Wild Wild West' offers cool summer fun

Memo to Hollywood: Thanks,

Mome to Hollywood: Thanks, you can stop now.

After "The Avengers," "The Mod Squad: "My Favorite Martina" and toe many other disappointing attempts to resurrect Baby Boomer "I' on the big screen, they'se finally made one that does what it is should do. 'Wild Wild West,' pays respectful homage to the original series while using the expanded format to its fullest.

"The Wild Wild West," was a hit on CBS from 1955-1969. Its Jules Verne-ish look at post-

Civil War America gave us Robert Conrad as dashing Secret Service Agent James When we meet them (master of disguise, Artenus Gordon. Their weekly exploits included disbolical villains, Conrad's burnehaster of brawls and life-awing gadgets from some 19th contury Sharper Image.

In this \$100 million version, Will Smith ('Men in Black') is West and Kevin Kline ('In & Britishers who play Americans Out') is Gordon. They are "The Odd Couple on the Lone Prairie."

As a departure from the TV show, West and Gordon are not show the show of the

pseved at losing "a lung, spleen, bladder, 35 feet of small intestine and the ability to reproduce, all in the name of the South." Actually, he plans to keep only the Rocky Mountain States for himself, returning the rest to their original owners ("Great Britain gets back all 13 colonies, oxcept Manhattan.")
Will Smith parlays Conrad's West, Indiana Jones and a lot of Eddie Murphy into his swashbuckling special agent. And he gets to buckle a lot of swashes; there's a rather large body count in "Wild Wild West," but nothing to keep the older kids home

to keep the older kids home

Smith breaks no new ground for himself as an actor Instead, he uses his familiar charisma and humor to have a good time and give the viewer the same. He's a fine fit as the "dark stranger" whose theory is "shoot first, shoot second, shoot third and when everyone's dead, try to ask a question or two." Kline seems less comfortable as Artie; maybe it's those buck-wheat-filled breast he sports in his first scene. Which brings us to Salma Hayek, who needs no such holp at all from Wardrobe, thank you. Our lady-indistress has little to do but breathe heavily and remember which

Wost-admiring lines go when ("He's impetuous... he's so courageous... he's so graceful."

The film's biggest stars are "The Wanderor," a high-tech train with trap doors, sliding mirrors and such; and Loveless' ultimate weapon, an 80-foct-tall, eight-logged erector set called Turantuls.

The signature sepia-tone opening, theme music and tongue-in-check all have been retained from the TV show. Under Barry Sonnenfeld's caring and inventive direction, "Wild Wild West" offers a let of collections from the TV show. cool summer fun.

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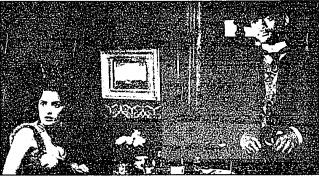
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Adventure: Rita Escobar (Salma Hayek) and James West (Will Smith) star in "Wild Wild West," a fast-paced adventure sparkling with comedy, action and fantasy

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Scheduled to open Friday, July 18

"EYES WIDE BHIT"

Story of joalousy and sexual obsession. Stors Tom Cruise, Nicole Kidman.

LAKE PLACID

A scientist, u game warden, o sheriif and an eccentric mythology professor convege near o remote lake in Maine to investigate a gruesome fetality. The doventure, laced with humor and terror, leads to a shocking accrat beneat the mything but placif waters. State Bridget Fonda, Bill Pullman, Oliver Platt.

*THE BLAIR WITCH PROJECT

Horror film about three college students, who in 1994 hird into Maryland's Black Hills Forest to shoot a documentary about a local legand, and were never heard from again. Stars Heather Donahue, Joshua Leonard.

THE WOOD'

Comedy of three childhood friends remi-niscing about years gone by the even of their friend's wedding. Stars Omar Epps, Taye Diggs, Richard T, Jones.

Scheduled to open Friday, July 23

PROP DEAD GORGEOUS

Comedy about a small town's obsession with its teenage beauty contest. Stars Kirstle Alloy, Elien Barkin, Kirsten Dunst.

TWICE UPON A YESTERDAY Exclusively at the Landmark Maple Theatre. A foriorn lover in London gets the chance of a lifetime to turn back the clock and relive a relationship that went wrong with a previous glifflend. Stars Douglas Henshall, Lens Headey, Mark Strong, Charlotte Coleman, Penelope Cruz,

Scheduled to open Friday, July 30

-DEEP BLUE SEA"

Group of researchers working on a cure for concer using materials from genetically orbinaced sharks becomes stranded on a damaged and sinking marine research facility. There, they are menseed by the sharks they have created, which now surcured them with deadly intent. Stars Samuel Jeckson.

Schedule to open Friday, Aug. 6

PERMIT CLUBS

Tale of a man who sets up a fights in which young men are paired off in bloody, no holds barred bouts that continue until one drops. Stars Brad Firt,

"THE IRON GATE"

A glant metal machine falls to Earth in 1958 and frightens the residents of a small town in Maine, until it befriends a Dyear-old boy named Hogerth, Animat-ad feature.

to open Friday, Aug. 6 at metro Detroit movie theaters

A furny, honest and searing look at white wanna-be gengstes in the heart-land, and at America's youth struggling to find their place in a multi-cultural society. Stars Danny Hoch who also Levin, Richard Stratton and Garth BelScheduled to open Wednesday, Aug. 11 "DI TOO DEEP"

A police defective goes deep undercover to get a rotorious gangater. But in his quest, he risks losing himself. Stars Omar Epps.

"MEXT TO YOU"

A teenage girl and boy who have grown up next door to one another have nover mode a live connection. But when long-time filloods and neighbors gather for high school's centential celebration, they realize they were meant for each other elia long. Stars Melissa Joan Hurt and Staphen Collins.

Scheduled to open Friday, Aug. 13

"EROKEDOWN PALACE"

Two high school girls set off on a dream wo mgn school gills set off on a dream trip to Thailand following their gradua-tion. The dream turns to a nightmare when they are accused of drug trefilex-ing and sentenced to 33 years in a Thai prison until an expatriate American lowyer comes to their aid. Stere Claire Daines.

Scheduled to open Friday, Aug. 20

WICKEY BLUE TYES"

Romantic comedy about an English art dealer in New York who fails in love with the daughter of a Mafia boss. To win her hand, he embarks or a mission to thwart the Mob, but quickly finds himself taundering money and mashimsell laundering money and mas-querading as the notorious mobster "Mickey blue Eyes." Stars Hugh Grant, James Gaan,



Oramu: Brad Pitt (left) and Edward Norton in a scene from "Fight Club" scheduled