Hong Kong action idol makes ho-hum American debut



Chow Yun-Fat is almost too cool for Holly-wood. The steely gaze, matinee-idel good looks, and seemingly limitless supply of bullots that-have made him a legend in Hong Kong

have made him a legend in hong Kong monachan hy in his Ameri-can dobut, The Replacement Killers." Directed by music video veter-an Antoine Fuqua, it only mim-ics the style of The Killer and "Hard-Boiled," movies that established how's mystique and made him an international superstar.

superstar. The opening shows a mysteri-ous man in silhouette (and slow ous man in silhouette (and slow motion) enter a purple-hazed nightclub and systematically shot up the place. He slips like a ghostly apparition into the

night. But Chow's John Lee is no to gan down they soung on of a range of Michael Roker, to be some the target of a pow-origin of himsen (the 'roplacement killers' of the title) are no base of the title are no the to the title are no base of the title are no the to the title are no base of the title are no the to base of the title are no part of the title are no the the transformed to the the terms. The the transformed to the the terms are no the the transformed to the the terms are no the the transformed to the the terms are no the the transformed to the the terms are no the the transformed to the the terms are no the the transformed to the the terms are no the the terms are no the top the terms are no the the terms are no the top the terms are no the terms are no the top the terms are no the terms are no the top the terms are no the terms are no the terms are not to the terms are no the terms are not the terms are not to the term are not t

And action star Chow certainly heard tost his edge. The camera rightfully lingers on endless shots of the swarthy actor amok-ing, gazing, or drawing his guns for yet another blazing shot-out. This umpteenth reprise of his assassin with a soul should work here too.

his assassin with a soul should work hore too. So where does "The Replace-ment Killers' go wrong? Start with Kon Sanzeïs script. Chow's Hong Kong efforts, especially with director John Woo ('Face/Off'), had a sonse of humor and so much inventive-ness that the amateur melodra-ma become assu to watch.

MOVIES

ness that the amateur melodra-me became easy to watch. "Replacement Killers' spends a lat of time developing charac-ters (Rooker's cop, for example) that bring little to the story. The whole exercise is delivered so straight-faced that several scores (especially those between Sorvino and a cocky gang leader) can't help but eliett inappropri-ate lauphter. Director Fuque, meanwhile, is

so busy posing his actors and trying to look coal himself that destroymuch of the future institution of the future institution search and an and the search and the search region has been a search and provide the search and the search the search

ane. That said, there are a handful of ideas that really do work in The Replacement Killers. In one of the movies many elimac-tic shoot-out, spent bullet can-tic shoot-out, spent bullet can-ter shoot-out, spent bullet can-ter shoot-out, spent bullet can-ter shoot-out, spent bullet can-mart idea on the part of the filmmakers. What lines he dees have are well-delivered and apparently didn't require much subject the bang Kong action puge of the Hong Kong action yenough, Hia "Replacement killers" is only a tiny cut above

SCREEN SCENE



assassin trying to protect his family and escape his past, and document forger Meg Coburn (Mira Sorvino) ar surrounded by assassins in her apartment in "The Replacement Killers." Action drama: John Lee (Chow Yun-Fat) a professional

our run-of-the-mill action your calls and comments. hriller. diale (734) 953-2047 on a touch²⁷ John Monaghan welcomes tone phone, mailbox 1866. your run-of-the-mill action thriller.

