

MOVING PICTURES



No question about it. "Ghost," with Patrick Swayze as the ghost and Whoopi Goldberg as the psychic who can hear him, has a lock on top spot for box office takes in 1990.

Looks like 'Ghost' wins the box office bonanza

The totals for 1990's box office receipts won't be in for another week, so all the wise minds will have to wait to second-guess the movie mania running around telling everyone, "I told you so."

Probably won't hear too much from those who were way off base. No question on the number one and two slots. "Ghost" and "Pretty Woman." Quite probably "Home Alone" will continue its phenomenal success and take third place. Fourth probably goes to the "Ninja Turtles," but after that the rest of the lineup is still open.

In the meantime, no new films open in the Detroit area until Jan. 11 so here's another week to catch up on the holiday releases. Look what's still playing:

STILL PLAYING:

"Almost an Angel" (C, PG, 95 minutes).
A slow, cliched Paul Hogan doesn't make it as a probationary angel.

"Bonfire of the Vanities" (C+, R, 120 minutes).
Unbelievable caricatures and jumbled sub-plots detract from discussion of politics of justice.

"Child's Play 2" (C, R).
"Chucky" returns.

"Dances With Wolves" (A, PG-13, 180 minutes).
Kevin Costner's magnificent ode to brotherhood and brutality on America's western frontier during and after the Civil War.

"Edward Scissorhands" (C, PG-13, 180 minutes).
Unusual young man with scissors instead of hands shakes up the suburbs after moving in with the Avon lady and her family.

"Ghost" (A, PG-13, 116 minutes).
Banker's ghost (Patrick Swayze) hangs around after life to protect loved one (Demi Moore). Spiritualist (Whoopi Goldberg) helps him in this romantic comedy/thriller.

"Godfather III" (C+, R, 161 minutes).
Disappointing repeat of formula established in Paris I and II, albeit slick production worth watching.

"Havana" (B, R, 135 minutes).
Robert Redford is high-stakes poker player in Havana just before Cuba became Castro's.

"Home Alone" (B-, PG, 100 minutes).

Engaging comedy about a young boy (Macaulay Culkin) left at home by accident.

"Jacob's Ladder" (A, R, 115 minutes).
Sensational, riveting film experience redemptive and rewards with its story of Jacob Singer's (Tim Robbins) re-entry to civilian life after Vietnam trauma.

"Kindergarten Cop" (B-, PG-13, 105 minutes).
Schwarzenegger is macho and the kids are cute but the plot isn't.

"The King of New York" (R, 103 minutes).
Violent return of recently paroled drug lord.

"Look Who's Talking Too" (F, PG-13, 75 minutes).
Stupid sequel has nothing to offer.

"Mermals" (A-, PG-13, 110 minutes).
Fine romantic comedy features Cher as an unusual matriarch. Winona Ryder is excellent as her teenage daughter.

"Misery" (C+, PG-13, 100 minutes).
Story of writer and obsessed fan waffles back and forth from psychotic thriller to slash epic.

Please turn to Page 4



Al Pacino re-creates his role of Michael Corleone in Francis Ford Coppola's "Godfather III," the continuing epic of the Corleone family.

ALTERNATIVE VIEWING

Mall plays 'em again, Sam

By John Monaghan special writer

Humphrey Bogart was one of those rare actors whose love affair with the camera made even his worst films watchable. So it's no big deal that the monthlong tribute to Bogey at the Livonia Mall runs the gamut from great to godawful.

"The Treasure of Sierra Madre" (1948) kicks off the series on Tuesday. In perhaps his finest performance, Bogart is Fred C. Dobbs, one in a trio of prospectors who grows paranoid and crazy with greed after striking gold.

The adventure was directed by John Huston, whose natural gifts as a storyteller plus his use of deep focus and natural locales made his film unlike any others at the time.

The film also featured the director's father, Walker Huston in an Academy Award-winning role as the old prospector. John Huston even shows up as a white-suited tourist early in the film.

IN ONE OF the film's many amazing sequences, Bogart and partner Tim Holt encounter a shady contractor who refused to pay for their work. The high contrast lighting and

simply staged violence make the ensuing barroom brawl one of the best conceived fist fights in the movies.

There are similarly great moments in Huston's "Key Largo" (1948), which paired Bogart with Lauren Bacall for the fourth time. It screens Jan. 30. Bogart plays one of a handful held hostage by psychotic gangster Edward G. Robinson in a Florida hotel.

In an odd shading of his heroic persona, Bogart is a war veteran and pacifist forced to kill again. In a truly suspenseful climax, he guns down

Please turn to Page 4

SCREEN SCENE

DETROIT FILM SOCIETY, 5201 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Call 833-4048 for information. (\$25 membership, \$4 individual admission)

"A Place in the Sun" (USA — 1951) and "Sitting Pretty" (USA — 1948) share a double bill, starting 7 p.m. Jan. 11-12. The first stars Elizabeth and Montgomery Clift in a melodramatic tale of a factory worker who loves a wealthy beauty. "Sitting Pretty" is the first (and funniest) in the "Mr. Belvedere" comedy series with Clifton Webb taking up babysitting to write a book about human nature.

DETROIT FILM THEATRE, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Call 832-2730 for information. (\$4)

"Cyran de Bergerac" (France — 1990), through Jan. 20 (call for show times). Gerard Depardieu stars as

the romantic hero with a large schnoz who woos a fair maiden (Anne Bouche) from behind the scenes. This acclaimed new version of Edmond Rostand's play was directed by Jean-Paul Rappeneau.

