

MOVIES

'Jackal' fails to improve on the original version

TICKETS PLEASE

Part of the fun in 1973's "The Day of the Jackal" was the obscurity of the actor playing the assassin, a master of disguise. It gave you the paranoid feeling that the nondescript fellow with the wide tie and sideburns, sitting next to you in the airplane (or in the movie theater, for that matter) could be a political assassin.

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



JOHN MONAGHAN

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 mini-movie about the fall of the Soviet Union.

This hip intro couldn't contrast more with the rest of the movie, which, directed by "Rob Roy's" Michael Caton-Jones, quickly becomes your standard-issue espionage thriller. When a gangster's brother is killed during a Russian nightclub bust, a mysterious assassin is hired. For \$70 million, the killer (known only by the code name "Jackal") will murder the American FBI director and then disappear without a 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 thankless 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 last 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.

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, "you can't protect your women, can you?" It's a bloody and stupid end to what's Irish adversity might call a bloody stupid film.

John Monaghan welcomes your calls and comments. Please leave him 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 Detroit as reviewed by John Monaghan.

Detroit Film Theatre Detroit Institute of Arts, 5300 Woodward, Detroit. Call (313) 833-2323 for information. (\$5.50; \$4.50 students/seniors)

"Hollow Reed" (Britain—1995). Friday-Sunday, Nov. 21-23 (call for showtimes). When a nine-year-old boy begins to show signs of possible abuse, his father must decide what action to take.

"Vive L'Amour" (Taiwan) (1994). 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 24. In the crowded city, a lonely real estate agent uses one of her recent high rises to conduct an affair, unaware that a young man has found her keys and is living there too.

Main Street Theatre 118 N. Main Street at 11 Mile, Royal Oak. Films play through at least Thursday, unless noted otherwise. Call (248) 642-0180 for information. (\$6.50; \$4 students, seniors and matinee; \$3 twilight)

"Eve's Bayou" (USA—1997). Samuel L. Jackson stars in this black-themed drama, set in a small backwater Louisiana community, where the story of a seemingly prosperous family is told from the perspective of a 10-year-old girl.

"Washington Square" (USA—1977). Jennifer Jason-Leigh and Albert Finney star in this adaptation of a Henry James novel about an awkward rich girl caught between her over-protective

father and a penniless suitor.

"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 Roache). They devise a plan to have him marry a dying woman and thus inherit her fortune.

Magic Bag Theatre 22918 Woodward, Ferndale. Call (248) 644-3030 for information. (\$2)

"Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory" (USA—1971). 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 20. The movie version of the Roald Dahl novel about every children's fantasy: winning a ticket to the candy store (or in this case chocolate factory) led by tour guide Gene Wilder.

"Swingers" (USA—1996). 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 26. A group of aspiring young actors in L.A. form friendships, try to pick up women, and cruise the city's martini bars in this independent exploration of the Cocktail Nation.

Redford Theatre 3671 Lahser (at Grand River), Detroit. Call (313) 537-2560 for information. (\$2.50)

"Broadway Melody of 1940" (USA—1940). Friday-Saturday, Nov. 21-22. Organ overture begins a half hour before showtime. Fred Astaire and Eleanor Powell team in this MGM musical with the tunes supplied by Cole Porter ("Begin the Beguine," "I Concentrate on

You.")

Southfield Centre for the Arts, 24360 Southfield Road, Southfield. Call (248) 424-9022. (43)

"Stormy Weather" (USA—1943). 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21. A legendary lineup of black entertainers appear in this pioneering musical, including Lena Horne (singing the title song), Fats Waller ("Ain't Misbehavin'"), Cab Calloway, Dooley Wilson, and Bill "Bojangles" Robinson.

Star Southfield 12 Mile Road (west of Telegraph), Southfield. Call (248) 372-2222. (\$6.50; \$4.50 before 6 p.m.)

"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 directed by Ang Lee ("The Wedding Banquet," "Sense and Sensibility").

Windsor Film Theatre, 2125 Wyandotte Street West, Windsor, Canada. Call (519) 254-FILM. (\$5.25 Canadian; \$4 U.S.)

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

"Different for Girls" (Britain—1997). 9:15 p.m. Thursday-Sunday, Nov. 20-23. A gender-bending romance between a heterosexual male and a transsexual "woman."

GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

<p>General Cinemas Bargain movies only (PG-13) 12:35 (PG-13) 2:00 only</p> <p>Canton 6 Food Rte. 1 & West 41-225-981-1900 Advanced moviegoers only *Devoted 12 restrictions</p> <p>"BOOGIE NIGHTS" (R) "MAD CITY" (PG-13) KISS THE GIRLS (R) "BEAN" (PG-13) "I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER" (R) "SWITCHCHECK" (R) "THE LITTLE MERMAID" (PG-13)</p> <p>Call for complete listings and times</p> <p>West Town Center 8 West 8th & South 41-56-344-0077 Advanced moviegoers only *Devoted 12 restrictions</p> <p>"THE JACKAL" (R) "BOOGIE NIGHTS" (R) "THE LITTLE MERMAID" (R) DEVIL'S ADVOCATE (R) RED CORNER (R) THE FULL MONTY (R) "MAN WHO KNEW TOO LITTLE" (PG)</p> <p>Call for complete listings and times</p> <p>Kress Twin Cinema Oakland Lake Rd. at Oak Lake Rd. 442-1900 All seats \$13.50 before 6 p.m. Family Movie 12:35-2:00</p> <p>GEORGE OF THE JUNGLE (PG) MEN IN BLACK (PG-13) THE EDGE (R)</p> <p>Call for complete listings and times</p>	<p>LITTLE (PG) THE JACKAL (R) MAD CITY (PG-13) BEAN (PG-13) EYE'S BAYOU (R) I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER (R) DEVIL'S ADVOCATE (R)</p> <p>Call for complete listings and times</p> <p>Showcase Parkway 1.5 Telegraph St. Lake Rd. Side of Telegraph 810-332-0241 Bargain Movies Daily All Shows 12:35-2:00 Continuous Show Daily *</p> <p>THE JACKAL (R) THE LITTLE MERMAID (C) STARSHIP TROOPERS (R)</p> <p>Call for complete listings and times</p> <p>Showcase Parkway 6-12 2405 Telegraph Rd. East side of Telegraph 810-334-6777 Bargain Movies Daily All Shows 12:35-2:00 Continuous Show Daily Late Show Wed. & Sat.</p> <p>ONE NIGHT STAND (R) THE MAN WHO KNEW TOO LITTLE (PG) BEAN (PG-13) MAD CITY (PG-13) EYE'S BAYOU (R) RED CORNER (R) FAIRY TALE (PG)</p> <p>Call for complete listings and times</p> <p>Two Yards Warren & Wayne Rds. 313-423-7700 Bargain Movies Daily All Shows 12:35-2:00 Continuous Show Daily Late Show Wed. Thurs. Fri. & Sat.</p> <p>THE MAN WHO KNEW TOO LITTLE (PG) MAD CITY (PG-13) EYE'S BAYOU (R) FAIRY TALE (PG) KISS THE GIRLS (R) RED CORNER (R) I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER (R)</p> <p>Call for complete listings and times</p> <p>Showcase Westland 1.5 6500 Wayne Rd. One Mile S. of Warren Rd. 313-728-1060 Bargain Movies Daily All Shows 12:35-2:00 Continuous Show Daily Late Show Wed. Thurs. Fri. & Sat.</p> <p>LITTLE MERMAID (C) ONE NIGHT STAND (R) THE FULL MONTY (R) BEAN (PG-13) STARSHIP TROOPERS (R) DEVIL'S ADVOCATE (R)</p> <p>Call for complete listings and times</p> <p>Star Theatres The World's Best Seats Bargain Movies Daily 12:35-2:00 All Shows Starting before 6:00 pm *No Advertising No 12 Restrictions *No Smoking No Pets Allowed</p> <p>Star 10.8 at 14th Mile 32289 Johns R. Road 810-583-2870</p> <p>Call for complete listings and times</p>	<p>TODAY - THURSDAY No one under 16 admitted for PG-13 & R rated films after 6 pm</p> <p>NP STARSHIP TROOPERS (R) NP MAD CITY (R) NP BEAN (PG-13) NP EYE'S BAYOU (R) BOOGIE NIGHTS (R) DEVIL'S ADVOCATE (R) KISS THE GIRLS (R)</p> <p>Call for complete listings and times</p> <p>Star Rochester Hills 200 Barclay Circle 833-2360 FRIDAY THRU THURSDAY No one under age 6 admitted for PG-13 & R rated films after 6 pm</p> <p>NP THE JACKAL (R) NP ONE NIGHT STAND (R) NP STARSHIP TROOPERS (R) NP BEAN (PG-13) NP MAD CITY (R) RED CORNER (R) I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER (R)</p> <p>Call for complete listings and times</p> <p>Star Southfield 12 Mile between Telegraph and Northwestern, Off 4566 248-333-5748 No one under age 6 admitted for PG-13 & R rated films after 6 pm</p> <p>NP THE JACKAL (R) NP THE MAN WHO KNEW TOO LITTLE (PG) NP ONE NIGHT STAND (R) NP THE LITTLE MERMAID (C) NP STARSHIP TROOPERS (R) NP BEAN (PG-13) NP EYE'S BAYOU (R) NP MAD CITY (PG-13) THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE (R) KISS THE GIRLS (R) I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER (R) RED CORNER (R)</p> <p>Call for complete listings and times</p> <p>Star Winchester 5136 