

MOVIES

'Donnie Brasco' creates gangsters Hollywood-style

TICKETS PLEASE



JOHN MONAGHAN

There are two kinds of gangster movies: the ones that make you feel that you've seen something you shouldn't, that you are a privileged guest in the underworld. Think of Sam Fuller's "Underworld USA," Martin Scorsese's "Goodfellas" and "Casino," and, of course, Francis Ford Coppola's "Godfather" saga.

Then there are mainstream Hollywood's attempts at presenting organized crime, in which popular stars fuel morality plays among thieves. It is this category that "Donnie Brasco" firmly falls into.

While the performances by Al Pacino and Johnny Depp are almost beyond reproach, I never

once believed that I was truly rubbing shoulders with wise guys.

I had the bad luck of seeing it the same week as "The Godfather" opened its 25th anniversary rerelease at the Main Art Theatre. The story of Marlon Brando's Mafia family makes the well-meaning "Brasco" look like an After School Special.

"The Godfather's" brilliance lies in how it uses every minute of its nearly three-hour running time to examine how the Mafia, like any family business, relies on a successor. Physically, the new print restores the brown-tinted cinematography that has been so overused in movies since.

"Donnie Brasco" is based on the memoirs of Joe Pistole, an FBI agent, posing as a jewel thief, who personally delivered dozens of mafia convictions in the 1970s. You see Brando's first meeting with Lefty, a loyal loser

played by Al Pacino who worries that he's going to be popped every time he's summoned by the boss.

Donnie, in contrast, plays it cool, speaking only when he has to while participating in everything from truck hijacking to dismembering murder victims. Johnny Depp, adding another face to a gallery of oddball movie characters, is convincing as a husband and father who tries to hold his family together through irregular visits and phone calls home.

Of course the common denominator in both films is Al Pacino. In "The Godfather" he played the Depp part to a wonderfully overboiled Brando. Pacino's Michael was the one we could relate to because he actually questioned the morality behind the workings of his infamous mafia family.

Pacino acts his heart out in "Donnie Brasco," but you get the sense that, despite his mannered

quirks and a dramatic finale, he can play this part in his sleep.

I knew I was in trouble when I saw Barry Levinson's name in the producers' credits. Like his own directing work on "Bugsy," this movie is too long and takes itself far too seriously.

Levinson has handed the reins over to Mike Newell, out of his dramatic league after lighter fare such as "Enchanted April" and "Four Weddings and a Funeral."

One clever bit from the book, the analysis of the wise guy phrase "forget about it," is handled clumsily in a tacked-on scene between Brando and fellow FBI agents in a hotel room. He goes through an entire routine about how the phrase can mean everything from "think nothing of it" to "get lost."

When I say "forget about it" in relationship to "Donnie Brasco," my meaning is this: save this movie for video and spend the evening revisiting "The Godfather" instead.

John Monaghan welcomes your calls and comments. You can listen to him on Dave Dixon's Radio Show AM 1270, 8 p.m. to midnight Saturdays. To leave John a voice mail message, dial (313) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, mailbox 1666.



Classic: Michael Corleone (Al Pacino, left) confers with his father Vito (Marlon Brando) in the Academy Award-winning film "The Godfather."

GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

General Cinemas

Bargain matinee daily plus \$1.25 (two-hour show daily)

Station 6
Ford Rd. 110 West 41-275-
981-1900

Advanced same-day tickets available
Friday thru Thursday

PRIVATE PARTS (R)
JUNGLE 2 JUNGLE (PG)
ABSOLUTE POWER (PG-13)
VEGAS VACATION (PG)
DONNIE BRASCO (R)
JERRY MAGUIRE (R)
CITY OF INDUSTRY (R)
SELENA (PG)

CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND TIMES

Main Town Center II

West Rd. South of 3556
344-0077

Advanced same-day tickets available
Friday thru Thursday

*OROVATES FR & SAT. TIMES ONLY

LIAR, LIAR (PG-13)
RETURN OF THE JEDI (PG)
JUNGLE 2 JUNGLE (PG)
FOOLS RUSH IN (PG-13)
SELENA (PG)
CITY OF INDUSTRY (R)
JERRY MAGUIRE (R)
MARTIN'S ROOM (PG-13)
THE EMPEROR STRIKES BACK (PG)
ABSOLUTE POWER (R)

CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND TIMES

Kings Twin Cinema

Oakland Lake Rd.
at Oak Lake Rd.
682-1900

All Seats \$1.50 before 6 pm
Family Matinee Fri.-Sat. 5:00-8:00

101 DALMATIANS (G)
MICHAEL (PG)

CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND TIMES

National Amusements

Showtimes
Auburn Hills 114
2150 N. Oakridge Rd.
Between University & Walton
Rd.
810-373-2660

Bargain Matinee Daily
All Shows until 6 pm
Continuous Show Daily
*Late Shows Wed. Thurs. Fri. & Sat.

LIAR, LIAR (PG-13)
CRASH (NC-17)
ENGLISH PATIENT (R)
LOVEYONES (R)
SLING BLADE (R)
JUNGLE 2 JUNGLE (PG)
PRIVATE PARTS (R)
DONNIE BRASCO (R)
BOOTS CALL (R)
EMPEROR STRIKES BACK (PG)
STAR WARS (PG)

CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND TIMES

Showtimes

Westland 1-8
6500 Wayne Rd.
Oak Hills & Veterans Rd.
313-729-1860

Bargain Matinee Daily
All Shows until 6 pm
Continuous Show Daily
*Late Shows Wed. Thurs. Fri. & Sat.

LIAR, LIAR (PG-13)
SLING BLADE (R)
CITY OF INDUSTRY (R)
JUNGLE 2 JUNGLE (PG)
PRIVATE PARTS (R)
DONNIE BRASCO (R)
BOOTS CALL (R)
EMPEROR STRIKES BACK (PG)
STAR WARS (PG)

CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND TIMES

Showtimes Dearborn 1-8

Michigan & Telegraph
313-561-3440

Bargain Matinee Daily
All Shows until 6 pm
Continuous Show Daily
*Late Shows Fri. & Sat. & Sun.

LIAR, LIAR (PG-13)
SELENA (PG)
LOVEYONES (R)
SLING BLADE (R)
JUNGLE 2 JUNGLE (PG)
DONNIE BRASCO (R)
BOOTS CALL (R)
ROSEWATER (R)

CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND TIMES

Showtimes Pontiac 1-8

Telegraph St. Lake Rd. W. Side of
Telegraph
810-332-0241

Bargain Matinee Daily
All Shows until 6 pm
Continuous Show Daily
*Shows Fri. & Sat. & Sun.

SELENA (PG)
RETURN OF THE JEDI (PG)
EMPEROR STRIKES BACK (PG)
PRIVATE PARTS (R)

CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND TIMES

Showtimes Pontiac 6-12

2405 Telegraph Rd. East side of
Telegraph
810-334-6777

Bargain Matinee Daily
All Shows until 6 pm
Continuous Show Daily
*Late Shows Fri. & Sat.

LIAR, LIAR (PG-13)
SLING BLADE (R)
LOVEYONES (R)
JUNGLE 2 JUNGLE (PG)
MARTIN'S ROOM (PG-13)
DONNIE BRASCO (R)
ABSOLUTE POWER (R)

CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND TIMES

Que Yudi

Warren & Wayne Rds
313-425-7700

Bargain Matinee Daily
All Shows until 6 pm
Continuous Show Daily
*Late Shows Wed. Thurs. Fri. & Sat.

