er i al la la care carrel e calcar e an rice de la calcardina. 'Jackal' fails to improve on the original version



rart of the fun in 1973s "The Day of the Jack-al" was the PLEASE Day of the Jack al' was the obscurity of the actor playing the assassin, a master of disguise. It gave you the paranoid feeling that the nondoscript fellow with the wide tie and sideburns sitting next to you on the airplane for in the movie theater, for that matter) could be a political assassin.

nssassin.

The new version, shortened to simply "The Jackal," features Bruce Willis in various personas fand wig styles) from pot-bellied Canadian to blond-maned fisher dude. The only problem is: the elaborate get-ups don't add up to

much except tedium for the audience and another star vehicle for Willis that goes nowhere fast. An MTV-style credit sequence, backed by music from Primal Scream, is practically a minimovic about the fall of the Soviet Union.

This hip intro couldn't contrust more with the rest of the movie, which, directed by "Rob Roy's" Michael Caton-Jones, quickly becomes your standard-issue expionage thriller. When a gangster's brother is killed during a Russian nighteub bust, a mysterious assussin is hired. For Sry but the code name "Jackal" will hurder the American FBI director and then disappear without a frace.

trace.
Enter Declan Mulqueen
(Richard Gere), an imprisoned
IRA bomber and the only man
who can identify the Jackal by

sight. He strikes a deal with the authorities (led by a stern Sidney Poitier); collar the would-be killer and the Irishman will have his sentence lessened.

And you thought Brad Pitt's accent in 'The Devil's Own' was suspect? Check out the gray-haired Gere; he makes Pitt sound like Michael Collins. Moreover, he has virtually no chemistry with Willis, save for the slow-motion shots of their inevitable face off stolen from director John Woo.

Even worse served is Poitier, who keeps appearing in thank-less roles like this in forgettable action movies. Can't the man generally regarded as one of the nation's premier black actors find work in better projects?

"The Jackal" sinks lowest when it mixes violence with humor when the assassin uses a

greasy-haired shop rat as a moving target for his latest weapon. The movie's sole good idea comes near the end. The chase takes the men deep into the subway tunnels, capped by a shot of a narrow escape that may be the movie's only true thrill. Even this is hindered by surprisingly low-tech special effects.

My love/hate relationship with

Bruce Willis continues with "The Jackal." Used so effectively in "Pulp Fiction" and "Twelve Monkeys," the egomaniac actor is asked to do little more than look stone-faced as he carries out his mission.

mission.

By the end of the movie, he reverts to your run-of-the-mill raging psychopath, holding innocent people hostage and taunting

Mulqueen with cries of, "yon can't protect your women, con you?" It's a bloody and stupid end to what his Irish adversary might call a bloody stupid film.

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

SCREEN SCENE

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

Detroit Film Theatre Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward, Detroit. Call (313) 3232 for information. (\$5.50; \$4.60 students/seniors).

"Hollow Reed" (Britain 1996). Friday-Sunday, Nov. 21-23 (call for showtimes). Whon a nine-year-old boy begins to show signs of possible abuse, his father must decide what action to take.

signs of possible abuse, his father must decide what action to take.

"Vive I/Amour" (Taiwan) 1994.7 p.m. Manday, Nov. 24. In the crowded city, a lonely real estate agent uses one of her vacant high rises to conduct an affair, unaware that a young man has found her keys and is living there too.

Main Art Theatre 118 N. Main Street at 11 Mile, Royal Oak, Films play through at least Thursday, unless noted otherwise. Call (248) 542-0180 for information. (38.50; 34 students, seniors and matince; 35 twilight) "Eve's Bayou" (USA - 1997). Samuel L. Jackson estars in this black-themed drama, set in a seemingly prosperous family is told from the perspective of a 10-year-old girl.

"Washington Square" (USA 1997).

"Washington Square" (USA 1997).

"Washington Square" (USA 1997). Squared Albert Finney star in this daptattion of a Henry James novel about an awkward rich girl caught between her over-protec-

tive father and a penniless suit-

tive father and a penniless auitor.

"Wings of the Dove" (Britain 1997), More Henry James. This time the turn-of-the-century romantic entanglement occurs between a conniving woman (Helena Bonham Carter) and a handsome journalist (Linus Reache). They devise a plan to have him woo a dying woman and thus inherit her fortuse.

**Milly Monka and the Chocolate Factory" (USA) (1971), 330 p.m. Thuraday, Nov. 20. The movie version of the Roald Dahl novel about every children's fantasy: winning a ticket to the candy story (or in this case chocolate factory) ledy tour guide Gene Wilder.

"Swingers" (USA-1996), 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 20. The movie version of the Chocolate Factory) ledy tour guide Gene Wilder.

"Swingers" (USA-1996), 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 26, 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 26, pick up women, and cruise the city's martini bars in this independent exploration of the Cocktail Nation.

Redford Labser (at Grand River). Detroit.

exploration of the Cocktail
Nation.
Redford Theatre 13671
Lahser (at Grand River), Detroit.
Call (313) 537-2560 for information. (82.50)
"Broadway Melody of 1940"
(USA-1940). Friday-Saturday,
Nov. 21-22 (organ overture
begins a half hour before showtime). Fred Astaire and Eleanor
Fred Astaire and Eleanor
Fred Mattaire and Eleanor
Fred House the Saturday of the Saturday
Cole Porter ("Begin the
Beguine," "I Concentrate on

Southfield Centre for the Arts, 24360 Southfield Road, Southfield Cell (248) 424-9022.

(33)

"Stormy Woather" (USA-1943), 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21. A legendary lineup of black entortainers appear in this pioneering musical, including Lena Horne (singing the title song), Fats Waller (Airt Mischawin*), Cab Calloway, Dooley Wilson, and Bill Boingales" Robinson.

Star Southfield 12 Mile Road (west of Telegraph), Southfield.
Call (248) 372-2222. (\$6.50)

"The Ice Storm" (USA-1997).

A film adaptation of Rick Moody's confessional account of life in the 1970s, starring kevin Kline, Sigourney Weaver and Sensitivity".

Windsor Film Theatre, 2126
Wyandotte Street West, Windsår, Canada. Call (519) 254-FILM.
(\$5.26 Canadian; \$4 U.S).
"Drowning in Dreams." Canada (Canada 1979. 7 p.m. Thursday.

(85.26 Canadian; 84 U.S.)

"Drowning in Dreams
(Canada-1997). 7 p.m. ThursdaySunday, Nov. 20-23. A documentary account of one man's obsession in which the wreck of a lutury yacht, discovered in 1970 in
Lake Superior, leads to misfortune for the man who tries to
raise it.

"Different for
(Britain-1997). 91.5 p.m., Thursday-Sunday, Nov. 20-23. A gerider-bending romance between h
heterosexual male and a transsexual woman.

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dying, because humans are killing the coral.

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Also on the Big Show, we'll get a live performance from one of Dan Aykroyd's favorite bluck-ink-rock bands, Detroit's own Mudpuppy. We'll look behind the secones at preparations for the Thanksgiving Day parado. And we'll show you the musical talent of Detroit's own King of All Media, Mitch Album, when he performs live in the Detroit Public Tolevision atudio with his wife, Jeanine. That's tonight on Backetage Pass at 9:30 on Detroit Public Television, Channel 56.