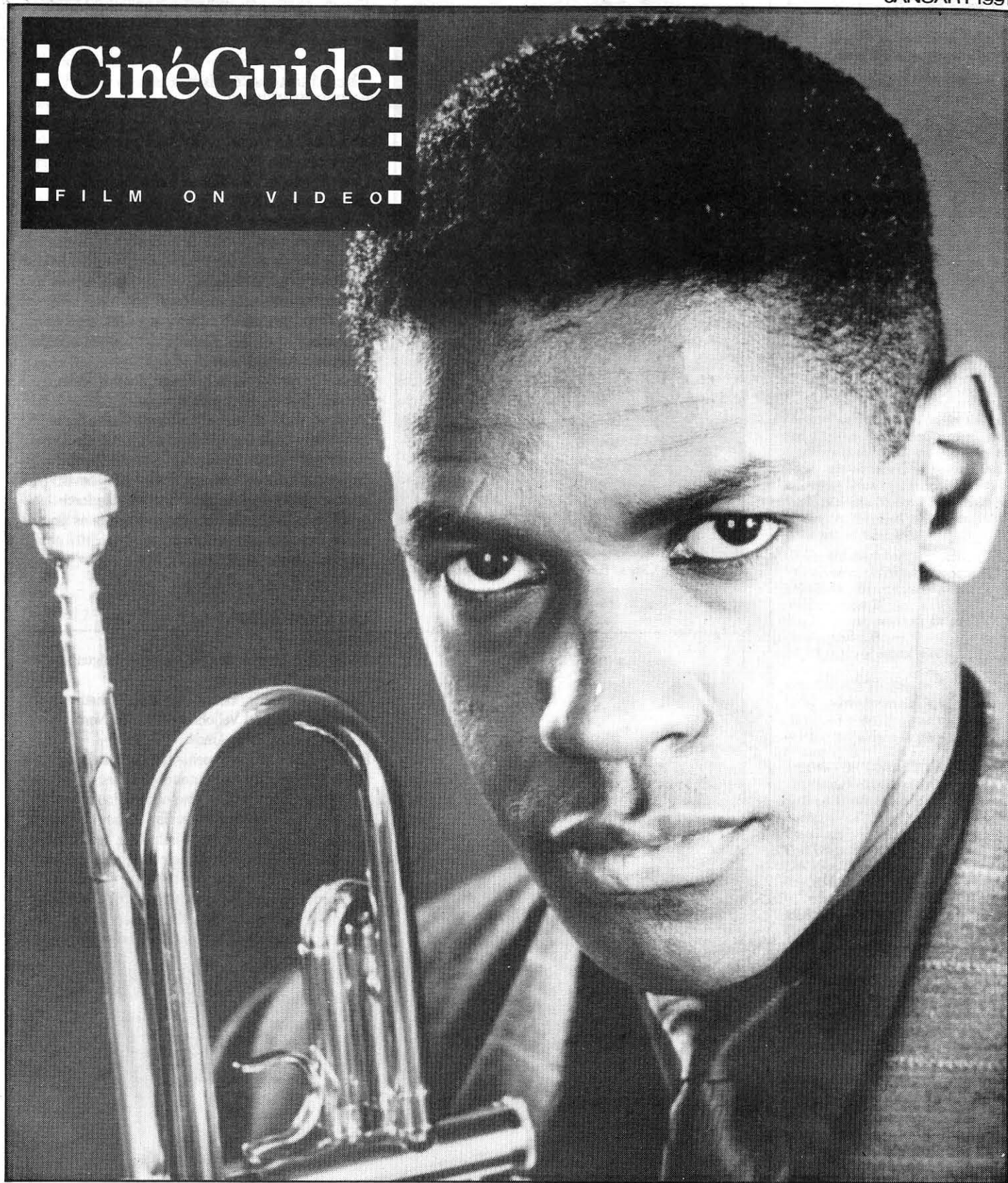


JANUARY 1991

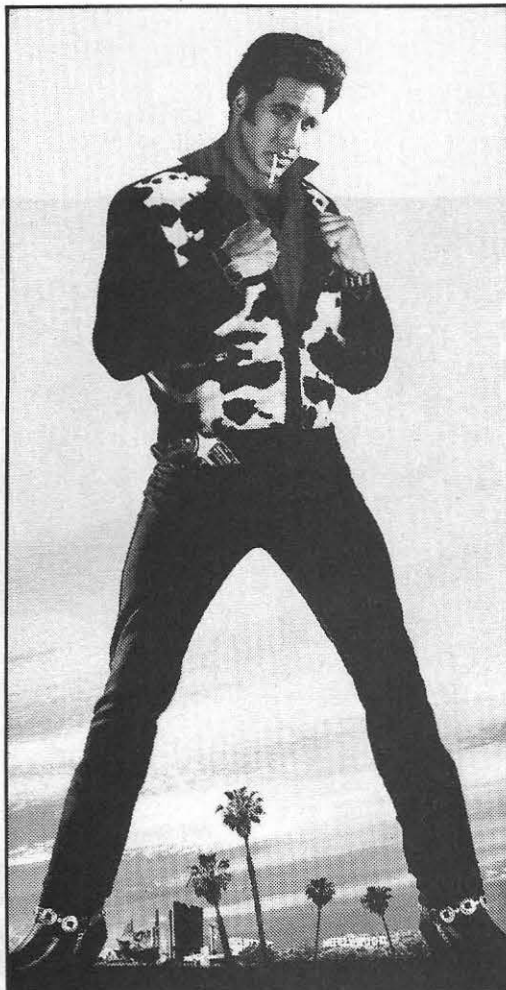
CinéGuide

F I L M O N V I D E O



VIDEORELEASES

The following films are scheduled for release on video this month. Though based on the latest available information, these listings are subject to change [and not all stores carry all videos]. For a guide to Cinedex and MPAA ratings, see our masthead on page three.