SELENA (PG)
CRASH (NC-17)
RETURN OF THE JEDI (PG)
LOVEYONES (R)
PRIVATE PARTS (R)
STAR WARS (PG)

CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND TIMES

Star Wards

VEGAS VACATION (PG)
LIAR, LIAR (PG-13)
CITY OF INDUSTRY (R)
MARTIN'S ROOM (PG-13)
SHREK (PG-13)
JERRY MAGUIRE (R)
ABSOLUTE POWER (R)
THE ENGLISH PATIENT (R)

CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND TIMES

Star Wards Special Edition

PG
VEGAS VACATION (PG)
LIAR, LIAR (PG-13)
CITY OF INDUSTRY (R)
MARTIN'S ROOM (PG-13)
SHREK (PG-13)
JERRY MAGUIRE (R)
ABSOLUTE POWER (R)
THE ENGLISH PATIENT (R)

CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND TIMES

Star Wards

VEGAS VACATION (PG)
LIAR, LIAR (PG-13)
CITY OF INDUSTRY (R)
MARTIN'S ROOM (PG-13)
SHREK (PG-13)
JERRY MAGUIRE (R)
ABSOLUTE POWER (R)
THE ENGLISH PATIENT (R)

CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND TIMES

Star Wards

VEGAS VACATION (PG)
LIAR, LIAR (PG-13)
CITY OF INDUSTRY (R)
MARTIN'S ROOM (PG-13)
SHREK (PG-13)
JERRY MAGUIRE (R)
ABSOLUTE POWER (R)
THE ENGLISH PATIENT (R)

CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND TIMES

JERRY MAGUIRE (R)

CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND TIMES

Star Theatres
The World's Best Theatre
Bargain Matinee Daily 14:00-18:00
Shows Starting before 6:00 pm
Now accepting Visa & MasterCard
*NP Denotes No Pass
Engagement

Star John R.
at Lake Rd.
32289 John R. Road
585-2070

CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND TIMES

Star John R.

32289 John R. Road
585-2070

CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND TIMES

NP RETURN OF THE JEDI (PG)
NP JUNGLE 2 JUNGLE (PG)
KAMA SUTRA (R)
DONNIE BRASCO (R)
THE LOST HIGHWAY (R)
THE EMPEROR STRIKES BACK (PG)
ABSOLUTE POWER (R)
STAR WARS (PG)
FAMILY FILM FESTIVAL
THE STUPIDS (PG)

CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND TIMES

Star Rochester Hills

200 Barclay Circle
833-2260

FRIDAY THRU THURSDAY

NP LIAR, LIAR (PG-13)
NP CRASH (NC-17)
NP RETURN OF THE JEDI (PG)
NP JUNGLE 2 JUNGLE (PG)
NP JUNGLE 2 JUNGLE (PG)
NP PRIVATE PARTS (R)
NP DONNIE BRASCO (R)

CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND TIMES

Star Winchester

11365 S. Rochester Rd. Winchester
856-1160

FRIDAY THRU THURSDAY

NP LIAR, LIAR (PG-13)
NP CRASH (NC-17)
NP RETURN OF THE JEDI (PG)
NP JUNGLE 2 JUNGLE (PG)
NP JUNGLE 2 JUNGLE (PG)
NP PRIVATE PARTS (R)
NP DONNIE BRASCO (R)

CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND TIMES

Star Wards Special Edition

PG
VEGAS VACATION (PG)
LIAR, LIAR (PG-13)
CITY OF INDUSTRY (R)
MARTIN'S ROOM (PG-13)
SHREK (PG-13)
JERRY MAGUIRE (R)
ABSOLUTE POWER (R)
THE ENGLISH PATIENT (R)

CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND TIMES

Star Wards

VEGAS VACATION (PG)
LIAR, LIAR (PG-13)
CITY OF INDUSTRY (R)
MARTIN'S ROOM (PG-13)
SHREK (PG-13)
JERRY MAGUIRE (R)
ABSOLUTE POWER (R)
THE ENGLISH PATIENT (R)

CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND TIMES

Star Wards

VEGAS VACATION (PG)
LIAR, LIAR (PG-13)
CITY OF INDUSTRY (R)
MARTIN'S ROOM (PG-13)
SHREK (PG-13)
JERRY MAGUIRE (R)
ABSOLUTE POWER (R)
THE ENGLISH PATIENT (R)

CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND TIMES

Star Wards

VEGAS VACATION (PG)
LIAR, LIAR (PG-13)
CITY OF INDUSTRY (R)
MARTIN'S ROOM (PG-13)
SHREK (PG-13)
JERRY MAGUIRE (R)
ABSOLUTE POWER (R)
THE ENGLISH PATIENT (R)

CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND TIMES

MARTIN'S ROOM (R)

CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND TIMES

ABSOLUTE POWER (R)
LOST HIGHWAY (R)
THE ENGLISH PATIENT (R)
JERRY MAGUIRE (R)

CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND TIMES

United Artists Oakland

Inside Oakland Mall
810-585-7041

MY CRASH (NC-17)
MY LOVEYONES (R)
PRIVATE PARTS (R)
MARTIN'S ROOM (PG-13)
SECRETS AND LIES (R)
CRASH (NC-17)
SLING BLADE (R)

CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND TIMES

United Artists

121 Oaks
Inside Oaks Mall
810-585-7041

CRASH (NC-17)
SLING BLADE (R)
PRIVATE PARTS (R)
DONNIE BRASCO (R)
STAR WARS (PG)

CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND TIMES

United Artists

West River
3 Mile
2 Block West of Middlebelt
810-748-6572

MY LIAR, LIAR (PG-13)
NP RETURN OF THE JEDI (PG)
NP LOVEYONES (R)
NP JUNGLE 2 JUNGLE (PG)
THE EMPEROR STRIKES BACK (PG)
DONNIE BRASCO (R)
SLING BLADE (PG-13)
STAR WARS (PG)

CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND TIMES

United Artists

West River
3 Mile
2 Block West of Middlebelt
810-748-6572

MY LIAR, LIAR (PG-13)
NP RETURN OF THE JEDI (PG)
NP LOVEYONES (R)
NP JUNGLE 2 JUNGLE (PG)
THE EMPEROR STRIKES BACK (PG)
DONNIE BRASCO (R)
SLING BLADE (PG-13)
STAR WARS (PG)

CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND TIMES

United Artists

West River
3 Mile
2 Block West of Middlebelt
810-748-6572

MY LIAR, LIAR (PG-13)
NP RETURN OF THE JEDI (PG)
NP LOVEYONES (R)
NP JUNGLE 2 JUNGLE (PG)
THE EMPEROR STRIKES BACK (PG)
DONNIE BRASCO (R)
SLING BLADE (PG-13)
STAR WARS (PG)

CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND TIMES

United Artists

West River
3 Mile
2 Block West of Middlebelt
810-748-6572

MY LIAR, LIAR (PG-13)
NP RETURN OF THE JEDI (PG)
NP LOVEYONES (R)
NP JUNGLE 2 JUNGLE (PG)
THE EMPEROR STRIKES BACK (PG)
DONNIE BRASCO (R)
SLING BLADE (PG-13)
STAR WARS (PG)

CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND TIMES

United Artists

West River
3 Mile
2 Block West of Middlebelt
810-748-6572

MY LIAR, LIAR (PG-13)
NP RETURN OF THE JEDI (PG)
NP LOVEYONES (R)
NP JUNGLE 2 JUNGLE (PG)
THE EMPEROR STRIKES BACK (PG)
DONNIE BRASCO (R)
SLING BLADE (PG-13)
STAR WARS (PG)

CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND TIMES

MARTIN'S ROOM (R)

CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND TIMES

ABSOLUTE POWER (R)
LOST HIGHWAY (R)
THE ENGLISH PATIENT (R)
JERRY MAGUIRE (R)

CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND TIMES

United Artists Oakland

Inside Oakland Mall
810-585-7041

MY CRASH (NC-17)
MY LOVEYONES (R)
PRIVATE PARTS (R)
MARTIN'S ROOM (PG-13)
SECRETS AND LIES (R)
CRASH (NC-17)
SLING BLADE (R)

CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND TIMES

United Artists

121 Oaks
Inside Oaks Mall
810-585-7041

CRASH (NC-17)
SLING BLADE (R)
PRIVATE PARTS (R)
DONNIE BRASCO (R)
STAR WARS (PG)

CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND TIMES

United Artists

West River
3 Mile
2 Block West of Middlebelt
810-748-6572

MY LIAR, LIAR (PG-13)
NP RETURN OF THE JEDI (PG)
NP LOVEYONES (R)
NP JUNGLE 2 JUNGLE (PG)
THE EMPEROR STRIKES BACK (PG)
DONNIE BRASCO (R)
SLING BLADE (PG-13)
STAR WARS (PG)

CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND TIMES

United Artists

West River
3 Mile
2 Block West of Middlebelt
810-748-6572

MY LIAR, LIAR (PG-13)
NP RETURN OF THE JEDI (PG)
NP LOVEYONES (R)
NP JUNGLE 2 JUNGLE (PG)
THE EMPEROR STRIKES BACK (PG)
DONNIE BRASCO (R)
SLING BLADE (PG-13)
STAR WARS (PG)

CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND TIMES

United Artists

West River
3 Mile
2 Block West of Middlebelt
810-748-6572

MY LIAR, LIAR (PG-13)
NP RETURN OF THE JEDI (PG)
NP LOVEYONES (R)
NP JUNGLE 2 JUNGLE (PG)
THE EMPEROR STRIKES BACK (PG)
DONNIE BRASCO (R)
SLING BLADE (PG-13)
STAR WARS (PG)

CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND TIMES

United Artists

West River
3 Mile
2 Block West of Middlebelt
810-748-6572

MY LIAR, LIAR (PG-13)
NP RETURN OF THE JEDI (PG)
NP LOVEYONES (R)
NP JUNGLE 2 JUNGLE (PG)
THE EMPEROR STRIKES BACK (PG)
DONNIE BRASCO (R)
SLING BLADE (PG-13)
STAR WARS (PG)

CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND TIMES

United Artists

West River
3 Mile
2 Block West of Middlebelt
810-748-6572

MY LIAR, LIAR (PG-13)
NP RETURN OF THE JEDI (PG)
NP LOVEYONES (R)
NP JUNGLE 2 JUNGLE (PG)
THE EMPEROR STRIKES BACK (PG)
DONNIE BRASCO (R)
SLING BLADE (PG-13)
STAR WARS (PG)

CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND TIMES

COMING ATTRACTIONS



Turbo charged: Blake Foster as Justin realizes his dream of joining his idols in "Turbo: A Power Rangers Movie."

Scheduled to open Friday, March 28

"TURBO: A POWER RANGERS MOVIE"
Imbued with new Turbo powers and driving custom-designed Turbo Zords, the five super heroes battle an evil space pirate to save a wise and gentle alien—and the planet Earth—from almost certain destruction. Stars Jason David Frank, Steve Cardenas.

Scheduled to open Friday, April 4

"THE SIXTH MAN"
Fantasy adventure about a basketball player whose deceased brother's ghost helps him lead his school to the NCAA championship. Stars Marlon Wayans.

Scheduled to open Friday, April 11

"THE BIRTH OF A NATION"
Drama about two families that live under the shadow of an unresolved secret. Stars Liv Ullmann, Kathy Baker.

"THE BIRTH OF A NATION"
Drama about two families that live under the shadow of an unresolved secret. Stars Liv Ullmann, Kathy Baker.

"THE BIRTH OF A NATION"
Drama about two families that live under the shadow of an unresolved secret. Stars Liv Ullmann, Kathy Baker.

"THE BIRTH OF A NATION"
Drama about two families that live under the shadow of an unresolved secret. Stars Liv Ullmann, Kathy Baker.

"THE BIRTH