

'Wayne's World II': More of the same

By JOHN MONAGHAN
SPECIAL WRITER

Hollywood still hasn't wooed them. Week after week, they broadcast "Wayne's World" amidst the fake wood paneling and cruet-covered couches of their Aurora, Ill., home.

And while Wayne and Garth now have their own bachelor pad in a warehouse studio apartment, things are pretty much the same for the metal-head radio hosts. Wayne still dates Hong Kong beauty Cassandra (Tin Carrere) while Garth remains a virgin — for a while longer anyway.

In "Wayne's World II," Wayne has a dream in which dead rocker Jim Morrison (Michael Nickles) advises him to organize a major concert event. How will they get the big name bands like Aerosmith and Pearl Jam to play Aurora? "Book them," Morrison says, "and they will come."

The Morrison bit, shot in an endless expanse of desert, is the first of countless jokes about movies. By the time Wayne's World rolls around, there have been spoofs of "Thelma and Louise,"

MOVIES

"Jurassic Park" and the entire shot-for-shot climax of "The Graduate."

One of the better gags comes when Wayne must impress Cassandra's father (James Hong). Instead of speaking in Chinese, which Wayne does fluently, they engage in badly-dubbed no-nonsense straight from Hercules and chop-suey movies.

Trouble apparently erupted on the set when Meyers demanded more creative control over "Wayne's World." After all, he was the popular "Saturday Night Live" skit. And isn't it Wayne's, that appears in the title?

Carvey's Garth does log plenty of screen time, especially when he's wooed by femme fatale Kim Basinger. Several familiar faces also appear, including Harry Shearer ("This Is Spinal Tap") as a self-proclaimed disc jockey, pushing buttons on his control panel while pretending to interview Wayne and Garth. It's by far



Mike Meyers

the movie's cleverest moment.

At its worst, "Wayne's World" is plodding and episodic. Although he uses a variety of directors, the feature films produced by Lorne Michaels always have the thrown-together feel of a mediocre "Saturday Night Live" episode. He should have taken a cue from the recent "Addams Family" sequel, which succeeds on its breathless kinetic style.

Rob Lowe's villainous television mogul is replaced in

"Wayne's World II" by reptilian Christopher Walken as a record producer intent on whisking Cassandra out to L.A. Wayne grows so jealous that he dons a construction worker's outfit so he can spy on them.

TV spots have already leaked the gag where Wayne and friends, dressed as a policeman, sailor and biker type, duck into a gay bar to escape being caught. The record spinner, thinking the Village People have dropped in for a visit, puts "YMCA" on the turntable.

Whether the disco classic will have the resonance that Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody" enjoyed after the first film remains to be seen. As scary as it sounds, young audiences used to the antics of Beavis and Butt-head may find the humor in "Wayne's World II" too sophisticated. Not.

If you have a comment for John Monaghan, call him at 853-2047, mailbox 1866, on a Touch-Tone phone, or write to him care of Street Scene, Observer & Evening Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150.

SCREEN SCENE

A sampling of what's playing at alternative movie theaters across metro Detroit as reviewed by John Monaghan

AMC ABBEY

175 at 14 Mile, Madison Heights. Call 588-0881 for show times (\$5.75, \$2.35 twilight)

"Equinox" (USA — 1992). Matthew Modine plays twin brothers, separated at birth, who lead very different lives. Director Alan Rudolph has hit a small jackpot of his own in the story of desperate characters in search of their own personal Lulu wins.

"Household Saints" (USA — 1993). Tracey Ullman and Lili Taylor star in this mystical tale set in New York's Little Italy. The movie, directed by Nancy Savoca ("True Love," "Dogfight") spans 22 years, starting in the 1950s, in the lives of three generations of women in an Italian-American family.

HENRY FORD CENTENNIAL

13671 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. Call 943-2330 for information. (Free)

"Little Shop of Horrors" (USA — 1960). 7 p.m. Dec. 13. This legendary horror comedy was shot in just a weekend by the prolific Roger Corman. Jonathan Haze

plays a young flower shop worker who becomes a blood-thirsty blood sucker. The highlight remains Jack Nicholson as a dental pain specialist.

MAGIC BAG THEATRE

225 S. Woodward at Nine Mile, Ferndale. Call 544-8030 for information. (85)

"De Seuss as the Law" 8 p.m. Dec. 15. The Cat in the Hat, Starbucked Snootches, Zax, Horton and Gerald McBoing Boing join the full-length feature "The Five Thousand Fingers of Dr. T" (USA — 1953) in a tribute to Theodore Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss.

MAIN THEATRE

118 N. Main Street at 11 Mile, Royal Oak. Films play through for information and show times. (\$6.50; \$4 students; \$3 twilight/multisec)

"Short Cuts" (USA — 1993). Robert Altman weaves together some eight stories in this ambitious but ponderous exploration of the screwed-up character types that populate contemporary L.A. Tom Waits, Lily Tomlin, Tim Robbins and Jack Lemmon just scratch the surface of the all-star cast.