MINE MEETING CALLER

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GUIDE TO THE MOVIES TOMORROW NEVER DIES STAR KID (PG) NV (PG13) RUSS THE CARLS (R) HOME ALOXE 3 (PG) General Cinemas (PG13) TITAXIC (PG13) AMISTAD (R) Bargain matinee daily plus \$3.25 (Twi-Lite) show daily CALL FOR COMPLETE USERVICE AND THE CALL FOR COMPLETE USTINGS AND TAKES <u>Showcase Pontiac 1-5</u> Telegraph-Sg. Lake Rd. W Sole of Telegraph \$10-332-0241 OUL FOR COMPLETINGS AND THE United Artists Dakland Inside Dakland Mal Canton 6 Ford Rd., 1 Mi west of 4-275+ 981-1900 Advanced same day idets available "Denotes VP restrictions. Friday thru Thursday CALL FOR COMPLETE USTINGS AND THREE nside Oakland Mal 810-585-7041 <u>Waterford Cinema II</u> 7501 Highland & L S.E. comer M-59 & Williams Lake Star Rochester Hills ZERG EFFECT (R) LWY TANGO LESSON (PG) AS GOOD AS IT GETS (PG13) DECEIVER (R) NY HARD RAIH (R) MY) Al Shows Und 6 pm Continuous Shows Daily 200 Barciay Circle 853-2260 No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 & Rinzed films after 6 pm 24 Hour Morie Line (248) 666-7900 CALL 77 FillAtS 4551 Stadium Seating and Digital sound Makes for the Best Hore Experience in Oakland Constru-Cα REPLACEMENT KILLERS (II) CREAT EXPECTATIONS (II) AS GOOD AS IT GETS (PG13) GOOD WILL HUNTING (R) NP THE REPLACEMENT KRUEDS TITANIC (PG13) DEEP RISONG (R) HARD RAIN (R) DEEP ILISING (II) GOOD WILL HUNTING (II) GALI KAR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND THIS (B) NP BLUES BROTHERS 2000 HP BUES BRUTIELS 200 (PG13) RP GREAT EXPECTATIONS (B) RP DESPERATE MEASURES (B) GOOD WILL HUNTING (B) WAG THE DOG (B) AS GOOD AS IT GETS(PG13) United Artists <u>12 Oaks</u> Inside Twelve Oaks Mall 810-585-7041 CALL FOR COMPLETE DETINCE AND TIMES County \$3.25 (TWI LITE) SHOAVE DAILY CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND THE Showcase Pontiac 6-12 2405 triegraph Rd. 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South of 1.96 344-0077 REPLACEMENT KULLERS (III) KY EPLACEMENT RULENS (II) NY DEIPERATE MEASURES (II) NY HARD RAIN (III) NY STAR KID (PG) WAG THE DOG (III) NY DECEPTERS (III) LY TOMORROW NEVER DIES (PG13) Advance same-day tickets available FRIDAY THRU THURSDAY "DENOTES VIP RESTRICTIONS CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND THIS Star Southfield 12 Mile between Telegraph and Northwestern, Od 1-696 248-353-57AB TITANIC (PG13) GOOD WILL HUNTING (II) BLUES BROTHERS 2000 BLUES BROTHERS 2000 (PC13) DESPERATE MEASURES (R) SPICE WORLD (R) WAG THE DOG (R) TITANIC (PG13) AS GOOD AS IT GETS (PG13) "FALLEN (R) AS GOOD AS IT GETS (PG13) DEEP RISENG (R) "HALF BAXED (B) "SPICE WORLD (PG) ted for No one under age 6 admitted ko PG11 is Ricated films after 6 pm CALL FOR COMPLETE UTTINGS AND TIMES OP REPLACEMENT KALLERS (R) RP BLUES BROTHERS 2000 United Artists West River RP BLUES BROTHLES 2000 (PG13) BOOGLE NIGHTS (R) RP DEEP MISHIG (R) NP DESPERATE MEASURES (R) NP GREAT EXPECTATIONS (R) CALL FOR COMPLET LIST INCL AND THE <u>Yest Mitti</u> 9 MJe, 2 Elock West of Middlebelt 810-788-6572 CALLS COURTE ISTN CLAD THES CALL FOR COMPLETE LEFTINGS AND FAMILY Keego Twin Cinema Orthard Late Rd. at Cass Late Rd. 682-1900 Al Seats 11 Schefore 6 pm 12 Sol HTS 6 PM. 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WAG THE DOG (3) GOODWILL HUNTING (II)

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SCREEN SCENE A sampling of what's playing at alternative moute thetaern across metro Detroit as reviewed by John Monghan. Detroit Film Theatre Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit, Call (313) 833-8232 for information. (35.50; 34.50 students/seniors) "Guantanameral" (Cuba-1996). Friday, Fob. 13-Sunday, Feb. 16 (cull for showtimes). When an old woman's heart gives out during a renderavous with a former lover, the task of transporting her body back to Havana becomes a comedy of errors. "Sick: The Life and Death of Bob Finangan, Super-mosochiat" (USA-1996). 7 pm. Monday, Feb. 16. Comedian and performance artist Flanagan lound that sadomasochism helped in his bout with cystic share his pleasure/pain in this sundance fuvorite documentary. Magie Bag 22920 Woodward, information. (32)

Magic Bag 22920 Woodward, Ferndale. Call (248) 544-3030 for information. (82) "Starship Troopers" (USA-1997). 9:30 p.m. Thuraday, Feb. 2. Giant bugs invade in this lat-est aci-fi thriller from director Paul Verheeven. "I Know What You Did Last Summor" (USA - 1997). 9:30 p.m. Wednenday, Feb. 18. A group of young people in a New Eng-land coastal town are terrorized by a hock-wielding saity dog in this popular thriller. Main Art Theatre 118 N. Main Street (at 11 Mile Road), Royal Oak, Films play through at least Thuraday, unless noted otherwise. Call (248) 542-0180 for information. (55.50; 54 stu-dents, seniors and matines; 53 twilight) "The Sweet Horeafter" (Canada-1997). A study in collec-tive mouring from Canadian director Atom Egoyan in which an entire town feels the pain when most of its children are cilled in a schoolbus accient. "The Apoetle" (USA-1998). Robert Duvall wrote, directed

Scheduled to open Friday, Feb. 13

Schedured to open Frank, Feb. 13 "Foure DAYs IN SEPTEMBER" Exclusively at the Star Southfield. Besed on the true story of the Septem-ber 1969 kidnapping of an American ambassador to Brazil by a group of young and often naive idealiste. Stars Alan Arkin.

