Entrapment' well made, worthwhile picture

BY VICTORIA DIAZ
SPECIAL WHITER

While watching "Entrapment,"
which stars Sean Connery, you
may find yourself thinking that
James Bond has metamorphose
into an attractively aging Scot
named Robert MacDougal. That
Off has turned to a life of crime,
exercising a talent for stealing
priceless objects d'art. That, at
age 60, the glittery here has
matured into semeone made of
real flesh and real blood, someone who, after all those years
and all those amorous adventures, might even possess a
human heart when it comes to
romance.

All of which, of course, says something for how closely Connery has come to be identified with the legendary Bond. Probably, he and any picture he makes will be haunted to some extent by the shadow of the famous accret agent forever. But desnite by the shadow of the famous secret agent forever. But despite its Bond-like shadings, "Entrapment" is a well made, worthwhile picture all on its own. And, in it, Connery shows us once again that old movie sters do not necessarily fade away, sometimes, their screen presence grows ever more luminous with the passage of time.

This "millennium movie," directed by Jon Amiel, takes place as the clock ticks down

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ANALYZE THIS (B)

toward the final moments of the 20th century. We have 16 days to go, to be precise, as the story opens. We are in New York, through we aren't really sure exactly what's happening, even as we watch.

as we watch.

A number of techno-gadgets and other sophisticated tools are playing a part, and slowly, we realize that somebody is going to an awful lot of trouble to life a treasured Rembrandt from a darkened room, only to leave a portrait of Elvis in its place. Here is a thief who is not only nimble and up-to-date (having gained access from the outside wall of the high-rise with those



Thriller: Sean Connery and Cather Jones in a scene from Entrap-

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gadgets); here is a thicf with a sense of humor. All of this reflects something about the film itself. Terrace Gnema 30400 Plymouth Rd. 313-261-3330

reflects something about the film itself.

Son, we're whisked away to colorful Kuala Lumpur, high tech capital of Malaysia. Here lives reptilian black-marketer Conrad Greone (Maury Chaykin), and here, beyond glass, guard, and a thicket of laser beama, is a shining work of net MacDougal has always coveted but never been able to get his hands on. Being the kind of determined connolisseur of art and beauty that he is, we suspect that he is going to eventually (a) utain the prize, (b) almost die trying, or (c) die trying. Meanwhile, back in Manhattan, a beautiful insurance investigntor named Gin Baker (Catherine Zetz-Jones) talks her boss into allowing her to go after Mac, the suspected thief. She works for the company that insured the stolen masterworks for the company that insured the stolen masterworks for the company that insured the stolen masterworks for two. Her reasons may

not be what you think, however, or her schemes what you antici-pate. She's capable of spinning an especially crafty web.

pate. She's capable of spinning an especially crafty web.
But then, Mac is no slouch at keeping one step (or more) whend of the competition. And therein pretty much hangs our tale, as these two play their catand-mouse games from the Scotish Highlands to high above the streets of Kuala Lumpur. (One especially electric scene has them navigating between the city's Petronas Twin Towers—the world's tallest buildings—via a fast-fraying metal wire strung with holiday lights.) As the 20th Century barrels to a close in this thriller, the tension heats up, and the chemistry between its two main characters really begins to crackle, too.

If you're in the mood for

really begins to crackle, too.

If you're in the mood for
action-adventure, "Entrapment"
should prove to be just the ticket. It moves along at a breakneck pace, contains enough suspense to turn your knuckles
white, and enough intrigue to
make your head spin. Though it

doesn't have quite the visual opulence of some of the Bond films, it's still highly watchable, and some of the scenes are knock-outs, especially those in Scotland and Malaysia.

knock-outs, especially those shot in Scotland and Malaysia.

