



Maverick's return expected to make splash at theaters



Mel Gibson, Jodie Foster and James Garner star in the Wild Western adventures of three charming fortune hunters and one irresistible fortune in "Maverick" opening Friday at metro Detroit movie theaters.

The days of America's Old West were extraordinary times, and they demanded extraordinary qualities from the men and women who pioneered our frontiers. In order to meet the challenges of life on the prairies, each settler needed at least one remarkable skill. Some were strong. Some were unusually wise. Many were brave.

And some survived by knowing never to draw to an inside straight.

Brett Maverick, charming con man, professional gambler and romantic adventurer, was a member of the last category.

A debonair drifter, Maverick had a flair for getting into — and out of — trouble that makes him one of the most colorful characters in Western legend.

Mel Gibson brings Brett Maverick to life on the motion picture screen in an adventure that takes viewers from the smoky recesses of the backroom poker table to the untamed canyons and prairies of the Wild West and, eventually, to the romantic embrace of the beautiful, wily Annabelle Bransford (Jodie Foster). And all along the way, Maverick encounters — more often than he'd like — the heroic, inscrutable and unflappable lawman Zane Cooper (James

PREVIEW

Garner), who seems to have a peculiar way of anticipating our hero's every move.

As Maverick decides to pit his poker-playing skills — and his wits — against the best of the West in a lucrative championship game, the paths of Maverick, Annabelle and Zane become more and more closely intertwined with one another, with the results as unexpected as a high-stakes game of cards.

While "Maverick" is a period Western, at its core it is a comedy. "We're not trying to document the West, we're out here just trying to have fun," said Donner.

Screenwriter William Gold-

man's rendering of Bret Maverick, a hero who is not always the calm and collected character television audiences may recall, affords Gibson the opportunity to explore another side of his comedic range.

"In broad strokes he's the same — he gambles and he's inclined to drink milk and try to talk his way out of a problem rather than shoot or fight his way out — but there's this hysterical quality he's got that keeps coming up, and it's kind of fun to explore," said Gibson.

"Maverick," an Icon Production in Association with Donner/Shuler-Donner Productions, is released by Warner Bros. The film is directed by Richard Donner and produced by Bruce Davey and Donner from a screen play by William Goldman.



Western: Jodie Foster is the beautiful and wily Annabelle Bransford; Mel Gibson is debonair con man and gambler Bret Maverick; and James Garner is heroic lawman Zane Cooper in Warner Bros.' romantic comedy adventure, "Maverick."

Local 'bad girls' honored for spirit, determination

Thank-you readers for sharing your heartwarming stories about the "Bad Girls" in your life. Our winners are Cece Swisher of Farmington Hills, Yvonne Conatas of Livonia, and Mary David of Farmington. They received passes to see "Bad Girls" a T-shirt and movie poster.

Here are some of the reasons why these women are so "bad."

Suzie Tiernan nominated her friend Mary David. "I have a close friend who is a walking case

of 'Murphy's Law,'" wrote Tiernan. "Anything that could have gone wrong in the past year-and-a-half has! Through it all, including the death of her father-in-law and a serious car accident, Mary has tried her best to be as sunny and cheerful as always. She is the first to remember a birthday, or send a card when someone else is ill."

Cynthia Conatas of Livonia nominated her mother, Yvonne. Married at 16, Yvonne had four

children by the age of 23 and was widowed at age 53 after 37 years of a happy marriage. She graduated from high school at the age of 25, worked 16 years while helping to raise her children, and returned to college at age 40 to earn a bachelor of science and master of social work degree. Now 57, she is a successful psychotherapist.

"Mother is a wonderful mentor, motivating supporter, terrific caretaker and best friend who encourages and backs her four chil-

dren and five grandchildren in ways that encourage them to be responsible, trustworthy, unselfish, loving and happy individuals," wrote Cynthia Conatas. "Unconquered by life, she grows each day."

Michelle Swisher nominated her mother, Cece Swisher. "I feel my mom has given up and sacrificed too much in her life," wrote Michelle. "She had a lot of pain and pressure and she's fought hard in her life. But instead of

feeling sorry for herself or having a bad and negative attitude, she's become a very strong, independent, smart and sensitive woman. She's a great friend. We love and respect her."