Andrew Dice Clay as Ford Fairlane ©1990 20TH CENTURY FOX

The Adventures of Ford Fairlane

[NOT REVIEWED]

COMEDY

1990, Color, 100 minutes [R]

Director: Renny Harlin

Cast: Andrew Dice Clay, Wayne Newton, Priscilla Presley, Morris Day, Robert Englund, Ed O'Neill

Release Date: 03 JANUARY 1991

The China Lake Murders

[NOT REVIEWED]

Drama

1989, Color, 089 minutes [PG-13]

Director: Alan Metzger

Cast: Tom Skerritt, Michael Parks, Nancy Everhard, Lauren Tewes

Release Date: 31 JANUARY 1991

Delta Force 2 [1.5]

Drama: Action

1990, Color, 106 minutes [R: violence, strong language]

Director: Aaron Norris

Cast: Chuck Norris, Billy Drago, John P. Ryan, Richard Jaeckel, Begonia Plaza

Review: Weak all the way around, "Delta Force 2" lacks every basic ingredient to win favor: shallow characters, extraordinarily thin plot, and action sequences built without any drama whatsoever. The standard plot, a top-secret military strike force called in to help with the war on drugs, is as tired as the direction and performances.

Release Date: 09 JANUARY 1991

Die Hard 2 [3.0]

Drama: Action

1990, Color, 124 minutes [R: violence, language]

Director: Renny Harlin

Cast: Bruce Willis, Bonnie Dedelia, William Atherton, Reginald Veljohnson, Franco Nero, William Sadler, John Amos

Review: This sequel repeats the successful formula of the 1988 original and outdoes it in pacing, action and scope. "Die Hard 2" also carries enough refers to reward viewers of the first film without slighting first-timers. Willis returns as reluctant hero Officer McCain. This time he's in the center of a terrorist plot to take over the control tower at Dulles International Airport (Washington, D.C.). Applause goes to Willis for his underplayed lead and director Harlin for starting the action momentum early and never letting up.

Note: Preceded by "Die Hard" (1988).

Release Date: 31 JANUARY 1991

The Freshman [2.6]

Comedy

1990, Color, 102 minutes [PG: language]

Director: Andrew Bergman

Cast: Marlon Brando, Matthew Broderick, Bruno Kirby, Penelope Ann Miller, Frank Whaley

Review: When an involved plot leads to a satisfying climax, it's good cinema; when it winds awkwardly through a comedy that's not so funny, such as "The Freshman," it's frustrating. Broderick plays the title character, about to embark on a new life of college in the Big Apple. His new start is quickly turned topsy-turvy when he gets mixed up with a dead ringer for Hollywood's Godfather (Brando) who's undisclosed business dealings smell as fishy. That on its own provides a lot of potential, but purposeless sub-plots end weaken the narrative and take away any hopes of getting to know the characters—Broderick and Brando are virtually wasted in the process. Broderick fans should find him as engaging as ever, Kirby manages to get in a few good lines, and Brando, as always, is a lot of fun to watch.

Release Date: 23 JANUARY 1991

Mo' Better Blues [3.7]

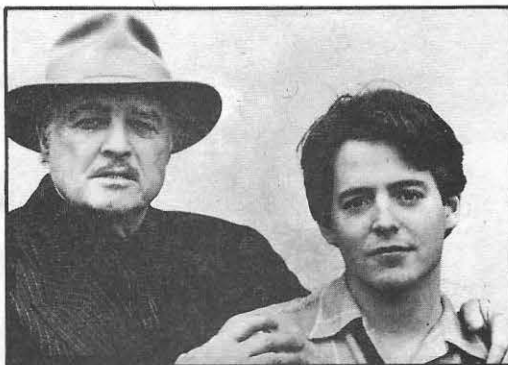
Drama: Character Study

1990, Color, 129 minutes

[R: adult situations, language]

Director: Spike Lee

Cast: Denzel Washington, Spike Lee, Wesley Snipes, Giancarlo Esposito, Robin Harris, Joie Lee, Cynda Williams



The Freshman: Brando and Broderick
©1990 RCA/COLUMBIA

Review: "Mo' Better Blues" stands out as one of the most stylish films of the recent cinema. Director Lee does pay the price by providing a couple of pretentious moments—the work remains splendid, nonetheless. Washington gives a commanding performance in his portrayal of trumpeter Bleek, who is almost as obsessed with womanizing as he is with his art. It's to Washington's credit that he attains that thin line that keeps the character close enough to us so that at the same time we're fascinated and concerned. If this film is convention when compared to his other works, then he's more than welcome to be conventional anytime.

Release Date: 17 JANUARY 1991

Die Hard 2: Bruce Willis ©1990 TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX



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VOLUME 1 NUMBER 4

■ **COVER:** Denzel Washington stars in the January release, **MO' BETTER BLUES**. Photo courtesy of MCA/Universal Home Video which holds the copyright.

■ **NEW RELEASES** PAGE 2

■ **CRITIC'S NOTEBOOK:**
THE BEST OF 1990 PAGE 5

■ **CINEDEX: A LIST OF ALL**
FILM REFERENCES PAGE 12

REVIEWS & RATINGS

Most reviews and ratings of recent titles are based on theatrical screenings, including original running time. Film ratings in this issue (appearing in brackets following film titles) are based on our Cinedex System, a 0-5 scale:

- 5.0 Perfection
- 4.0 Collectible
- 3.0 Recommended
- 2.5 Average
- 2.0 Sub-standard
- 1.0 Intolerable

Civilized disagreement is par for the course, and Cinedex ratings and reviews are intended only as guides. We encourage readers to express their disagreements (see below, under "How to Contact Us"). When available, Motion Picture Association of America theatrical ratings are included, along with warning lines:

G: General Audiences

PG: Parental Guidance suggested.

