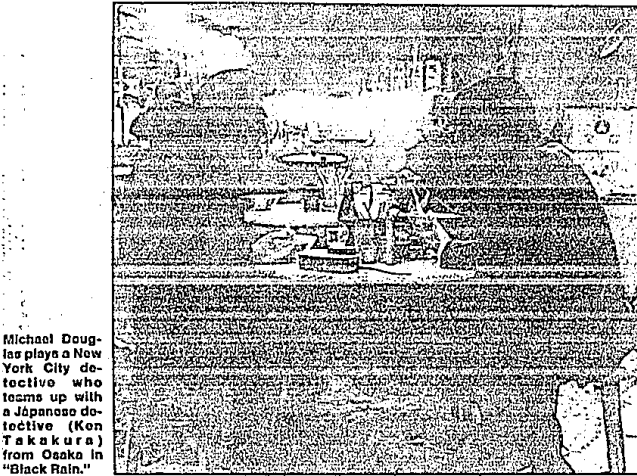




Michael Douglas plays a New York City detective who teams up with a Japanese detective (Ken Takakura) from Osaka in "Black Rain."

Hollywood cashes in on box office bonanza

Audiences are still lining up for summer blockbuster films, so September promises a slow distribution schedule.

But business is so good that Hollywood pundits now cautiously predict a \$5 billion box office this year in the record-setting summer stats roll in. Practically every week this year has exceeded '86 performance.

By the end of July, last year's record domestic box office of \$4.6 billion was well in sight as the number of tickets sold began to rise along with admission prices.

New films are opening over this long Labor Day weekend, but several releases later this month appear promising.

"Raid Julia" ("Tequila Sunrise," "Moon Over Parador," "Kiss of the Spider Woman") in the title role of "Raiders" focuses attention on the economic and social and political problems in Central and South America. Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador, was a man of conscience who could not stand by and watch his country suffer. He was assassinated in 1980.

"Romero" is scheduled for Sept. 8. The subject of politically active priests will be treated again later this fall with Ed Harris' "Abysms" in "To Kill a Priest," the story of Father Jerry Popieluszko, the Solidarity priest murdered in 1984.

Super Palk can look forward to "Cookie" on Sept. 15. Palk stars as ex-con Dino Caputo in a comic but tumultuous relationship with his daughter, "Cookie" (Emily Lloyd). Together they outwit both the mob and the law. Jerry Lewis, Brenda Vaccaro and Dianne Wiest also star in this film directed by Susan Seidelman ("Desperately Seeking Susan").

MANY OTHER major stars will



the movies Dan Greenberg

appear this fall. Michael Douglas opens Sept. 22 in "Black Rain," an international thriller. As Nick Conklin, Douglas is a New York City detective assigned to deliver a Japanese killer to police in Osaka, Japan. When the prisoner escapes, Nick and his partner team up with a Japanese detective to recapture him.

Directed by Ridley Scott ("Alien") and "Blade Runner," "Black Rain" promises exotic settings and fast action.

Kris Kristofferson, currently appearing in "Millennium" stars in "Welcome Home," another examination of Vietnam-war-related problems. Kristofferson appears as an Air Force flier believed killed in Cambodia 17 years earlier. His reappearance, of both Williams in his wife. Sam Waterston and Brian Keith also are featured.

Paul Newman, Dwight Schultz, Bonnie Bedelia, John Cusack and Laura Dern will open Oct. 20 in "Fat Man and Little Boy." Newman stars as Major General Leslie Groves, the man responsible for choosing J. Robert Oppenheimer (Schultz) to head development of the first atomic bomb in World War II's top-secret Manhattan project.

For a very different look at the good old days, "Harlem Nights" features Eddie Murphy, Richard Pryor, Redd Foxx, Danny Aiello and Della Reese plus an appearance by Arsenio Hall in a story of Club Sugar Ray's, a popular afterhours nightclub in 1938 New York City.

ROBERT DE NIRO and Jane Fonda are "Stanley & Iris," an unlikely couple in this poignant story of a widowed factory worker who develops a relationship with a co-worker. The Oscar-winning "Norma Rae" team, director Martin Ritt and writers Irving Ravetch and Harriet Frank Jr., are back together for this production, which also stars Swoosie Kurtz, Martha Plimpton and Peckinpah.

De Niro will also team with Sean Penn in "We're No Angels," scheduled for December release. They're Ned and Jim, two petty gangsters on the run who wind up in a New England town well-regarded for its miraculous shrine. If anyone needs a miracle...