"Bad Girls" is a movie about four women of the old west who become gunfighters to win back their money, their rights, and their dignity. It's now playing at metro Detroit movie theaters.

Movies premiere locally

You don't have to go to Hollywood to enjoy the glamor and excitement of a movie premiere.

"Beverly Hills Cop III" starring Eddie Murphy, the third in a series of Axel Foley adventures, will have a gala Michigan Premiere to benefit the Metropolitan Detroit Youth Foundation and the NAACP Scholarship Fund 8 p.m. Monday, May 23, at the Fox Theatre.

Tickets for the premiere screening only are now available at all TicketMaster outlets for \$50. Additional ticket information is available from the Metropolitan Detroit Youth Foundation at (313) 863-9394.

Screenwriter Jim Burnstein of Plymouth Township, and the Plymouth Community Arts Council will host a benefit screening of Touchstone Pictures' new comedy film, "Renaissance Man," Thursday, June 2, at the Penn Theater in downtown Plymouth. Tickets, which include a post-screening reception at the Mayflower Meeting House, are on sale now for \$30.

Special benefit screening and dinner packages are also available for \$60. Call (313) 550-5014. Ticket proceeds will go to the Plymouth Arts Council's Teacher Assistance Grant Program which provides students with fine arts camps scholarships and funds for additional performing arts programs in the classroom.

"Renaissance Man," written by Jim Burnstein is the story of an out of work Detroit advertising executive who reluctantly joins up with "Uncle Sam" teaching Shakespeare to a group of Army recruits.

UPCOMING MOVIES

There's something for everyone at the movies. Here's a list of what's in the wings:

Opening Friday, May 20

- "The Judas Project" — In a time of madness, a man of true greatness gives his life to save humanity. The man was the Son of God.

- "Even Cowgirls Get the Blues" — Adapted from Tom Robbins' novel, this film is a psychedelic journey of a "born freak" on a quest for a place in the world.

The Metropolitan Detroit Youth Foundation and NAACP Scholarship Fund

Invite you to attend the Benefit Premiere Performance of

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A Hollywood Premiere Celebration Comes To Detroit!

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Fox Theatre

Doors open at 7:00 pm

Hosted by Detroit City Councilman Gil Hill

With Special Guest Stars: Judge Reinhold, Hector Elizondo

Director John Landis, Producer Bob Rehme

Co-Producer Leslie Belzberg

Tickets \$50.00 General Admission Seating

Available at all Ticketmaster outlets, or call 863-9394

Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or adult guardian

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MAVERICK

1994 RELEASE

AMC BEL AIR	AMC SOUTHFIELD CITY	AMC LAUREL PARK
AMC OLD ORCHARD	AMC STERLING CITY	AMC CANTON CINEMA
AMC NOVOTOWN CTR.	RENAISSANCE	SHOWCASE
SHOWCASE	STAR GRATIOT	STAR JOHN R AT 14 WIDE
STAR LINCOLN PARK	STAR ROCHESTER	TORO WYOMING

"TWO THUMBS UP!"

★★★★★ "One of the Best Movies this Year"

Roger Ebert, CHICAGO SUN TIMES

—Roger Ebert, SMITH & THUR

"It's Great. Andy Garcia and Meg Ryan Deliver Oscar Caliber Performances."

—Paul Thompson, KABC-TV, LOS ANGELES

"Don't Miss It."

—Jay Browne, WUE RADIO NETWORK

ANDY GARCIA • MEG RYAN

When a Man Loves a Woman

AMC CANTON	AMC LAUREL PARK	AMC OLD ORCHARD
AMC SOUTHFIELD CITY	AMC STERLING CITY	AMC CANTON CINEMA
AMC NOVOTOWN CTR.	SHOWCASE	SHOWCASE
SHOWCASE	STAR GRATIOT	STAR JOHN R AT 14 WIDE
STAR LINCOLN PARK	STAR ROCHESTER	TORO WYOMING

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