MOVIES

Altman jams, pays tribute to hometown 'Kansas City'

TICKETS PLEASE

JOHN MONAGHAN

With "Kansas City," Robert Altman does more than simply pay tribute to the city of his youth. He weaves a complex tapestry that touches on race relations, political corruption, the roots of jazz, and the importance of movies on the populace all in the context of the 1930s.

Altman fans still reeling from the disappointment of "Pret a Porter" should find most of the things they like about America's premier maverick director in "Kansas City."

Jennifer Jason Leigh plays Blondie, a secretary who kidnaps a senator's drug-addicted wife (Miranda Richardson). She wants her boyfriend released from the hands of black gangsters who caught him trying to roll one of their best gambling customers.

Interspersed are scenes of the Hey Hey Club, the K.C. hot spot run by Seldom Seen (Harry Belafonte), whose jam sessions frame much of the movie's action. Seen controls black gang activities, yet he must also coexist with the white-led machine run by "Boss" Tom Pendergast (like many characters in the film, an actual historical figure.)

Altman usually mines incredible performances from his actors, and "Kansas City" is no exception. Jason Leigh, who has already created 1930s-style characters in "The Hudsucker Proxy" and "Mrs. Parker and the Vicious Circle," cleverly captures a pathetic woman who patterns her actions on the movies, especially those with tough-talking Jean Harlow.Belafonte, who hasn't been seen on screen to much effect since "Carmen Jones" in the 1950s, has what may be the year's biggest screen comeback as Seldom Seen.

Steve Buscemi, as a politically-connected barkeep, and Michael Murphy, as the troubled senator, round out the supporting cast.

From set design to costumes, "Kansas City" evokes the look and feel of the 1930s. Fortunately, Altman and cinematographer Oliver Stapleton don't go for the yellowy tones that usually accompany period films, giving it instead a more realistic and immediate feel. Moviegoers unfamiliar with Altman may find the movie schizophrenic and the jazz segments intrusive. But the six-minute "cutting contest," where jazz musicians compete in an informal session, is so electric that audiences have found it difficult not to applaud.

John Monaghan welcomes your calls and comments. To leave him a voice mail message, dial (313) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, mailbox 1866

ELI REED

Dramatic comeback: *Seldom Seen (Harry Belafonte) in "Kansas City," produced and directed by Robert Altman.*

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

Now showing...

AMC Theatres
Bargain matinees daily plus $3.00 (Twi-Lite) show daily. Limited Seating
NP denotes "No Pass" Engagements
AMC THEATRES UNDER THIS HEADING OFFER MOVIES AT REDUCED ADMISSION EVERYDAY, EVERY SHOW. LOOK HERE FOR OUR "BEST BUYS" SUPER DAILY SPECIAL

AMC Hampton 4
Rochester Rd. 1 1/2 Mi. N. M-59
852-5322
$1.00 at all times

THE ARRIVAL (PG13)
FLIPPER (PG)
PRIMAL FEAR (R)
DRAGONHEART (PG13)
TRUTH ABOUT CATS & DOGS (PG13)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

AMC Abbey 8
14 Mile at I-75 588-0881
No children under 4 after 6 pm except (G) and (PG) rated movies

NP KINGPIN (PG13)
NP ADVENTURES OF PINOCCHIO (G)
NP JOE'S APARTMENT (PG13)
SUPERCOP (R)
MULTIPLICITY (PG13)
THE FRIGHTENERS (R)
THE ROCK (R)
TWISTER (PG13)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

AMC Americana West 6
Orchard Lake Rd. S. of 15 Mi.
855-4200
No children under 6 after 6 PM and (G) and (PG) rated movies

NP FLED (R)
NUTTY PROFESSOR (PG13)
NP THE FRIGHTENERS (R)
NP PINOCCHIO (G)
INDEPENDENCE DAY (PG13)
NP KAZAAM (PG)
NP KINGPIN (PG13)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

