

## MOVING PICTURES



The lives of Clifford Secord (Bill Campbell) and his girlfriend Jenny (Jennifer Connelly) are changed when he discovers an extraordinary rocket pack that allows him to fly through the air in Walt Disney's 'Rocketeer.'

## 'Rocketeer' is a delightful summer fare from Disney

Cliff (Bill Campbell) and Jenny (Jennifer Connelly) are an attractive, engaging young couple — off-screen as well as on. In fact, they are engaged to be married.

They met on location for Disney's major summer release, "Rocketeer" (B, PG) in which they star. Set in 1938, it's the story of Cliff, a southern California test-pilot, and his mechanic/teacher, Peewee (Alan Arkin). Jenny is a movie actress as well as Cliff's girlfriend.

Campbell and Connelly were in town two weeks ago promoting "Rocketeer's" premiere Friday, June 21. This is Campbell's first film, although he's had a broad range of television experience — "Family Ties," "Dynasty" and "Star Trek: The Next Generation" among others. Connelly is a film veteran having debuted at the age of 12 in Sergio Leone's "Once Upon a Time in America." "The Hot Spot," "Career Opportunities" and a starring role opposite David Bowie in "Labyrinth" are among an impressive list of credits for a 1988 high school graduate. She's currently enrolled as a drama major at Yale University.

"Rocketeer" touches several nostalgic veins as Cliff and Jenny get involved with the old Hollywood, Howard Hughes, Nazi spies and all that entails.

One thing leads to another and Cliff becomes the "Rocketeer," zipping around doing good deeds while doing in bad guys left and right —



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 coldsally bad
*	No advanced screening

Just like all the comic book heroes of the '30s.

The film is a pleasant bit of summer fluff and entertainment, particularly as Jenny and Cliff get involved with the dashing Errol Flynn-style movie star Neville Sinclair (Timothy

Dalton), who leers, connives and swashbuckles with the best of them. In particular, the nightclub sequence is a fine piece of satire on old movies and the posh nightclubs of the era. Much of the film's satire and nostalgia are suited and trade on a fairly intimate knowledge of the period. So it's not funny if you don't know the references made. As well, the film's pacing is irregular.

Despite all that unevenness, "Rocketeer" is pleasant summer entertainment and Campbell's three-picture deal with Disney provides for a sequel which ought to get made since "Rocketeer" will be a hit.

"Dying Young" (B, R, 105 minutes) is a decent sort of tear-jerker with Julia Roberts doing a reprise on the basic story line of "Pretty Woman."

ALTHOUGH SHE'S not a hooker this time out, she is quite an experienced young woman living with a super stud type in San Francisco. They break up and Hillary (Roberts) searches desperately for a job to avoid having to live with her weird mother (Ellen Burstyn). Mother collects dolls and yaks a lot.

Hilary is hired as a nurse-companion to a rich young man (Campbell Scott) who needs considerable help as waves of pain and nausea devastate him each time he undergoes chemotherapy for his leukemia. These scenes are graphic and have a telling impact on the audience while making an important, albeit subsidiary point about human suffering.

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## ALTERNATIVE VIEWING

## 'Tatie Danielle': Bitter fare

By John Monaghan  
special writer

From her feeble appearance and shuffling, unsteady gait, the elderly inhabitant of the house down the lane appears at first to be an ordinary sweet little lady. Not Tatie Danielle.

No sooner is the housekeeper out the door than the old woman tosses aside her romance novel, switches on the steamy soaps and starts chowing down on stashed away candies.

The new French film, "Tatie Danielle," serves up an unforgettable character who both solidifies and defies the stereotypes of old age. And

like the nasty, bitter old lady who resides on almost every street, she also has her warm side.

"Tatie Danielle" has apparently garnered a lot of attention from area theaters. The film, advertised as a Star John R exclusive for the past month, received a last-minute booking at the Maple Theatre in Birmingham.

THE 82-YEAR-OLD colonel's widow goes well beyond mere quirks. She steps on beggars and lies to relatives. She calls the housekeeper (Neige Dolsky) a thief and sends her (an equally aged woman) on impossible missions. She squashes the carefully tended flowers. She claims her

actions are "accidents." We know better.