PG-13: May be unsuitable for children under 13

R: May be inappropriate for all persons under 18

NC-17 & X: For adults only

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CineGuide
Post Office Box 697
Oak Park, IL 60303
708-383-0277

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VIDEORELEASES



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Navy Seals [1.8]

Drama: Action

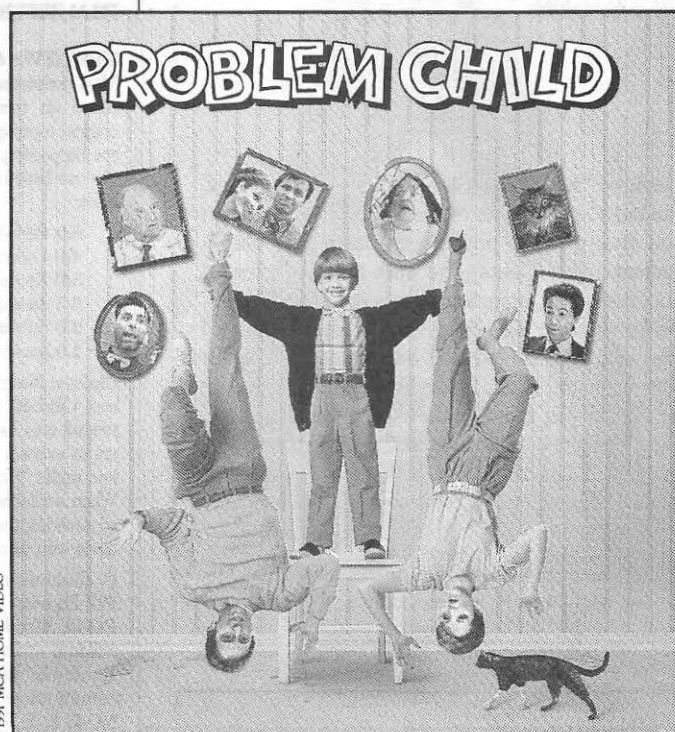
1990, Color, 113 minutes [R: Violence, language]

Director: Lewis Teague

Cast: Michael Biehn, Charlie Sheen, Joanne Whalley-Kilmer, Rick Rossovich, Bill Paxton

Review: There are actually so many good plot elements in "Navy Seals" that the film can't expand any of them. Instead we're given weak characterizations and relationships, a weak plot, and even weaker justification for the daring exploits of this commando unit in search of a terrorist cache of missiles. There are plenty of good action sequences, but once again the full impact is diminished by an unsupportive script. This may well disappoint Sheen fans.

Release Date: 31 JANUARY 1991



©1991 MCA HOME VIDEO

Problem Child [1.7]

Comedy

1990, Color, 081 minutes [PG]

Director: Dennis Dugan

Cast: John Ritter, Amy Yasbeck, Michael Oliver, Michael Richards, Gilbert Gottfried, Jack Warden

Review: For all its creative energy, "Problem Child" has all the sensibilities of...a problem child. An infertile couple adopts a 7-year-old (therefore by-passing all those messy years), quickly discovering they've got the stuff that grey hair is made of—Junior's pen-pal is a convicted serial killer. As a kid's flick, you have to question the idea of giving a young audience a preponderance of bad things to do. On top of that, some of the language is off-color with a few jokes to match. So is it a film for adults? The juvenile characters, plot and sentiment are not for mature audiences. A lot of the sight gags will likely amuse the kids, but there's little else to respect about "Problem Child."

Release Date: 31 JANUARY 1991



©1990 MORGAN CREEK FILM PARTNERS I

Young Guns II [2.4]

Drama: Western

1990, Color [PG-13: violence, language]

Director: Geoff Murphy

Cast: Emilio Estevez, Kiefer Sutherland, Lou Diamond Phillips, Christian Slater, William Petersen

Review: "Young Guns II" does improve on the original: it strives for richer characterization and loses some of the graphic violence. However, it still comes up short by glorifying killers. The first movie at least presented the pressure that pressed the boys to crime—this sequel makes no such attempt to justify their disregard for law and order.

Release Date: 17 JANUARY 1991

THE BEST OF 1990

CRITIC'S NOTEBOOK

HOW MANY VIDEOS

did you see last year? CineGuide reviewed 125 new video releases in 1990. The top films of the year, according to our ratings, represent a wide range of genres, styles and tastes, although character studies dominated the best of the year.





Driving Ms. Daisy: Jessica Tandy and Morgan Freeman.
©1989 WARNER BROS. INC.

DRIVING MISS DAISY**4.0**

This Oscar-winner (including Best Picture) was by far the best overall release of 1990, with high scores on every level.

The emotional basis of "Daisy" is undeniably sentimental, but it works especially well against characters and events that are recognizable and real. The plot, which only serves as the impetus for the presentation of relationships, centers on the aging Miss Daisy, a well-to-do Southern woman who must stubbornly admit she's getting too old to drive and must begrudgingly accept a chauffeur.

Jessica Tandy won the Academy Award for Best Actress for her portrayal of Daisy. Her performance is very real, particularly regarding small details such as irritation from a petty nuisance or the slight hint of suspicion in a glance. Morgan Freeman's chauffeur gracefully wears three faces: that of servant, man to man, and good friend. For most of the film his guard is up as a servant who knows his duty, and it is fascinating to watch the character let his guard down when speaking man to man or, when trying to break through to Daisy, lets his hair down altogether. It should also be mentioned that Dan Aykroyd, cast unexpectedly in a straight role, delivers his character with all due respectability.

Beresford's direction has nothing to add to the language of the cinema, but he very simply presents the film, handling the cast and script well.

The script, adapted by Alfred Uhry from his own play, again lays a solid foundation of real life from which his thick sentiment becomes all the more powerful. "Driving Miss Daisy" quietly leads its characters through time, allowing us to enjoy the changes that take place before us.

THE FABULOUS BAKER BOYS**3.6**

Great performances from an astute script make this an exceptionally forceful study of the relationship between two brothers.

The casting is a natural: art mimics life with real-life brothers Jeff and Beau portraying siblings who have been performing as a piano duo for 15 years. The times are catching up with them, business wise, and they take on a singer (Pfeiffer) to increase their bookings. There are already deep-seated conflicts between the brothers, and the presence of a third party is the turning point in their relationship.

Though contending with three strong characters, and the equally strong leads, writer-director Kloves chooses to tell the story through one perspective, the sullen, "artistic" brother played by Jeff Bridges. This focus establishes a keen perspective—the narrative moves progressively forward. (Too often, the story line is split equally among the major stars, a difficult style that seldom achieves success yet nevertheless is frequently done.) Kloves' camera augments the characterizations, and becomes downright stylish during musical sets.