DETROIT SCIENCE CENTER, 5020 John R, Detroit. Call 577-8400 for information. (\$5 museum admission includes ticket, \$2.4 children under 12)

"To the Limit" (USA — 1990), through April 1991. The latest Omnimax spectacular intercuts amazing athletic feats with an analysis of how muscles and blood meet the challenge. Not intended for people with claustrophobia, the movie becomes a first-person "Fantastic Voyage" into the human body.

HENRY FORD CENTENNIAL

LIBRARY, 13671 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. Call 943-2330. (free)

"A Chump at Oxford" (USA — 1940), 7 p.m. Jan. 7. Better-than-average Laurel and Hardy feature finds the boys taking on higher education.

LIVONIA MALL, Seven Mile and Middlebelt roads, Livonia. Call 476-1166 for information. (free)

"The Treasure of Sierra Madre" (USA — 1948), 10 a.m. Jan. 8. Humphrey Bogart in perhaps his greatest role as Fred C. Dobbs, one of a trio of gold prospectors. Tim Holt and Walker Huston co-star in this tale of greed, directed by John Huston.

MICHIGAN THEATRE, 16301 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor, 668-8397. (\$4.50, \$3.50 students/seniors)

Please turn to Page 4



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
X	No advanced screening

VIDEO VIEWING

By Dan Greenberg special writer

Beginning the new year with a look at America's past may prove rewarding. Ken Burns' stunning presentation, "The Civil War," which aired on PBS last fall, is now available on nine video cassettes, totaling more than 11 hours of excellent, engaging documentation of America's bloody Civil War.

Burns has emerged in recent years as one of the country's outstanding practitioners of the documentary film form, with diverse productions ranging from "Brooklyn Bridge" to a feature-length presentation about Louisiana's Governor Huey Long.

The nine tapes in "The Civil War" series are chronologically ordered and present a superb, detailed view of the war, its causes and complications and many of the background issues, issues not always apparent but extremely important in understanding how human culture inflicts so much suffering on its members.

THE NINE are "The Cause — 1861" (99 minutes), "A Very Bloody Affair — 1861" (69 minutes), "Forever Free — 1862" (76 minutes), "Simply Murder — 1863" (62 minutes), "The Universe of Battle — 1863" (95 minutes), "Valley of the Shadow of Death — 1864" (70 minutes), "Most Hallowed Ground" — 1864" (72 minutes), "War is All Hell — 1865" (69 minutes) and "The Better Angels of Our Nature — 1865" (68 minutes).

All were first aired in 1990 and are unrated. Although they're marked "color," a good deal of the photos Burns incorporated so creatively are black and white.

Burns' technique and his superb research are at the heart of the film's impact. Here as in his other films, Burns incorporates all available sources to present a vivid,

gripping picture of the subject. Letters home, the music, newspaper reports, journals and diaries, contemporary historians as well as the many paintings and photographs of the Civil War are, indeed, rich sources. Burns uses them to great effect in a superb mix.

THE THOUGHT of stills on motion picture film is not particularly inspiring, but here the effect is sensational.

The third episode, "Forever Free," opens with a montage of portraits of soldiers. Rather than the obvious technique, which has the cam-

era linger on individual stills, Burns cuts rapidly from photo to photo, using gunfire sound effects as his motivating transitional force. In addition, he cuts with a variety of visual transitions creating the dynamic impression of war's violence.

Just as Vietnam was our first war reported live from the front via tele-vision, the Civil War marked the first combat in our national history reported via photography.

In the 1860s, photography emerged as a viable commercial and professional medium, replacing

Please turn to Page 4

DISCOVER
CARD

STARS ON ICE
STARRING
OLYMPIC & WORLD CHAMPIONS




Olympic Gold Medalist Scott Hamilton

Also Starring

- Susan Wynne & Joseph Draur
- Lea Ann Miller & Bill Fauver
- Kathleen Schmelz

SPECIAL GUEST STAR
Debi Thomas

Saturday, January 12, 1991
Joe Louis Arena
8:00 p.m.

ONE PERFORMANCE ONLY

All seats reserved - \$22.50, \$15.00 & 12.50. A limited number of Gold Circle seats available upon request. Great seats on sale now at the Joe Louis Arena Box Office and all Ticketmaster locations or charge by phone (313) 645-6666. For general information, call: (313) 567-6000. For group rate information, call: (313) 567-7474. Service charge where applicable.

Now available through Ticketmaster and the Box Office a sumptuous pre-show buffet in the elegant Olympia Club of Joe Louis Arena. Seating from 5:30 to 7:15 p.m. Dinner tickets only \$13.00. Call (313) 567-6000 for information.

An IMG/2 Production
In association with 

5151 DEARBORN AVE. DEARBORN, MICHIGAN 48124
AMERICAN EXPRESS HOTEL & RESORTS

Winter Weekend Packages!

3-day, 2-night packages with extras from **\$149** Featuring our poolside Jacuzzi Suites!

Weber's Inn 3050 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 1-800-443-3050


GOT LEGAL QUESTIONS?

CALL ATTORNEY JOHN MOONEY ON HIS NEW LEGAL TALK SHOW...

"YOU AND THE LAW"

ON WCAR 1090 AM
INFORMATION RADIO
EVERY THURSDAY 8 AM-9 AM
HELPFUL LEGAL ADVICE
CALL 525-1090

Only 13% of those who contract lung disease survive past five years... help us find a way to break this deadly cycle.



Support Your Local Lung Association
Give to Christmas Seals

You never know who you might be helping.

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

18860 W. Ten Mile Road • Southfield, Michigan 48075
559-5100