December also promises Jack Nicholson directing and starring in "The Two Jakes," a detective mystery written by Robert Towne whose "Chinatown" script won an Oscar for original screenplay. Harvey Keitel,

Meg Tilly and Madeline Stowe also appear. There's plenty more lined up to whet your appetite this fall as Hollywood continues to prosper with dollars and schemes on the silver screen.

STILL PLAYING: "The Abyss" (D-) (PG-13) 135 minutes. Despite excellent underwater sequences, this muddled and murky sci-fi saga sinks.

"Rainman" (C+) (PG-13) 120 minutes. Michael Keaton is a dud in the title role, but Jack Nicholson's Joker is terrific.

"Casualties of War" (B+) (R) 105 minutes. Grim, gripping and graphically violent story of Vietnam war.

"Cocoon" (D+) (G) 75 minutes. Slow, cliched Disney-in-Africa epic that left its excitement at the airport.

"Dead Poets Society" (A+) (PG) 124 minutes. Robin Williams' sensitive portrait of a fine teacher is complemented by excellent young actors as his students.

"The Right Thing" (B+) (R) 120 minutes. Sharp, incisive and entertaining commentary on today's urban America.

"Eddie and the Cruisers II: Eddie Lives!" (PG-13). They're still looking for Eddie's body.

"Honey, I Shrunk the Kids" (B+) (PG) 105 minutes. It's fun, but it ain't easy to be small.

"Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade" (B+) (PG-13) 120 minutes. Good entertainment, but enough already.

"Let It Ride" (B+) (PG-13) 90 minutes. Good performances in a wild day at the track.

"Lethal Weapon II" (B+) (R) 115 minutes. Glover and Gibson do it again in high, albeit violent, style.

"Licence to Kill" (B+) (R) 105 minutes. Number 16 in the 907 series with Carey Lowell as Dalton's lovely lady. Outrageous but entertaining.

"Lock-up" (R). Stallone in jail and Donald Sutherland is the warden. Best wishes to the latter.

ALTERNATIVE VIEWING

DFS: American made only

By John Monaghan

special writer

Where most film societies venerate the works of foreign directors, the Detroit Film Society prefers to screen American. For the past two decades, close to 400 dues-paying members have attended monthly screenings at the Detroit Public Library.

The new season, simply called "Tributes," begins this weekend with films about Hollywood. "A Star Is Born" and "Sunset Boulevard" share a double bill this Friday and Saturday nights, starting at 7 p.m.

The 1937 version of "A Star Is Born" stars Janet Gaynor as the small-town girl whose rise to stardom is almost as quick as her marriage to her husband's (Frederic March) drunken decline. It's still an insightful look at the movie world, with bits by some of the '30s best character actors.

"Sunset Boulevard" (1950), meanwhile, Billy Wilder's cynical look at the dark side of Tinseltown. Gloria Swanson stars as Norma Des-

mond, a grotesque former silent movie star desperately trying to make a comeback. William Holden is the handsome young script writer who fuels her fantasies.

The film especially fascinating for silent movie buffs. For Gloria Swanson, this was an uncompromising role, especially considering her sparse star in the sound era.

"I'M STILL big," Norma says dramatically. "It's the pictures that got smaller."

Buster Keaton and H.B. Warner appear as Swanson's card-playing cronies. "The Waxworks," while director Eric Von Stroheim adds a bizarre twist as Max, the killer. At one point, Norma screens a bit from "Queen Kelly" (directed by von Stroheim) and imitates Charlie Chaplin in one of the movie's few light moments.

The season continues with other worthwhile films. Billy Wilder's "Witness for the Prosecution" (1957) is a tense Agatha Christie mystery starring Marlene Dietrich and Charles Laughton. It screens Feb. 9-10.

"The Pirate" (1948), running March 9-10, teams Gene Kelly and Judy Garland with music by Cole Porter.

Each season the group welcomes guest speakers. On Oct. 18, DFS board member Rick De Croix discusses his recent book on silent film star Mary Pickford. Several rare clips will be screened along with a surprise Pickford feature.

JIM LIMBACHER, DFS president and author of "Sexuality in World Cinema," will lead a discussion on pre-Code films on Jan. 12. The night's feature, "Call Her Savage" (1932), sees a braless Clara Bow wrestling with a Great Dane and visiting what may be the screen's first gay bar.

Membership includes admission to 18 films plus lectures for \$25 (\$23 for seniors and students). An added bonus is coffee and cookie trays during intermission. This is where the society socializes, swaps trivia about the good old days of movies and suggests titles for upcoming seasons.