HOW THEY RATED

DRIVING MISS DAISY	4.0
SORCERER	4.0
THE FABULOUS BAKER BOYS	3.6
ROMERO	3.6
THE HUNT FOR RED OCTOBER	3.5
HAIL THE CONQUERING HERO	3.4
STRAPLESS	3.3
DAD	3.2
MIAMI BLUES	3.2
GLORY	3.1
THE ABYSS	3.0
MY BLUE HEAVEN	3.0
WHERE THE HEART IS	3.0
DRUGSTORE COWBOY	2.9
FIRE BIRDS	2.9
I LOVE YOU TO DEATH	2.9
AN INNOCENT MAN	2.9
LOOK WHO'S TALKING	2.9
MEN DON'T LEAVE	2.9
PRETTY WOMAN	2.9
SEA OF LOVE	2.9
STANLEY AND IRIS	2.9
FAT MAN AND LITTLE BOY	2.8
HENRY V	2.8
MUSIC BOX	2.8
ROGER & ME	2.8
RUDE AWAKENING	2.8
STELLA	2.8
ANOTHER 48 HRS.	2.7
FIELD OF DREAMS	2.7
THE GREAT MOMENT	2.7
INDIANA JONES & THE LAST CRUSADE	2.7
JOE VERSUS THE VOLCANO	2.7
THE LAST OF THE FINEST	2.7
LETHAL WEAPON 2	2.7
NEW YORK STORIES	2.7
PARENTHOOD	2.7
TANGO & CASH	2.7
TREMORS	2.7
WE'RE NO ANGELS	2.7
CADILLAC MAN	2.6
CRIMES AND MISDEMEANORS	2.6
DO THE RIGHT THING	2.6
THE FOURTH WAR	2.6
IMMEDIATE FAMILY	2.6
MYSTERY TRAIN	2.6
SEX, LIES AND VIDEOTAPE	2.6
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES	2.6
TRIUMPH OF THE SPIRIT	2.6
UNCLE BUCK	2.6
BACK TO THE FUTURE PART III	2.5

CRITIC'S NOTEBOOK

The height of "The Fabulous Baker Boys" is the acting. The three leads are cast perfectly in their roles and perform superbly together. The overall tone is somber and gritty, and may prove slow for some viewers, but this will last among the best performances in the careers of both Jeff and Beau Bridges.

ROMERO

3.6

"Romero" has received very little attention due to its political subject matter (traditionally referred to in Hollywood circles as the kiss of the death for a film's commercial chances). It nonetheless rated well as a retelling of Archbishop Oscar Romero's emergence from a stance of passive resistance to become a leading defender of religious and civil rights during the 1970's uprisings in El Salvador.

Defenders of the U.S. Constitution should find the story compelling on its own (made bitter by the American government's backing of oppressive forces), but it is Raul Julia's thoughtful performance that makes this film. His Romero transforms with time and experience, as his reasoning, emotions and faith can lead him only to one side. Richard Jordan should also be singled out for his fine work in a supporting role that provides him more character than he usually sees.

THE HUNT FOR RED OCTOBER

3.5

This solid action movie came in third for its high-caliber suspense and the presence of Sean Connery.

Connery is the captain of the Soviet submarine, Red October, when he decides to desert, submarine, crew and all. His sudden departure is naturally a cause for international alarm, and the superpowers and allies attempt to second-guess his intentions. As the debate goes on, Red October becomes the fox in a chase, caught between Soviet and United States interests. The Soviets want their vessel back and wish to arrest Connery; the U.S. wants to study the sub and hopes that Connery will defect—neither party wants the third alternative, a nuclear-ready war machine turned over to a third nation.

The nagging question of the Soviet captain's motives is the driving tension behind the film, and Connery plays it as cool as an iceberg while compelling us to support him—whatever his cause may be. Without Connery's earnest portrayal, the movie would suffer dramatically.

STRAPLESS

3.3

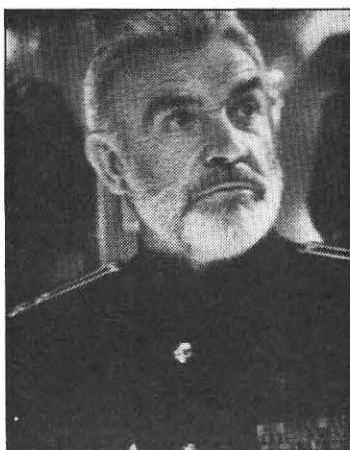
This quiet presentation of everyday victories and losses received high marks for its dignity, charm and intelligence.

This refreshingly adult film takes very little time setting up the characters and therefore quickly captures our interest. Blair Brown plays an American doctor in London who consciously

SPECIAL MENTION

SORCERER (4.0), the year's most hard-hitting film, was first released theatrically in 1977. It did not premiere on video until 1990.

In this remake of the French "The Wages of Fear" (Clouzot, 1956), director William Friedkin makes full use of the progress in cinematic content and technical expertise to create a dynamic work. Dismissing the original's style of objective film making, Friedkin takes us closer to the characters with a prologue that sets up the personal, criminal flight that leads four strangers to impoverishment in a rundown Latin American country. Their only opportunity for escape appears as the offer of exceptional wages to truck boxes of nitroglycerine to the site of an oil well fire. By the time they begin their 218 mile trek, we're completely caught up in the film's fabric of man's struggle with himself, other men, and fate. "Sorcerer" is gritty stuff, with several sensational driving sequences reinforcing the possibility of death and the capability of suffering in life—Friedkin's own "The Treasure of the Sierra Madre."



©1990 PARAMOUNT PICTURES.
PHOTO: BRUCE McBROOM

comes to terms with the choices in her life: supporting or not supporting her reckless, young sister, actively protesting or accepting cuts in hospital funding, and considering a love relationship with a mysterious man.

Writer-director Hare has created mature characters and given them suitably weighted conflicts. At the same time, he handles the material with a lightness and charm which keeps the more serious plot points from bogging down. The resultant narrative is therefore very much a reflection of life, and we identify with Brown as she tries to make the best choices possible.