When a genuine mishap kills the housekeeper, "Tatie Danielle" enlists the aid of her great-nephew, Jean-Pierre (Eric Pratt), who unwittingly takes her into his Paris home. What follows is the kind of havoc that only relatives can wreak.

Tailla Chelton, in her first major film role, plays the title character with boundless energy and superb timing. She gives the hellion a warm and sympathetic side as she gazes longingly at a picture of her dead husband or gives a diamond scarab to a young woman enlisted to watch over her.

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## SCREEN SCENE

FOX THEATRE, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Call 587-6000 for information. (\$10)

"Citizen Kane" (USA — 1940), 7:30 p.m. through June 30; 2 p.m. matinees June 29-30. Still the greatest film ever made, re-released in celebration of its 50th anniversary in a pristine print with superb sound. Orson Welles was only in his mid-20s when he made his debut on both sides of the camera. He tells the story of Charles Foster Kane, a yellow journalist with more than a passing resemblance to William Randolph Hearst. What better place to see this classic drama, with the opulent Fox interior almost mirroring Kane's castle Xanadu.

HENRY FORD CENTENNIAL LIBRARY, 13671 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. Call 943-2330 for information (free)

"Till the Clouds Roll By" (USA — 1946), 7 p.m. June 24. Long, overblown musical extravaganza paying tribute to the music of Jerome Kern. Hit-and-miss performances by Robert Walker, Van Heflin and Judy Garland, who has to be filmed with strategically placed props and lots of closeups to hide the fact that she was pregnant at the time of filming.

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

"Moulin Rouge" (USA — 1955), 10

a.m. June 25. Jose Ferrer literally walked on his knees to portray crippled French artist Toulouse-Lautrec, who captured the color and gaiety of Parisian music halls in the late 1800s. John Huston works with that same palette, dipping into dark and bright hues for his uncompromising portrait of the legendary artist. Ending a monthlong series of screen biographies.

MAPLE THEATRE, 4135 W. Maple, Birmingham. Call 855-9090 for information. (\$6, \$3.50 twilight; call for show times)

"Imprromptu" (Britain — 1990).

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## VIDEO VIEWING

By Dan Greenberg  
special writer

Two recent shifts in the home video market are sell-through programs which dramatically lower video cassette costs and stimulate purchases at the expense of rentals. The second development which has accelerated recently is the introduction of new formats, primarily laser discs and 8mm video.

A truly wide range of releases with titles ranging from early silents to current theatrical hits have appeared recently in these formats.

Sell-through programs started some time ago as the video cassette market developed rapidly in the '80s. Initial home video releases of popular theatrical films were priced in the \$50 to \$100 range with dealer discounts running around 40 percent. At \$3 a rental, video stores had a pretty big nut to crack since they had to stock multiple copies of popular releases for the big crowds who waited for video rather than spending \$5-6 at their local theaters.

Only after a video had been milked and its popularity declined was it released for sale to collectors in the \$15-30 range. Despite dealers' complaints at having to maintain expensive stocks, the video business boomed.

ABOUT 14 YEARS ago, film producers and video distributors upgraded what had come to be known as the "sell-through" program. Apparently, their reasoning was that they could make as much or more money through sales to individuals at lower unit costs than they could at the higher rates to dealers and video stores.

"Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade" was one of the first major films, at \$29.95, to be released to home video under this program — and its major success keyed the spread of this program.

As laser disc and 8mm video players penetrated the market, releases expanded to include old silent films, movies from Hollywood's Golden Age as well as current theatrical

hits. In many cases, films are released on all three formats on the same day.

Wednesday, June 26, for example, the recent Sally Field hit about Betty Mahmood's thrilling escape with her daughter from Iran, "Not Without My Daughter" (1990, color, PG-13, 108 minutes), will be released on video cassette, laser disc and 8mm video. While its video is priced in the low \$90s, the laser and 8mm formats are available for under \$30.

THE RANGE of films now available on these three formats for under \$29 is truly amazing ranging from the 1934 "Tarsan and his Mate" to the 1961 Nicholas Ray version of Christ's story, "King of Kings."

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