AMC Maple 3
W. Maple West of Telegraph
855-9090
No children under 6 after 6 PM

A TIME TO KILL (R)
MULTIPLICITY (PG13)
PHENOMENON (PG)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

AMC Old Orchard
Orchard Lk. Rd. N of I-696 12 Mile
553-9965
No children under 6 after 6 pm

COURAGE UNDER FIRE (R)
THE ROCK (R)
SUPERCOP (R)
JOE'S APARTMENT (PG13)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

AMC Wonderland 6
Wonderland Mall behind Target
261-6100
No children under 6 after 6 PM except (PG) and (G) rated movies

NP KAZAAM (PG)
SUPERCOP (R)
NP FLED (R)
COURAGE UNDER FIRE (R)
NP THE FRIGHTENERS (R)
NP JOE'S APARTMENT (PG13)
PHENOMENON (PG)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

AMC Laurel Park 10
6 Mile between Newburgh & I-275
462-6200
No children under 6 after 6 PM except (G) and (PG) rated movies

FLED (R) KINGPIN (PG13)
NUTTY PROFESSOR (PG13)
MULTIPLICITY (PG13)
THE ROCK
A TIME TO KILL (R)
ID 4 (PG13)
PHENOMENON (PG)
FRIGHTENERS (R)
COURAGE UNDER FIRE (R)
JOE'S APARTMENT (PG13)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

AMC Southfield City 12
Greenfield at 9 Mile
(810) 559-2730
No children under 6 after 6 PM except (G) and (PG) rated movies

NP SUPERCOP (R)
COURAGE UNDER FIRE (R)
NUTTY PROFESSOR (PG13)
NP PINOCCHIO (G)
NP KINGPIN (PG13)
ID 4 (PG13)
MULTIPLICITY (PG13)
KAZAAM (PG)
FLED (R)
FRIGHTENERS (R)
A TIME TO KILL (R)
NP JOE'S APARTMENT (PG13)
HARRIET THE SPY (PG)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

General Cinemas
Bargain matinee daily plus $3.25 (Twi-Lite) show daily

Canton 6
Ford Rd., 1 Mi. west of I-275
981-1900
Advanced same-day tickets available
Friday thru Thursday

KINGPIN (PG13)
PINOCCHIO (G)
ESCAPE FROM L.A. (R)
TIME TO KILL (R)
MATILDA (PG)
NUTTY PROFESSOR (PG-13)
INDEPENDENCE DAY (PG13)
KAZAAM (PG)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Novi Town Center 8
Novi Rd. South of I-96 344-0077
Advance same-day tickets available
FRIDAY THRU THURSDAY
*DENOTES FRI & SAT. TIMES ONLY

TIME TO KILL (R)
PHENOMENON (PG)
NUTTY PROFESSOR (PG-13)
ALASKA (PG)
PINOCCHIO (G)
COURAGE UNDER FIRE (R)
MATILDA (PG)
MULTIPLICITY (PG13)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Keego Twin Cinema
Orchard Lake Rd.
at Cass Lake Rd.
682-1900
All Seats $1.50 before 6 pm
Family Matinee FRI-SAT-SUN

TWISTER (PG13)
MISSION IMPOSSIBLE (R)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

National Amusements Showcase Cinemas

Showcase Auburn Hills 1-14
2150 N. Opdyke Rd.
Between University & Walton Blvd
810-373-2660
Bargain Matinees Daily.
All Shows until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
* Late Shows Wed Thurs. Fri. Sat.

JACK (PG13)
ESCAPE FROM L.A. (R)
CHAIN REACTION (PG13)
MATILDA (PG)
PHAT BEACH (R)
PINOCCHIO (G)
SUPERCOP (R)
KINGPIN (PG13)
A TIME TO KILL (R)
COURAGE UNDER FIRE (R)
HARRIET THE SPY (PG)
PHENOMENON (PG)
INDEPENDENCE DAY (PG13)
NUTTY PROFESSOR (PG13)
THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME (G)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Showcase Dearborn 1-8
Michigan & Telegraph
313-561-3449
Bargain Matinees Daily.
All Shows until 6 pm.
Continuous Shows Daily
* Late Shows Fri. & Sat. & Sun.

