

# GRADING THE MOVIES



Kurt Russell plays Steve McCaffrey, who with his brother Brian (William Baldwin) follow in their father's footsteps as Chicago firefighters in "Backdraft."

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ON THE other hand, forget the hoopla and forget the hype because "Backdraft" (C-, R, 130 minutes) is an unqualified disappointment. It's overly long and consistently predictable, a cornball story about two brothers, Stephen (Kurt Russell) and Brian McCaffrey (William Baldwin), Chicago firefighters following in their father's footsteps. To get to the spectacular, but largely unbelievable, firefighting scenes viewers must wade through slow-paced sub-plots, a murky conspiracy, divorce and separation — all of which slow up the action. Besides, how many fire engines can you chase?

**STILL PLAYING:**

"Ay Carmela" (A, NR, 105 minutes). Politically astute, entertaining film about Spanish Civil War. With English sub-titles.  
 "Class Action" (C+, R, 100 minutes).  
 Father-daughter attorneys, Gene Hackman and Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio, are not a team.  
 "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.  
 "Defending Your Life" (C, PG, 95 minutes).  
 Unsatisfactory romance in the afterlife as Albert Brooks defends his life and falls in love with Meryl Streep.  
 "Dice Rules" (F, NC-17, 87 minutes).  
 Offensive Andrew Dice Clay presentation lacks style, humor.

taste or any other positive characteristics.  
 "The Five Heartbeats" (A-, R). Good entertainment and excellent music in story of fictitious black singing group.  
 "FK2: The Deadly Art of Illusion" (C+, PG-13, 105 minutes). Largely sterile exercise in special effects teams two Brians — Dennehy and Brown — one more time.  
 "GoodFellas" (B+, R, 145 minutes).  
 Martin Scorsese's intense, compelling saga of three mobsters returns after receiving half-dozen Oscar nominations. Despite good acting and fine technical values, the film is to be condemned for glorifying vicious and violent gangsters.  
 "The Hard Way" (B, R, 105 minutes).

James Woods as tough cop doing comedy doesn't match Michael J. Fox's excellent spoof of movies and movie people in this entertaining, unusual buddy film.  
 "A Kiss Before Dying" (B+, R, 90 minutes).  
 Nerve-wracking, tense entertainment with Matt Dillon as psychopathic killer preying on wealthy family.  
 "Love Your Momma" (D, PG-13, 97 minutes).  
 Interesting independent film event falls flat in writing, directing and acting departments. This story of inner-city Chicago folks fumbles and falters. Pick up the pace, please!  
 "Mannequin Two — On the Move" (C, PG).  
 Department store mannequin returns to life.  
 "Mortal Thoughts" (B, R, 104

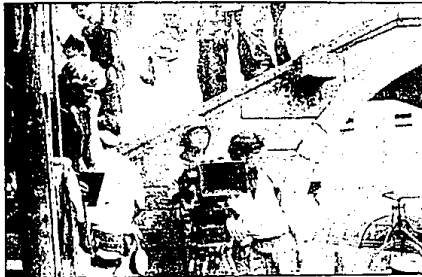
minutes).  
 Poorly structured plot detracts from excellent performances by Demi Moore and Glenn Headly as New Jersey beauticians.  
 "New Jack City" (B-, R).  
 Fairly well done, inner-city drug gang and undercover cops story.  
 "The Object of Beauty" (A-, R, 100 minutes).  
 Excellent performances by John Malkovich and Andie MacDowell characterize decadent lovers.  
 "One Good Cop" (A-, R, 100 minutes).  
 Something different in cop/buddy films with Michael Keaton out to avenge partner's death.  
 "Oscar" (D, PG, 105 minutes).  
 Stallone's performance ruins a terrible script.  
 "Out for Justice" (C, R).  
 Macho-man Steven Seagal is a tough cop.  
 "A Rage in Harlem" (C+, R, 110 minutes).  
 Just too much packed into this star-studded romantic, comic, adventure of southern gold in Harlem with all the greedy folks out in force.  
 "Sleeping With the Enemy" (C+, R, 95 minutes).  
 Julia Roberts' excellent performance as battered wife who takes matters into her own hands can't overcome weak scenario about psychotic hubby.