"Remains of the Day" (Britain — 1993). Anthony Hopkins and

Emma Thompson play butler and housekeeper at a 1930s English estate. Top-notch performances highlight this intelligent character study from the producer/director team of Ismail Merchant and James Ivory.

"The Piano" (New Zealand — 1993), through Dec. 16 (call for show times). Jane Campion directed this stunning tale of a mute woman who arrives in the New Zealand bush as part of an arranged marriage. While her husband (Sam Neill) leaves her cold, she carries on a bizarre relationship with a neighboring settler (Harvey Keitel).

MAPLE THEATRE

4135 W. Maple Road, Bloomfield. Call 855-9090 for information. (\$5.75; \$2.95 twilight)

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"RABBLES COFFEEHOUSE" 22010 Harper, St. Clair Shores. Call 779-0707 for information. (Free)

"The Green-Eyed Blonde" (USA — 1957). 10 p.m. Dec. 13. "She dates her guys through a barbed-wire fence" is how the ads described this bad girl saga starring Susan Oliver. As part of the "B-horror film series" curated by Bill Greenfields.

REDFORD THEATRE

17360 Lahser, Detroit. Call 537-2500 for information. (\$2.50)

"Meet Me in St. Louis" (USA — 1944). 8 p.m. Dec. 17; 2 and 8 p.m. Dec. 18 (organ overture begins a half hour before show time). Vincente Minnelli directed this charming turn-of-the-century family album. Judy Garland performs "The Boy Next Door." "The Trolley Song" and the timely "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas."

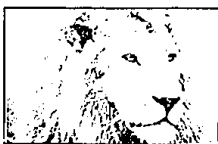
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In concert from page 5B

HIGHER
CD release party and performance for self-titled debut at Industry, 15 S. Saginaw, Detroit. (rock) 832-2355

Friday, Dec. 17

THE FLAMING LIPS
With Red Red Meat at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. (alternative rock) 961-MELT

FRANCISCO MORA'S NUEVE
At Grit's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. (Spanish) 832-2355

THE RFD BOYS
The Ark, 6375 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. (rock) 761-1451

BROTHERS FROM ANOTHER PLANET
Finney's Pub, 3905 Woodward, Detroit. (alternative rock) 831-8070

FORMOSA POP
Grit's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. (alternative rock) 334-9292

VERVE PIPE
With Winding Road at Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. (alternative rock) 966-8555

MSX
Charlie's, 102 Groesbeck Hwy., Mount Clemens. (rock) 462-5454

KINSEY REPORT
Sully's, 4756 Greenfield Road, Dearborn. (rock) 846-1920

UGLY BUT PROUD
Aron Bar and Restaurant, 3982 Auburn Road, Rochester Hills. (rock) 852-2707

3-D INVISIBLES
With The Zombies Surfers at Li's, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck. (rock) 875-6555

Saturday, Dec. 18
HONKY DORY
With Waka Jawaka, The Civilians, Robb, Tye Band, Steward Franke, The Buttes and Cannon Life at the Wagon Bar Theatre, Woodward Avenue north of Five Mile Road. Fundraise \$1 off cover with canned good. Benefit for Oakland County Food Bank. 543-3030

Clay from page 5B

pointed bottom rests inside the negative space of an abstract sculpture.

"I work really intuitively. I've always liked geometric shapes, and the cone is a natural. With that sculpture," he said pointing to the abstract piece, "you're having an interaction with the sculpture. They're very whimsical, fun." Suidan crafted his first clay table about a year ago. Reinforced with a steel rod, the tables sport accordion-like tops.

THE LUDDITES
With Blue Dog at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. (alternative rock/experimental jazz) 832-2355

MENTAL LANDSCAPE
With Blackface at Finney's Pub, 3905 Woodward, Detroit. (alternative rock) 831-8070

SEPUTURA
Hugo's, Detroit. (metal) 642-6666

SEE DICK RUN
With Johnny and the Boomers at Grit's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. (alternative rock) 334-9292

GROOVE SPOON
With Brotherhood Recipies at Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. (punk alternative rock) 996-8555

MSX
Charlie's, 102 Groesbeck Hwy., Mount Clemens. (rock) 462-5454

UGLY BUT PROUD
Aron Bar and Restaurant, 3982 Auburn Road, Rochester Hills. (rock) 852-2707

BREECH
Club X at the State Theatre, 2115 Woodward, Detroit. (alternative rock) 961-5451

CROSSED WIRE
With Big Black and Scott Fab at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. (alternative rock) 961-MELT

BOOTSIE & THE LOVE MASTERS
With The Loose Stools and Rocket 455 at Li's, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck. (punk alternative rock) 852-2707

MICKIAN SONGWRITERS SHOWCASE
With Jan Kust (members of Red Cj, Billy Brant (formerly of Ash Can Van Gogh), Jere Slomer, M.E. Jonson (Urban Voodoo Juice), and Pete Peltier (formerly of Hope Orchestra) at Mama's Coffeehouse, Birmingham Unitarian Church, 651 Woodward at Lone Pine, Birmingham. 662-4765

Sunday, Dec. 19
WEIRD MUSIC WORKSHOP
With Twitch at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. (weird) 832-2355

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