SCREEN SCENE

ANN ARBOR FILM CO-OP, Angell Hall Auditorium A, 435 S. State, Ann Arbor. Call 994-0227 for information. (\$2.50 single, \$3.50 double feature)

"Easy Rider" (USA - 1969, 7 and 8:45 p.m. Sept. 7. Dennis Hopper and Peter Fonda "discover America" in this much heralded bike film. With Jack Nicholson's memorable bit as a drunken lawyer.

CENTER FOR JAPANESE STUDIES, Lorch Hall, 909 Monroe. Ann Arbor. Call 764-6307 for information. (free)

"The Water Magician" (Japan - 1933). 7 p.m. Sept. 10. The first in an ambitious series of rare Japanese films, this is the story of a young female carnival musician whose selfless devotion to others leads her down the road to ruin.

Cinema Guild, various locations on the University of Michigan campus in Ann Arbor. Call 994-0227 for information. (\$2.50 single, \$3.50 double feature)

"Chinatown" (USA - 1974, 7 and 9:30 p.m. Sept. 7. In Lorch Hall, Roman Polanski's greatest film, with Jack Nicholson as a Depression-era private detective led into a bizarre and volatile case.

"The Bicycle Thief" (Italy - 1949), 7 p.m. Sept. 10. In Lorch Hall, the most well-known of Italian street films focuses on a man frantic to retrieve the means of his livelihood: his stolen bicycle.

DETROIT FILM SOCIETY, Detroit Public Library, 5201 Woodward Ave. Call 833-0418 for information. (\$25 membership)

That's Hollywood - "A Star Is Born." (USA - 1937, 7 p.m. Sept. 8-9. Janet Gaynor rises to stardom while husband Frederic March falls. With "Sunset Boulevard" (USA - 1930, Billy Wilder's cynical look at Tinseltown, with Gloria Swanson as a grotesque silent movie star desperate for a comeback.)

DETROIT FILM THEATRE, Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave. Detroit. Call 522-2739 for information. (\$5)

"The Sultans" (USA/England - 1989). 7 and 9:30 p.m. Sept. 8. Four strangers in New York bring a live sheep to live with them in their Manhattan apartment. A shaggy sheep story described by one critic as "part Alfred Hitchcock, part Lucille Ball."

"Pattes Blanches" (France - 1949, 7 and 9:30 p.m. Sept. 9. A story of greed and lust in a small fishing village directed by French cult director Jean Gremillon.

LIVONIA MALL CINEMA, 29415 Seven Mile, Livonia. Call 476-1166 for information. (Free)

"Jezabel" (USA - 1938), 10 a.m. Sept. 5. The mall kicks off its month-long tribute to Bette Davis with one her showiest roles. She plays the nasty character to a smitten Henry Fonda in the pre-Civil War South.

MICHIGAN THEATRE, 16301 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. For information, call 668-8397. (\$4 regular and \$3.25 students and senior citizens)

"The Wizard of Oz" (USA - 1939), 6:15 p.m. Sept. 4 and 7:15 p.m. Sept. 5-7. Everybody's favorite fantasy, just in time for its 50th anniversary.

"The Unbearable Lightness of Being" (USA - 1988), 8:30 p.m. Sept. 4. Some find this overstated love story a masterpiece, about a young Czech doctor (Daniel Day-Lewis) who changes his career life when he meets an amazing young woman.

"Heathers" (USA - 1989), 8:30 p.m. Sept. 4. A darkly comic look at high

school life, where a Junior (Winona Ryder) unwillingly murders members of the school's most popular clique.

"Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown" (Spain - 1989), Sept. 7-9 (all showtimes). Almodovar's crazy, colorful odyssey of a woman (Carmen Maura) desperate in her attempts to track down her unfaithful lover.

"Dangerous Liaisons" (USA - 1989), 8:30 p.m. Sept. 8. John Malkovich and Glenn Close as wicked lovers engaging in deadly games of passion.

"Casablanca" (USA - 1942), 5:15 and 11:30 p.m. Sept. 9, 7 p.m. Sept. 10. Bogie and Bergman back together again.

REDFORD THEATRE, 17360 Lasher, Detroit. Call 537-2560 for information. (\$2)

"The Philadelphia Story" (USA - 1940), 8 p.m. Sept. 8-9. Reporter Jimmy Stewart is supposed to cover a society wedding, then falls in love with beguiling bride (Katharine Hepburn). Meanwhile, ex-husband Cary Grant has his own plan for winning her back. George Cukor directed.