Brown gives a finely tuned performance in the lead with spirited support from Fonda (combining innocence and sauciness, somewhat reminiscent of Shirley MacLaine's early work). Veteran Bruno Ganz (known best to German and international audiences) is absolutely riveting every moment he's on the screen.



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■ SPECIAL MENTION

JESSICA LANGE quietly turns in one superb performance after another. Two of these were released on video in 1990, "Men Don't Leave" (2.9), and "Music Box" (2.8).

DAD

3.2

"Dad" is a no-holds-barred soap, straight and simple. To take its sentiment seriously is to confirm all those golden rules we should have learned in first grade.

Ted Danson is the focal point here, a dedicated businessman who finally discovers the importance of family late in life when health crises beset his parents. Hidden in this merry-go-round of heart-tugging is a stellar performance by Jack Lemmon as Danson's father, a truly charming portrayal of man whose life is renewed.

If you're susceptible to weepers, bring your Kleenex—"Dad" may be light on the melodrama, but as heavy as anything when it comes to thick sentiment.

MIAMI BLUES

3.2

Top-notch performances and clever scripting can't be denied in this action yarn, despite a high level of violence and amorality.

Alec Baldwin is nothing less than brilliant in his portrayal of a psychotic criminal whose violent tendencies are only outdone by his habitual stealing. When he hits Miami, he steals a cop's gun and badge, hooks up with an innocent woman who can't see the real danger, and starts an incredible one-man crime spree.

The events unravel fast and furious as the cop (played with gritty gusto by Fred Ward) is constantly one step behind Baldwin. It's this non-stop pacing, combined with a witty script, that makes "Miami Blues" so attractive. The energy level is hard to resist, a creative force which frequently amuses the audience despite the direness of the lead character. That achievement alone is considerable.

BAD INFLUENCE	2.5
BETSY'S WEDDING	2.5
BORN ON THE FOURTH OF JULY	2.5
DEAD POETS SOCIETY	2.5
EDDIE AND THE CRUISERS II	2.5
GHOSTDAD	2.5
GREMLINS 2: THE NEW BATCH	2.5
GROSS ANATOMY	2.5
HONEY, I SHRUNK THE KIDS	2.5
JOHNNY HANDSOME	2.5
MY LEFT FOOT	2.5
NAT'L LAMPOON'S XMAS VACATION	2.5
RISING SON	2.5
SHIRLEY VALENTINE	2.5
A SHOCK TO THE SYSTEM	2.5
FLASHBACK	2.4
LAST EXIT TO BROOKLYN	2.4
OLD GRENGO	2.4
STEEL MAGNOLIAS	2.4
A DRY WHITE SEASON	2.3
FAMILY BUSINESS	2.3
PINK CADILLAC	2.3
Q&A	2.3
THE WAR OF THE ROSES	2.3
BLIND FURY	2.2
CASUALTIES OF WAR	2.2
DADDY'S DYIN...WHO'S GOT THE WILL?	2.2
HENRY: PORTRAIT OF A SERIAL KILLER	2.2
IN COUNTRY	2.2
INTERNAL AFFAIRS	2.2
ROBOCOP 2	2.2
TALES FROM THE DARKSIDE	2.2
WILD ORCHID	2.2
BLAZE	2.1
BLUE STEEL	2.1
COOKIE	2.1
CRAZY PEOPLE	2.1
DICK TRACY	2.1
IN THE SPIRIT	2.1
ALWAYS	2.0
BIRD ON A WIRE	2.0
BLACK RAIN	2.0
EVERYBODY WINS	2.0
HEART CONDITION	2.0
MILLENNIUM	2.0
OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS	2.0
THE PACKAGE	2.0
THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW	2.0
SHE DEVIL	2.0
TORN APART	2.0
THE COOK, THE THIEF, HIS WIFE...	1.9
ENEMIES, A LOVE STORY	1.9

CRITIC'S NOTEBOOK

■ GENRES

Dramas heavily outnumbered comedies in 1990, 77 to 31, respectively. Films combining the two totaled 17. Films with a crime theme numbered 16, followed by 6 romances and 5 suspense/thrillers. Horror joined westerns as genres in serious decline, each with only one major release this past year.

The Top Crime & Suspense

Films: "An Innocent Man" and "Sea of Love" tied [2.9], followed closely by "Another 48 Hrs.," "The Last of the Finest," and the offbeat "Tremors," all receiving a 2.7 rating.

The Top Romance Films:

"Pretty Woman" and "Stanley & Iris" tied at the top [2.9], considerably ahead of all other romantic releases.

GLORY

This winner of three Academy Awards is fine story telling achieved by a solid production on all levels.

"Glory" is an account of the first unit of black soldiers used by the North in the Civil War and the patriotic but inexperienced soldier (Matthew Broderick) assigned to lead them (the script is based in part on actual letters).

The film is as simple as that description, its conflicts and resolutions as basic as you might expect. This simplicity is the film's strength, an almost modest story line save for its significance as an added perspective to the history of the United States.

The tale is delivered by a strong cast playing resolute characters, led by Broderick, Denzel Washington (who received the Oscar for Best Supporting Actor) and Morgan Freeman.

3.1 THE ABYSS

3.0

"The Abyss" works best as a disaster film with the action, suspense and character relationships that follow. It does not work as science fiction, an element that could be its undoing for some viewers.

The plot is actually the basis for 1001 sub-plots and crises: an underwater oil-rig crew is "volunteered" by the U.S. Navy on a mission to diffuse nuclear warheads lost at the bottom an undersea chasm. By the time the mission actually comes to a head, we've encountered numerous soap opera plots and cliffhangers, a virtual barrage of climactic scenes.

Maintaining this flood of episodes are the powerful leads of Ed Harris and Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio, a teaming that is at once natural, attractive and commanding. It's their performance that gives this film heart, offsetting the pseudo-science fiction aspects that needlessly distract and lengthen the proceedings (the special effects were extraordinary enough, however, to garner an Oscar).