S. Rochester Rd. Winchester 248-666-1160 No one under age 6 admitted for PG-13 & R rated films after 6 pm</p> <p>NP THE LITTLE MERMAID (C) NP THE MAN WHO KNEW TOO LITTLE (PG) NP EYE'S BAYOU (R) NP DEVIL'S ADVOCATE (R) BOOGIE NIGHTS (R) FAIRY TALE, A TRUE STORY SEVEN YEARS IN TIBET (PG-13) THE FULL MONTY (R) IN AND OUT (PG-13)</p> <p>Call for complete listings and times</p> <p>United Artists Theatres Bargain Movies Daily, All Shows starting before 6:00 PM Some day advance tickets accepted N7 - No 12's below accepted</p> <p>United Artists Fairlane Fairlane Town Center Voting Parking Available 313-393-4790 All Times for 12 THURS MIDNIGHT SHOWS THURS and SATURDAY ONLY</p> <p>STARSHIP TROOPERS (R) NV SEVEN YEARS IN TIBET (PG-13) SWITCHCHECK (R) NV RED CORNER (R) NV</p>	<p>CATTACA (PG-13) NV FAIRY TALE (PG-13) NV SOUL FOOD (R) NV KISS THE GIRLS (R) NV IN AND OUT (PG-13) NV</p> <p>Call for complete listings and times</p> <p>United Artists Oakland Inside Oakland Mall 810-585-7041</p> <p>ONE NIGHT STAND (R) NV PLAN B (R) NV CATTACA (PG-13) NV FAIRY TALE (PG-13) NV IN AND OUT (PG-13)</p> <p>Call for complete listings and times</p> <p>United Artists 32 Oaks Inside Twelve Oaks Mall 810-585-7041</p> <p>ONE NIGHT STAND (R) NV PLAN B (R) NV STARSHIP TROOPERS (R) NV I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER (R) NV</p> <p>Call for complete listings and times</p> <p>United Artists Westland 2160 Westland & 21st St. 810-786-6372</p> <p>THE LITTLE MERMAID (C) THE JACKAL (R) NV THE MAN WHO KNEW TOO LITTLE (PG) NV LITTLE (PG) NV STARSHIP TROOPERS (R) NV MAD CITY (PG-13) NV RED CORNER (R) NV DEVIL'S ADVOCATE (R) NV I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER (R) NV</p> <p>Call for complete listings and times</p> <p>Birmingham Theatre 217 S. Woodward Downtown Birmingham 248-644-3419 NP Denotes No Live Engagements Order movie tickets by phone! Call 644-3419 for phone list of movie theaters for 12-15 exchange order to call at telephone calls</p> <p>SPECIAL OFFER... 10% OFF ON ALL \$10, \$20 and \$30 CITY BOOKS FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY. NOW AVAILABLE AT THE BOX OFFICE</p> <p>NP THE JACKAL (R) NP STARSHIP TROOPERS (R) NP BEAN (PG-13) RED CORNER (R) NP MAD CITY (PG-13) DEVIL'S ADVOCATE (R) I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER (R)</p> <p>Call for complete listings and times</p> <p>MR THEATRES \$1.00 Red Tel 12:30 \$1.00 Red Tel 1:50 \$1.00 all 8pm After 8 pm, \$1.50 Ample Parking - Refund Center from Red on South & Popcorn Please Call Theatres for Showtimes</p> <p>MEN IN BLACK (PG-13) GEORGE OF THE JUNGLE (PG)</p>	<p>THE GAME (R) Call for complete listings and times</p> <p>99c Luvina Mall Luvina Mall at 7 mile 810-476-8800 ALL SEATS \$9.95 ALL SHOWS FREE FILL-IN ON DOWNS & POPCORN FREE SHOWS DAILY FOR CHILDREN 12 & UNDER ADULTS ONLY THIS FEATURE ONLY</p> <p>GIJANE (R) MEN IN BLACK (PG-13) GEORGE OF THE JUNGLE (PG) MONEY TALKS (R) THE GAME (R)</p> <p>Call for complete listings and times</p> <p>Waterford Cinema II 7501 Highland Rd. S.E. corner M-59 & Williams Lake 24 Hour Movie Line (810) 666-7900 \$13.25 (TAX) SHOWS DAILY</p> <p>THE JACKAL (R) STARSHIP TROOPERS (R) MAD CITY (R) BEAN (PG-13) RED CORNER (R) BOOGIE NIGHTS (R) FAIRY TALE (PG) I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER (R) DEVIL'S ADVOCATE (R) ROCKET MAN (PG) KISS THE GIRLS (R)</p> <p>Call for complete listings and times</p> <p>Yves is Mastercard Accepted</p> <p>Teresa Cinema 30400 Plymouth Rd. 313-261-3330 All shows \$13 except show after 6 p.m. *All shows \$13.50 7:35 every Tuesday Would you like to see free movie? Then become a TRICENTURY VIEWER! COME IN AND FIND OUT NOW</p> <p>SUN - THURS Box Office open at 4:00 pm Monday - Friday only</p> <p>Make At Theatre II Main 11:30 Royal O4 (248) 542-0180 \$3.00 (TAX) SHOWS DAILY</p> <p>EYE'S BAYOU (R) WASHINGTON SQUARE (PG) THE WINGS OF THE DOVE (R)</p> <p>Call for complete listings and times</p> <p>Children under 12 Not Admitted</p>
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