TELEARTS, 1540 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Call 963-3918 for information and show times. (\$2.25 adults, \$2 students and senior citizens)

A double feature of jazz films through Sept. 10 (all for show times). "A Night in Havana: Dirty Gillespie in Cuba" (USA - 1989) interviews the jazz trumpeter then watches him cut loose in Cuba with an assembly of excellent soloists. With "Saxophone Colony" (USA - 1988) starring Sonny Rollins live in New York and Japan.

— John Monaghan

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
- F It doesn't get much worse
- F- Truly awful
- Z Reserved for the colossally bad
- X No advanced screening

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CRUISE and TRAVEL NIGHT WEDNESDAY - SEPTEMBER 20, 1989 7:00 - 9:00 P.M.

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MichCon-UW Torch Drive Run/Walk

Celebrating 40 Years Of Caring

Sunday, September 17, 1989 40th HART PLAZA, DETROIT

DISTANCES AND TIMES: 5K Run (3 miles) - 9:00 a.m. 5K Walk (3 miles) - 9:05 a.m. 10K Run (6 miles) - 10:00 a.m. 40K Run (14 miles) - 11:30 a.m. (Families with children under 12 only)

LOCATION: Hart Plaza at Woodward and Jefferson in downtown Detroit.

COURSE: Starts near the Guardian Building at Congress and Griswold and finishes on Hart Plaza. Course maps will be sent to all pre-registered runners in their entry packet.

AWARDS: 50K: Top Male: \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bond, Top Female: \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bond, Top Male Wheelchair: \$500 U.S. Savings Bond, Top Female Wheelchair: \$500 U.S. Savings Bond, Top Male Master: \$500 U.S. Savings Bond, Top Female Master: \$500 U.S. Savings Bond. The top three finishers will win special commemorative prizes. Medals will be awarded to the following finishers: Top 200 men and top 200 women, 39 years and under; top 25 men and 50 women, 40 years and older; top ten wheelchairs, and to all runners 60 years and older.

AWARDS: 5K RUN: Special commemorative plates to the top three male and female finishers. Medals to the

top 100 men and women finishers and the top ten wheelchairs.

AWARDS: 5K FITNESS WALK: This is not a race. Commemorative badges and certificates to all finishers.

OTHER AWARDS: Special awards to the five organizations with the most participants in all three events.

SPECIAL GIFT: A MichCon-United Foundation 40th Anniversary T-shirt will be given to all entrants.

ENTRY FEE: \$8.00 (non-refundable) is postmarked by September 7, 1989. \$3.00 for children 12 and under. All entries after September 7th are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children, with late registration only taking place at Hart Plaza on Sunday, September 17th.

Checks should be made payable to MichCon-UW Torch Drive Run/Walk. Do not send cash.

Mail to: UW Torch Drive Run/Walk 500 Griswold Street, 7th Floor Detroit, MI 48226

NOTE: Race number and packet will be mailed one week prior to the event. All entries after September 7th are \$10.00 and will only take place on Hart Plaza after 7:30 a.m. on September 17, 1989.

MICHCON-UNITED WAY TORCH DRIVE RUN/WALK - OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

ENTRY FEE: \$8.00 (all entries after September 7th are \$10.00) \$3.00 for children 12 and under. (All entries after September 7th are \$5.00)

COMPANY AFFILIATION: _____

NAME (Print) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ AGE (in years) _____ SEX _____

EVENTS YOU ARE RUNNING: 5K ☐ 10K ☐ 5K Walk ☐ 40K ☐

If running on a team, list the name: _____ (If each team member must submit a separate entry form. Team captain must submit a complete team entry packet by September 7, 1989.)

WALKER: To be signed by the walker, no parent/guardian if under 18. For and on behalf of my participation in the MichCon-UW Torch Drive Run/Walk, I agree and release all rights and claims to damages (which may be caused by the sponsor) The Michigan United Way Foundation, United Way for Southeastern Michigan, The City of Detroit, The Michigan United Way Foundation, The Road Runner Race, The Athletic Congress, or other officials for injuries or damages as caused by my participation in said race. I intend to make all expenses, named and unnamed.

ATHLETE: _____

PARANT GUARDIAN (if under 18): _____

Entry cannot be accepted if Walker is not signed. Make checks payable to: MichCon-United Way Torch Drive Run/Walk Return to: United Way Torch Drive Run/Walk, 500 Griswold Street, Detroit, Michigan 48226

NOTE: The above listed prices are only help dollars costs for this event. These fees do not represent a donation to United Way for Southeastern Michigan.

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