JACK (PG13)
PHAT BEACH (R)
PINOCCHIO (G)
JOE'S APARTMENT (PG13)
A TIME TO KILL (R)
FLED (R)

FRIGHTENERS (R)
KAZAAM (PG)
PHENOMENON (PG)
NUTTY PROFESSOR (PG-13)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Showcase Pontiac 1-5
Telegraph-Sq. Lake Rd. W Side of Telegraph
810-332-0241
Bargain Matinees Daily
• All Shows Until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily • Late
*Shows Fri. & Sat. & Sun.

JACK (PG13)
MATILDA (PG)
PINOCCHIO (G)
A TIME TO KILL (R)
HARRIET THE SPY (PG)
INDEPENDENCE DAY (PG13)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Showcase Pontiac 6-12
2405 Telegraph Rd. East side of Telegraph
810-334-6777
Bargain Matinees Daily
• All Shows Until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
• Late Shows Fri. & Sat.

ESCAPE FROM L.A. (R)
CHAIN REACTION (PG13)
KINGPIN (PG13)
NUTTY PROFESSOR (PG13)
COURAGE UNDER FIRE (R)
PHENOMENON (PG)
PINOCCHIO (G)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Quo Vadis
Warren & Wayne Rds.
313-425-7700
Bargain Matinees Daily
All Shows Until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
*Late Shows Wed. Thurs. Fri. & Sat.

ESCAPE FROM L.A. (R)
CHAIN REACTION (PG13)
KINGPIN (PG13)
SUPERCOP (R)
INDEPENDENCE DAY (PG13)
HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME (G)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Showcase Westland 1-8
6800 Wayne Rd.,
One blk S. of Warren Rd.
313-729-1060
Bargain Matinees Daily
All Shows Until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
*Late Shows Wed. Thurs. Fri. & Sat.

JACK (PG13)
MATILDA (PG)
PINOCCHIO (G)
A TIME TO KILL (R)
MULTIPLICITY (PG13)
COURAGE UNDER FIRE (R)
PHENOMENON (PG)
NUTTY PROFESSOR (PG13)
HARRIET THE SPY (PG)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Star Theatres
The World's Best Theatres
Bargain Matinees Daily $4.00 All Shows Starting before 6:00 pm
Now accepting Visa & MasterCard
"NP" Denotes No Pass Engagement

Star John R at 14 Mile
32289 John R. Road
585-2070
CALL FOR SATURDAY SHOWTIMES
FRIDAY - THURSDAY

TIME TO KILL (R)
HARRIET THE SPY (PG)
PHENOMENON (PG)
INDEPENDENCE DAY (PG13)
THE NUTTY PROFESSOR (PG13)
ERASER (R)
HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME (G)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Star Rochester Hills
200 Barclay Circle
853-2260
FRIDAY THRU THURSDAY

NP JACK (PG13)
NP ESCAPE FROM L.A. (R)
CHAIN REACTION (PG13)
A TIME TO KILL (R)
INDEPENDENCE DAY (PG13)
PHENOMENON (PG)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Star Winchester
1136 S. Rochester Rd. Winchester Mall
656-1160

NP MATILDA (PG)
COURAGE UNDER FIRE (R)
KINGPIN (PG13)
MULTIPLICITY (PG13)
NP THE ADVENTURES OF PINOCCHIO
SUPERCOP (R)
KAZAAM (PG)
HARRIET THE SPY (PG)
THE NUTTY PROFESSOR (PG13)
HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME (R)
THE ROCK (R)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

United Artists Theatres
Bargain Matinees Daily, for all shows starting before 6:00 PM
Same day advance tickets available.
NV - No V.I.P. tickets accepted

United Artists Fairlane
Fairlane Town Center
Valet Parking Available
313-593-4790