■ SPECIAL MENTION

HAIL THE CONQUERING HERO

(3.4), a 1944 comedy classic from Preston Sturges received its first release on video in 1990.

This top-notch Sturges comedy piles hilarity

on a thin layer of social comment as a small town gives the hero treatment to a man who is anything but a hero. Sturges' script is beautifully played by Eddie Bracken and the Paramount stock company of character actors (Demarest gets one of his largest roles here).

MY BLUE HEAVEN

3.0

Can an East Coast hood (Martin), relocated by the federal witness protection program, find happiness in suburbia? At the hands of writer Nora Ephron, the opportunity is perfect for satirizing a lifestyle that is as American as a Jersey accent. She also takes her digs at stereotypical peace officers, and fits in a teacher-student relationship between Martin and his FBI agent (Moranis).

Altogether satisfying, "Blue Heaven" stills fails to meet the comedic potential of its cast. Martin and Moranis are nonetheless wonderful, and several musical interludes, handled superbly by director Ross, come as refreshing surprises. Despite some comedic lapses, the script is written intelligently, and that alone makes it stand head and shoulders above the crowd.

WHERE THE HEART IS

3.0

It's not so much what "Where the Heart is" has to say, it's how the film says it. The plot is secondary to absorbing characters portrayed by a very talented cast.

A cut-throat developer (Dabney Coleman) decides to give his spoiled children an object lesson by moving them into a ruin of an historic landmark. As the three must cope with real life for the first time, Coleman's company faces near collapse, and so his lesson begins.

There's some obvious moral statements at work here, but more fascinating are the performances of Thurman, Glover, and especially Plummer, as extremely differing personalities begin to share the landmark. Coleman himself, with the most pat character of the bunch, lifts his cynical father and businessman out of the script's ordinariness. The script lacks a wallop overall, but does contain enough pointed comments to go around.



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■ SPECIAL MENTION

JOE PESCI, who gives one of the best supporting performances ever in "Lethal Weapon 2" with Mel Gibson and Danny Glover.

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■ SPECIAL MENTION

MY BLUE HEAVEN, for the best musical numbers in a non-musical.

IMPULSE	1.9
LOOSE CANNONS	1.9
MADHOUSE	1.9
TOTAL RECALL	1.9
VALMONT	1.9
LORD OF THE FLIES	1.8
REVENGE	1.8
ROSALIE GOES SHOPPING	1.8
THEOLONIUS MONK: STRAIGHT...	1.8
TURNER & HOOC	1.8
THE BEST OF THE BEST	1.7
THE HANDMAID'S TALE	1.7
HARLEM NIGHTS	1.7
LICENSE TO KILL	1.7
THE FIRST POWER	1.6
HARD TO KILL	1.6
MEN AT WORK	1.6
RELENTLESS	1.6
WORTH WINNING	1.6
HIGH DESERT KILL	1.5
THE GAMBLE	1.3
KICKBOXER	1.0

CRITIC'S NOTEBOOK

THECINEDEX

The following is an alphabetical index to current releases and all major film references in this issue:

■ denotes a current release.
□ denotes an older reference.
For a guide to Cinedex and MPAA ratings, please see our masthead on page three.

□ The Abyss [3.0]

Drama: Adventure/Fantasy, Science Fiction
1989, Color, 140 minutes [PG-13: violence, language]

Director: James Cameron

Cast: Ed Harris, Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio, Michael Biehn, Leo Burmester, Todd Graff, John Bedford Lloyd, J.C. Quinn, Kimberly Scott, Jimmie Ray Weeks

Synopsis: An underwater oil-rig crew is pressed into the special task of defusing a sunken nuclear warhead. The obstacles are many, ranging from office politics and romance to the unknown depths of the abyss.

■ The Adventures of Ford Fairlane [NOT REVIEWED]

Comedy, 1990, Color, 100 minutes [R]

Director: Renny Harlin

Cast: Andrew Dice Clay, Wayne Newton, Priscilla Presley, Morris Day, Robert Englund, Ed O'Neill

■ Another 48 Hrs. [2.7]

Drama: Action, 1990, Color [R: explicit language, violence]

Director: Walter Hill

Cast: Nick Nolte, Eddie Murphy

Synopsis: In this sequel, police officer Cates (Nolte) uncovers a contract on his convict friend (Murphy). Together, they seek out the drug kingpin behind the hit.

Note: Preceded by "48 Hrs" (1982).

■ Back to the Future Part III [2.5]

Comedy: Fantasy/Adventure, 1990, Color [PG: language]

Director: Robert Zemeckis

Cast: Michael J. Fox, Christopher Lloyd,

Mary Steenburgen,

Thomas F. Wilson, Lea Thompson

Synopsis: Third in the series: McFly (Fox) travels back to the old west in order to save Doc (Lloyd). Their departure becomes complicated by a gas leak, a showdown with the local fast gun, and a true romance.

Note: Preceded by "Back to the Future" (1985), "Back to the Future Part II" (1989).

■ Betsy's Wedding [2.5]

Comedy: Character Study, 1990, Color [R: language, adult themes]

Director: Alan Alda

Cast: Alan Alda, Molly Ringwald, Joe Pesci, Madeline Kahn, Ally Sheedy, Burt Young, Anthony LaPaglia

Synopsis: The trial and pressures of planning a wedding provides the basis for the multi-layered story of the Hopper family.

■ Bird on a Wire [2.0]

Comedy/Drama: Action, Romance
1990, Color [PG-13: language, violence, adult situations]

Director: John Badham

Cast: Mel Gibson, Goldie Hawn, David Carradine, Bill Duke

Synopsis: After 15 years in the FBI's witness protection program, Gibson is found out by the criminals he helped send to prison at the same time that he runs into an old girlfriend (Hawn). To worsen matters, a corrupt FBI agent is aiding the hoods.

■ Blind Fury [2.2]

Drama: Action, 1990, Color, 086 minutes

Director: Phillip Noyce

Cast: Rutger Hauer

Synopsis: Nick Parker (Hauer) was blinded 20 years ago in Viet Nam combat but rescued by locals who taught him to fight despite his handicap. Now he's returned home, only to become mixed up in a drug deal involving the army buddy who deserted him.