Bruce Willis is the world's greatest cat burglar, coerced into stealing priceless museum pieces after being released from prison, in Tri-Star Pictures' "Hudson Hawk."

"Stone Cold" (R, 90 minutes).  
 Brian Bosworth is an undercover cop working to bring outlaw biker gang to justice.  
 "Switch" (A-, R, 90 minutes).  
 Murdered chauvinist-womanizer returns to earth looking for a woman who will speak on his behalf. But there's a catch.  
 "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles II: The Secret of the Ooze" (PG, 88 minutes).  
 Lots of action but little violence as everybody's favorite turtles do it again.  
 "Toy Soldiers" (B-, R, 112 minutes).  
 Entertaining action-adventure as five trouble-making students outwit terrorists who hi-jack prep school.  
 "Truth or Dare" (F, R, 118 minutes).  
 Obscene and pretentious display of Madonna's egomania.  
 "What About Bob?" (B, PG, 97 minutes).  
 Cute but lightweight story with Bill Murray as patient and Richard Dreyfuss as therapist.

# ALTERNATIVE MOVIE



Director Shirley Sun checks out a set scene in China during the filming of "Iron and Silk."

## Dusk: Creating as it goes along

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 The two met in Cochran's basement and started putting together some songs.  
 Within a month, the pair knocked off five songs. Soon, Sparbeck and Cochran were looking for others to join in on the creative process. Vocalist Marty Schlotz and bass player Mike Shank of Farmington Hills came aboard in December.  
 Already the foursome has eight original songs styled in various forms of visceral musical expression. Sparbeck writes a majority of the lyrics, trading places with Schlotz occasionally.  
 "I pretty much do it (writing song lyrics) as therapy," Sparbeck said. "I try to move people. It's nothing that I think of too far in advance. It's pretty spontaneous."  
 Dusk formed a year ago. It all started with Cochran putting a classified ad in the Metro Times to look for a collaborator, listing his influences of My Bloody Valentine, Sonic Youth and the like.  
 Guitarist Josh Sparbeck replied

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hate watching Like Disney's attempts at live-action drama, this is overly calculated, washed-down entertainment.

"Iron and Silk" is the second in a continuing schedule of "alternative" films at the Star John R. After this and last week's "Ay Carmela," it becomes painfully obvious that all the theater can get its hands on are third-string movies that the Maple and Detroit Film Theatre wouldn't touch.

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# CONCERTS

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- **DAN FOELBERG**  
 Dan Foelberg will perform Friday, June 7, at the Fox Theatre in Detroit. Show time is 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25. For information, call 567-6000.
- **SIMPLE MINDS**  
 Simple Minds will perform 8 p.m. Friday, June 7, at Clubland at The State Theatre, 2115 Woodward, Detroit. Tickets are \$18.50 in advance, \$20 at the door. For information, call 961-5450.
- **ELVIS COSTELLO**  
 Elvis Costello and the Huds 5 will perform Sunday, June 9, at the Fox Theatre in Detroit. Tickets are \$22.50. For information, call 567-6000.

- **STYX**  
 Styx will perform Wednesday, June 19, at the Fox Theatre. Show time is 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20. For information, call 567-6000.
- **VANILLA ICE**  
 Vanilla Ice will perform Friday, June 21, at Joe Louis Arena in Detroit. Show time is 7:30 p.m. For information, call 567-6000.
- **WHITNEY HOUSTON**  
 Whitney Houston will perform Wednesday, July 3, at Joe Louis Arena in Detroit. Tickets are \$25. For information, call 567-6000.

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