ALL TIMES FOR FRI-THURS.
MIDNIGHT SHOWS FRIDAY AND SATURDAY ONLY

NV MATILDA (PG)
COURAGE UNDER FIRE (R)
INDEPENDENCE DAY (R)
NV ESCAPE FROM L.A. (R)
PURPLE NOON (PG13)
NV SUPERCOP (R)
NV KINGPIN (PG13)
NV CHAIN REACTION (PG13)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

United Artists Oakland
Inside Oakland Mall
810-585-7041

NV HOUSE ARREST (PG)
NV MATILDA (PG)
COURAGE UNDER FIRE (R)
NV ESCAPE FROM L.A. (R)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

United Artists 12 Oaks
Inside Twelve Oaks Mall
810-585-7041

NV HOUSE ARREST (PG)
NV ESCAPE FROM L.A. (R)
NV CHAIN REACTION (PG13)
INDEPENDENCE DAY (R)
HARRIET THE SPY (PG)
NV KINGPIN (PG13)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

United Artists West River
9 Mile,
2 Block West of Middlebelt
810-788-6043

NV ALASKA (PG)
NV JACK (PG13)
INDEPENDENCE DAY (PG13)
PHENOMENON (PG)
NV HOUSE ARREST (PG)
TIME TO KILL (R)
NV ESCAPE FROM L.A. (R)
CHAIN REACTION (PG13)
NV KINGPIN (PG13)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Cinemark's Terrace Theatre
30400 Plymouth Rd-Livonia
261-3330

Late Shows on Friday & Saturday Only!
Every Tuesday, all seats 75¢

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

BIRMINGHAM THEATRE
211 S. Woodward
Downtown Birmingham
644-3456

NP Denotes No Pass Engagements

THRU THURSDAY

NP JACK (PG13)
NP ESCAPE FROM L.A. (R)
NP CHAIN REACTION (R)
EMMA (PG)
NP [illegible] (R)

A TIME TO KILL (R)
COURAGE UNDER FIRE (R)
INDEPENDENCE DAY (PG13)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

MJR THEATRES
99¢ Livonia Mall
Livonia Mall at 7 mile
313-476-8800

ALL SEATS 99¢ ALL SHOWS
FREE Refill on Drinks & Popcorn

TWISTER (PG13)
SPYHARD (PG13)
OLIVER & COMPANY (G)
CABLE GUY (PG13)

No children under 4 after 6 pm except on 'G' or 'PG' rated films

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Main Art Theatre III
Main - 11 Mile
Royal Oak
(313) 542-0180
$3.00 (TWI-LITE) SHOWS DAILY

EMMA (PG)
TRAINSPOTTING (R)
LONE STAR (R)
Children Under 6 Not Admitting

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Waterford Cinema II
7501 Highland Rd.
S.E. corner M-59 & Williams Lake Rd.
24 Hour Movie Line
(810) 666-7900

ESCAPE FROM L.A. (R)
JACK (PG13)
CHAIN REACTION (PG13)
COURAGE UNDER FIRE (R)
MULTIPLICITY (PG13)
INDEPENDENCE DAY (PG13)
A TIME TO KILL (R)
PHENOMENON (PG)
MATILDA (PG)
HARRIET THE SPY (PG)
THE ADVENTURES OF PINOCCHIO (G)
FRIGHTENERS (R)
KINGPIN (PG13)

Visa & Mastercard Accepted

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

$1.50 Waterford Twin
M-59 (Highland) at Crescent Lake Rd.
810-674-4050

ALL SEATS $1.50 ALL SHOWS
FREE Refill on Drinks & Popcorn

TWISTER
OLIVER & COMPANY (G)
CABLE GUY (PG13)

No children under 4 after 6 pm except on 'G' or 'PG' rated films

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Scheduled to open Friday, Aug. 16

"TALES FROM THE CRYPT PRESENTS BORDELLO OF BLOOD"

Horror film about a sultry vampiress who presides over an "ultimate fantasy" brothel where customers pay with their lives. Stars Dennis Miller and Angie Everhart.

"THE FAN"

When a baseball player's career takes a slump, an obsessed fan vows to stop at nothing, including murder, to restore his idol's reputation. Stars Robert De Niro and Wesley Snipes.

