

Quirky movies highlight holiday weekend



Bizarre casting continues to be a staple of Woody Allen movies, and "Deconstructing Harry" is no exception. His best film in

How Allen juxtaposes these stories with real life is consistently clever. Who else would

In yet another homage to his favorite directors—Lynch, Bergman and Federico Fellini—Allen alludes the former's "Wild Strawberries" when the writer makes a long, flashback-filled trek to his old school's awards ceremony. By the end, hell is in a Fellini version of hell, with naked writhing women and an office for Satan with central air. And doesn't anyone else find it funny that the nearly 60-year-old Allen has wooed some of the screen's most beautiful women in recent years? Julia Roberts and Helena Bonham-Carter have recently succumbed to his charms and now there's Elvira Beth Shue, as a fan-turned-lie-

In one of the richest film experiences this year, Ian Holm plays a lawyer who descends on a small Northern Canada town after a bus accident has killed virtually all of the town's chil-

Yet it's difficult to see Holm's character strictly in terms of villain. Throughout the proceedings, he is constantly reminded of his own heroin-addicted daughter, who constantly rings his cellular phone with sweet talk but inevitably tries to squeeze him for drug money. What Holm and the townspeople need to realize is that fate doesn't play by the rules. And despite the human need to lay blame on

Egoyan, known for complex (often pretentious) studies of family politics, gets it right this time. With his clever use of wide screen, he creates at least one image that will be burned forever into your mind: a bright yellow school bus carefully negotiating turns on icy mountain roads, surrounded by an endless expanse of heavenly white snow.

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

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LESLIE
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Disney's
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