Exclusively at the Main Art. Sensual drama about a man who is wrongfully sent to jall, who then becomes an unknowing catalyst in the lives of those who hetped incarcerate him.

"HE WIDDING SHAEF" Romantic comedy set in 1935 about a small-town wedding singer with hopes of being the next David Lee Roth, who fails in love with a young girl already engaged. Stars Adam Sandier, Drew Barrymore.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Dustin Hoffman, Sharon Stone. *ATTERGLOW* Exclusively at the Main Art Theatre. Tale of two couples, one in their 20s, the other in their 40s, whose troubled marriages become enwined. Stors Nick Nolte, Julie Christie, and Lora Flynn Boyle. Scheduled to open Friday. Feb. 20

LOYE WALKED IX Suspense drame in which nothing is as it seems as three conspirators weave a web around a vulnerable family. Stars Denis Leary, Tetence Stamp. "PALMETTO"

"PALMETTO" Thriller about a bitter and disillusioned ex-con who returns home and is offered a chance to make some easy money just by willing a note and making a threatening phone call. Of course there is no easy morey. Stars Woody Herrel-son, Elisabeth Shue. son, Elisboth Shue. *SLIDBAD DOORS* Contemporary love story that follows ane woman's life down two different paths. Stres diventh Patrow, Scheduled to open Friday, Feb, 27 *TEM SISTERATES* Victor Hugo's epic taile of lowe, honor and obsersion. Stare Liam Neeson, Geoffrey Rush, Uma Thurman.

Comic thriller about three farmers who ' are raising a crop of pot and find them-solves involved in the high stakes game

"HOMEOROWN"

"THE BOOKDOWERS" Film based on the popular children's novels about a family of 4-inch people who live under the floorboards of an Inglish country house, often "borrow-ing" items we think we misplece. Stars John Goodman.

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STARSHIP TROOPERS (II) FOR RICHER OR POOLER

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·LIVE FLESH

"SPHERE" Science fiction thriller based on the best-seller by Michael Crichton, The story of a group of sciences uterinon. The called upon to explore a massive, apparently allen craft that's been submerged on the ocean floor untouched for atmost 300 years. Stars (Robin Williams). Gus Van Sant

Drama: Cate Blanchett as (Lucinda) and Ralph Fiennes as (Oscar) star in "Oscar and Lucinda."

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(Robin Williams). Gus Van Sant ("Do Die For") directs.
"Deconstructing Harry".
(USA.1997). See Main Art The-tare listing above.
Windsor FHm Theatre 2135
Wandotte Street Weat, Windsor, Canada. Call (519) 254-F1LM)
for specific film information.
(USA.250 Canadan; 34 U.S.)
"The House of Yee" (USA-1997). 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13-Sunday, Feb. 15. Independent film diva Parker Posey Plays a Jackie O'Nassis wannabe in a strange relationship with hor Thankagiving.
"The Hover on the Horse"
(USA.1997). 9:15 p.m. Friday; Feb. 13 - Sunday, Feb. 15. Film erite Roger Ebert called this the worst of last year, and he's net are far year. And Ne's net are far Jim Jarmusch's focus on out-of-focus binceulars.

of dealing in contraband, and the duplic-ity and danger attendant to that endeav-or, and quickly get in over their head. Stars Billy Bob Thorton, Kelly Lynch. SENSELESS"

SCHSTLESS Comedy with a heart follows a series of desperately outrageous attempts by a penniless young college student as har trias to keep his family aflect. Stors Marion Wayans. Scheduled to open Friday, Feb. 27

Antractow Exclusively at the Main Art Theate. A tale of two couples one in their 205 still other in their 405 whose troubled man ringes become entwined. Stars Nick Note, Julie Christie.

Note, Julie Universe. *DAMBROUS BEAUTY* In a world where women have few rights and are treated like property, the most capitvaling woman of her day dares to confront convention to become a power, for for exchange. ful force for change.

•DARK CITY* Futuristic thriller about a man who avakens in a hotel room, only to discove ar he is wanted for a scries of murders be cannot remember.

"KRIPPENDORF'S TRIBE"

Family corredy about a widowed ranny conceptogy professor who uses grant money to raise his family, disguising hi children as an "undiscovered" tribe from New Guinea, Stars Richard Droyfuss, Lify Tomlin, Jenna Elman,

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