Surprisingly, though, "Entrapment" succode best on another level. The sparks that fly between the two lead characters are a substantial vensor why this film works as well as it does. Scrip writers Ron Bass and William Broyles haven't given the two any particularly torid scones, but no matter. Flory grace (Zeta Jones) and grizzled elegance (Connery), combined with a thoughtful script and their nicely nuanced performances help to turn this match into sheer dynamite. And, by the time Connery's character utters his most memorable line—"." I was prepared for everything except you" — many of us large, prepared to believe he is some; tharming adventure, brandishing "way beyond a morge-charming adventure, brandishing a bunch of shiny, high tach't.

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Scheduled to open Wednesday, May 19 "STAR WARS - E/ISODE 1 THE PHANTOM

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a brash young Jedi Knight. This first hisparer in the Star Wars sags follows. The Anakin's journeys as he pursues his with dreams and confronts his deepest fears. in the midst of a galaxy in turmoil. Stars: Liam Neeson, Jake Lloyd.

Scheduled to open Friday, May 21

THE LOVE LETTER*

Ket Capshaw, Blythe Danner, Ellen
DeGeneres star in this comedy about a sleapy New England town and how one mysterious love note has the power to unlock some startling secrets.

Scheduled to open Friday, May 28

Julia Roberts and Hugh Grant team up in this romantic comedy about a small

Local band contests announced

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO STAFF WRITER cfuoco@oc.homecomm.net

MÜSIC

Local bands looking to boost their career have two chances thanks to Jim Beam and Palace Sports and Entertainment.

thanks to Jim Beam and Palace Sports and Entertainment.

Jim Beam is aponsoring B.E.A.M.—Benefiting Emerging Artists in Music — which offers aspiring musicians \$50,000 in grants, free rehearsal studio time and publicity. Pat DiNizio, singer and guitarist for the Smithereens, is the chairman of the B.E.A.M. Advisory Board.

"We're giving 150 hours away to a band to practice their music. It's just a formal place to rehearse. So many bands don't have a garage or luxury of their parents' basement to practice in," said Mindy Moller, publications manager for Jim Beam in Deerfield, Ill.

"We're also giving grants away.

in Deerfield, Ill.
"Wo're also giving grants away
throughout the year. There's
\$50,000 in grant funds available
for tours, or music lessons or
equipment or promotional piece
development, whatever t's
gonna take to get more exposure
for that particular musician or
band "she said.

The contest is open to any unsigned solo artist or group of

any genre. Rehearsal space will any genre at Diversion Recording Studios, 29166 Fierce Road, Southfield. The grants and the rehearsal time will be awarded in June, September and December, with the first deadline set for May 31. Winners will be announced by July 1.

Applications are available on the Jim Beam Bourbon Web site an Applications are available on the Jim Beam Bourbon Web site at http://www.jimbeam.com, by writing to P.O. Box 4723, Nor Applications of the Jim Beam Bourbon Web site at http://www.jimbeam.com, by writing to P.O. Box 4723, or at Diversion Recording Studios.

Palace Sports and Entertainment Inc., is heating a competition to select local, unsigned or local-label musical performers to serve a opening acts for select shows this summer at Pine Knob and Mendow Brook Music Feetival.

There is such a wealth of local musical talent in Michigan, we wanted to extend a hand to showcase amon of that talent as

musical talent in Michigan, we wanted to extend a hand to showcase some of that talent at our venues. Most local musicians rarely get the opportunity to perform in front of a crowd the size of one found at Meadow Brook or Pine Knob, said Town Wilson, president of PS&E.

Bands and performers are asked to submit audio or video tapes, or CDs, to Opening Act Contest, The Palace, 2 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills, Mich.,

48326. Entries must be nost-

48328. Entries must be post-marked no later than May 17.

Eight Finalists will be invited to perform a 10-minute set live at Meadow Brook Music Festival on Wednesday, May 26. Jugges will choose four winners to open for artists (to be determined) throughout the 1999 concert sea-son at Meadow Brook Music Fes-tival and Pine Knob.

Musical acts must neet the following requirements for con-

tivel and Pine Knob.

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