"TIN CUP"

A comedy about love, risk and golf. A driving range pro has his life turned upside down when he's smitten by a woman who comes in for gold lessons. To prove himself worthy of her he sets out to qualify for the U.S. Open. Stars Kevin Costner, Renee Russo.

Scheduled to open Friday, Aug. 23

"CARPOOL"

When a harried businessman and a hapless crook collide on the biggest day of both their careers, the only road seems to lead straight to comic disaster. Stars Tom Arnold and Rhea Perlman.

"SHE'S THE ONE"

The story of two brothers who have always tried to live by their father's axiom "You got to do what makes you happy first." Unfortunately, that guidance leads to an old sibling rivalry to turn into a boxing match and the two begin to realize that they've been cast adrift in a sea of love. With that realization they begin to come to terms with the women in their lives, each other and themselves. Stars Ed Burns, who also wrote and directed.

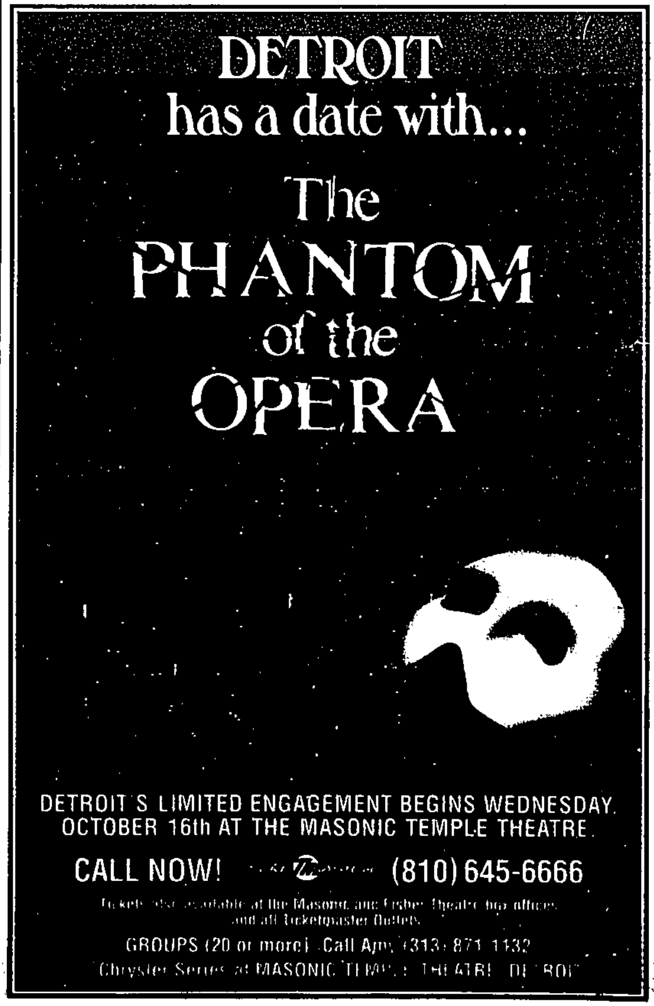
"SOLO"

Solo is a warrior who can carry out the government's most dangerous and top secret operations and be repaired onsite. He's the prototype simulation of man, wired not only with extraordinary fighting skills but also with the ability to think and learn. He's the ultimate weapon. . . until he learns what it means to be human. Stars Mario Van Peebles, William Sadler.

"THE SPITFIRE GRILL"

The story of a young woman's search for new direction in her life and the effect she has on a small Maine community. A story of humanity, compassion, intolerance and fear and how one woman's life can invigorate a town with a new sense of purpose. Stars Ellen Burstyn.

"FOXFIRE"

Based on the Joyce Carol Oates novel about high school girls in the 1950s who are dedicated to pride, power and vengeance on the world. Stars hedy Burress, Angelina Jolie.

"A VERY BRADY SEQUEL"This time out in the Brady household harmony is undermined by the appearance of Carol Brady's supposedly dead husband.