■ Cadillac Man [2.6]

Comedy/Drama, 1990, Color, 097 minutes
[R: language, violence, adult themes & situations]

Director: Roger Donaldson

Cast: Robin Williams, Tim Robbins, Pamela Reed

Synopsis: As a hustling car salesman (Williams) reaches a literal mid-life crisis (about to lose his job, his ex-wife can't control their daughter, and his girlfriend juggling is getting tricky), a life or death emergency occurs at the showroom.

■ The China Lake Murders [NOT REVIEWED]

Drama, 1989, Color, 089 minutes [PG-13]

Director: Alan Metzger

Cast: Tom Skerritt, Michael Parks, Nancy Everhard, Lauren Tewes

□ Dad [3.2]

Drama: Character Study, 1989, Color

Director: Gary David Goldberg

Cast: Ted Danson, Jack Lemmon, Olympia Dukakis, Kathy Baker, Kevin Spacey, Ethan Hawke

Synopsis: A son (Danson) rediscovers the long-lost relationship with his father (Lemmon) when a series of crises hit the family.

■ Daddy's Dyin...Who's Got the Will? [2.2]

Drama/Black Comedy: Character Study
1990, Color, 097 minutes [PG-13: language, adult themes]

Director: Jack Fisk

Cast: Beau Bridges, Beverly D'Angelo, Tess Harper, Judge Reinhold, Amy Wright, Patrika Darbo, Molly McClure, Keith Carradine

Synopsis: The Turnover family has gathered to wait as daddy dies. The occasion brings out the best and worst in everyone as the siblings attempt to find the missing will.

■ Delta Force 2 [1.5]

Drama: Action
1990, Color, 106 minutes [R: violence, strong language]

Director: Aaron Norris

Cast: Chuck Norris, Billy Drago, John P. Ryan, Richard Jaeckel, Begonia Plaza

Synopsis: Follow up to the 1986 original, the Force, a top secret military strike force (funded by invisible purse strings) is called in to aid the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency to bring the world's biggest drug lord to justice.

■ Dick Tracy [2.1]

Drama: Action, Romance, 1990, Color [PG: adult themes]

Director: Warren Beatty

Cast: Warren Beatty, Glenn Headly, Charlie Korsmo, Al Pacino, Madonna, Mandy Patinkin, Charles Durning, Paul Sorvino, William Forsythe, Seymour Cassel, Dustin Hoffman,

Dick Van Dyke, Catherine O'Hara, James Caan, Michael J. Pollard, Estelle Parsons, James Tolkan, R.G. Armstrong

Synopsis: From the pages of the Chicago Tribune, policeman Tracy (Beatty) is after Big Boy Caprice (Pacino), while torn between his reliable girl and a mobster's flame.

■ Die Hard 2 [3.0]

Drama: Action, 1990, Color [R: violence, language]

Director: Renny Harlin

Cast: Bruce Willis, Bonnie Dedelia, William Atherton, Reginald Veljohnson, Franco Nero, William Sadler, John Amos

Synopsis: When mercenaries seize control of Dulles International Airport, a visiting cop from L.A. (Willis) takes it upon himself to save the day—and the plane his wife is coming in on.

Note: Preceded by "Die Hard" (1988).

"A star today has to take charge of every aspect of her career. There are no studios left to do it for you."

Faye Dunaway

□ **Driving Miss Daisy** [4.0]

Comedy/Drama: Character Study

1989, Color, 99 minutes [PG: language, adult situations]

Director: Bruce Beresford

Cast: Jessica Tandy [AA], Morgan Freeman, Dan Aykroyd, Patti Lupone, Esther Rolle

Synopsis: An aging woman is stubbornly forced to accept the aid of a chauffeur (Freeman). The chronicle of their growing friendship is displayed against the changing social climate in the South.

Note: *Oscars for Best Picture, Screenplay, Lead Actress & Make-up*

□ **The Fabulous Baker Boys** [3.6]

Drama: Character Study

1989, Color, 113 minutes [R: adult themes, language]

Director: Steve Kloves

Cast: Jeff Bridges, Michelle Pfeifer, Beau Bridges, Elie Raab, Jennifer Tilly

Synopsis: The relationship of two piano-playing brothers reaches a significant turning point when a singer joins the act.

■ **The Freshman** [2.6]

Comedy, 1990, Color, 102 minutes [PG: language]

Director: Andrew Bergman

Cast: Marlon Brando, Matthew Broderick, Bruno Kirby, Penelope Ann Miller, Frank Whaley

Synopsis: A young man (Broderick) looks forward to his college career and life in the big city until a relationship with a potential crime boss (Brando) turns his world up-side-down.

■ **The Gamble** [1.3]

Drama/Comedy: Adventure, 1990, Color, 108 minutes [R]

Director: Carlo Vanzina

Cast: Matthew Modine, Faye Dunaway, Jennifer Beals

Synopsis: When a young man (Modine) discovers that his father has lost everything in a bet to a notorious woman (Dunaway), he wagers his life against her winnings.

■ **Ghostdad** [2.5]

Comedy: Fantasy, 1990, Color [PG: language]

Director: Sidney Poitier

Cast: Bill Cosby, Kimberly Russell, Denise Nicholas, Ian Bannen

Synopsis: An executive who's always on the run (Cosby) gets a second chance to do right by his family when he mysteriously re-materializes after a traffic accident.

□ **Glory** [3.1]

Drama: War,

1989, Color, 122 minutes [R: violence, adult themes]

Director: Edward Zwick

Cast: Matthew Broderick, Denzel Washington [AA], Morgan Freeman, Jihmi Kennedy, Cliff DeYoung, Cary Elwes

Synopsis: A young, inexperienced but principled soldier (Broderick), promoted to Colonel for surviving a virtual massacre, is put in charge of forming the North's first black troop of the Civil War.

