greats, Including Bob Mariley and Peter Tosh.

"Blood Feast" (1963), 7 and 10 p.m. April 14, Angell Hall, with "The Wikard of Gere" (1970) at 845 pm. Two gruesome abockers by Herachell Gordon Levis, the Inventor of the splatter flavis, at 1963 pm. Orson Weller not-bad formodget adaptation of Kefaka" Thjal's atara Antheoy Perklus, "Anatomy," set in Michigan, featurer James Stewart and a knockout jazz score by Duke Cillington. "Superchek" (1973) 7 pm. April 13, Angell Hall, with "Deyond the Valley of the Dolls" (1970). A pair of satircial serplottation flicks. Russ Mayers "Beyond" was scripted by Roger Ebert. Save us the able seat.
"The Many Adventures of Winnie the

"The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh" (1968) 7 p.m. April 15, Natural Sci-ence Auditorium.



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