□ **The Great Moment** [2.7]

Drama: Biography

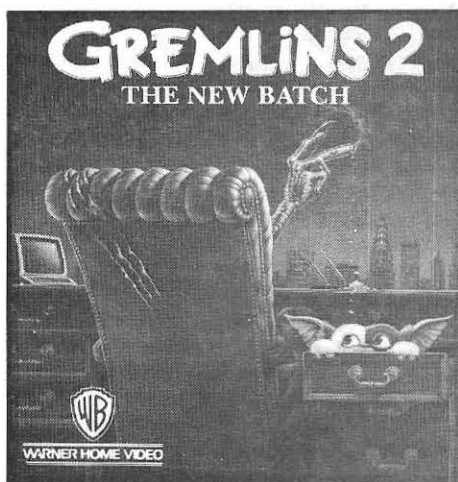
1944, B&W, 983 minutes [Not Rated]

Director: Preston Sturges

Cast: Joel McCrea, Betty Field, William Demarest, Harry Carey, Franklin Pangborn, Grady Sutton, Louis Jean Heydt, Jimmy Conlin

Synopsis: The significant moments in the life of the man who developed anesthesia are revealed.

Note: *Purportedly taken out of Sturges' hands and edited by the studio.*



■ **Gremlins 2: The New Batch** [2.5]

Comedy: Fantasy, 1990, Color [PG-13: violence, language]

Director: Joe Dante

Cast: Zach Galligan, Phoebe Cates, John Glover, Robert Prosky, Robert Picardo, Christopher Lee

Synopsis: Through several twists of fate, an unprecedented horde of gremlins invades a corporate office building. Their threat is accelerated when they discover the genetics laboratory and take advantage of its R&D facilities.

Note: *Preceded by "Gremlins" (1984).*

■ **Hail The Conquering Hero** [3.4]

Comedy: Social Commentary

1944, B&W, 101 minutes [Not Rated]

Director: Preston Sturges

Cast: Eddie Bracken, William Demarest, Ella Raines, Raymond Walburn, Bill Edwards, Elizabeth Patterson, Jimmy Conlin, Franklin Pangborn, Jack Norton, Paul Porcasi

Synopsis: The son of a war hero has a problem: he's just been drummed out of WWII for chronic hayfever. When some Marines befriend him, however, they lead his hometown into thinking he's a hero, and the town goes wild in its tribute to local boy made good.

■ **Henry V** [2.8]

Drama, 1989, Color, 137 minutes [Not Rated]

Director: Kenneth Branagh

Cast: Kenneth Branagh, Derek Jacobi, Brian Blessed, Alec McCowen, Ian Holm, Richard Briers, Robert Stephens, Robbie Coltrane, Christian Bale, Paul Scofield

Synopsis: Adaptation of Shakespeare's play about the "warrior-king," outnumbered in a conflict with France.

■ **High Desert Kill** [1.5]

Drama: Fantasy

1990, Color, 993 minutes [PG-13: language]

Director: Harry Falk

Cast: Marc Singer, Anthony Geary, Micah Grant, Chuck Connors

Synopsis: Three friends on a hunting expedition meet up with a professional hunter who informs them that all the area's game has been frightened away. Soon the friends themselves begin to behave strangely, and they seek to understand their predicament.

THECINEDEX

■ THE LIST

New releases currently available:

Another 48 Hrs.

Back to the Future Part III

Betsy's Wedding

Bird on a Wire

Blind Fury

Cadillac Man

Daddy's Dyin...Who's Got the Will?

Dick Tracy

The Gamble

Ghostdad

The Great Moment

Gremlins 2: The New Batch

Hail The Conquering Hero

Henry V

High Desert Kill

Last Exit to Brooklyn

Men at Work

My Blue Heaven

Mystery Train

Rising Son

Robocop 2

The Rocky Horror Picture Show

Short Time

Torn Apart

Total Recall

"Start the new year with a scandal—we'll give you all the shoddy details."
Hollywood Magazine, 1981

□ The Hunt for Red October [3.5]

Drama: Adventure/Action,
1990, Color [PG: language, violence]
Cast: Sean Connery, Alec Baldwin, Scott Glenn, Jim Neill, James Earl Jones
Synopsis: A Soviet captain deserts on the maiden voyage of a first strike submarine—taking the entire crew. Caught in a chase from the U.S.S.R. and the U.S., his only chance for survival might be the CIA analyst who believes the captain wants to defect.

■ Last Exit to Brooklyn [2.4]

Drama: Character Study
1990, Color, 103 minutes
[R: language, violence, adults situations, nudity]
Director: Uli Edel
Cast: Jennifer Jason Leigh, Burt Young, Ricki Lake, Jerry Orbach
Synopsis: Set in post-WWII Brooklyn, waterfront locals struggle to attain their own idea of happiness against mounting odds: a dock worker's strike, competitive prostitutes, young hoods, & a sub-culture of social misfits and dreamers.

□ Lethal Weapon 2 [2.7]

Drama/Comedy: Action
1989, Color, 113 minutes [R: violence, language, nudity]
Director: Richard Donner
Cast: Mel Gibson, Danny Glover, Joe Pesci, Joss Ackland, Derrick O'Conner, Patsy Kensit, Darlene Love, Traci Wolfe
Synopsis: This time around the bad guy is a South African attache hiding his evil deeds behind diplomatic immunity—and the good guys (a death-defying cop and family-man cop) just have to stop him.
Note: Preceded by "Lethal Weapon" (1987).

■ Men at Work [1.6]

Comedy: Adventure, 1990, Color, 98 minutes [PG-13]
Director: Emilio Estevez
Cast: Charlie Sheen, Emilio Estevez, Leslie Hope, Keith David, Darrell Larson, Dean Cameron, John Getz
Synopsis: Two garbagemen buddies (Sheen and Estevez), dreaming of the good life, get mixed up with a series of practical jokes, square policemen, an emotionally unstable supervisor, romance, and murder.

□ Miami Blues [3.2]

Drama: Action, Character Study
1990, Color, 99 minutes [R]
Director: George Armitage
Cast: Alec Baldwin, Fred Ward, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Nora Dunn, Charles Napier, Jose Perez, Paul Gleason, Obba Babatundé, Martine Beswick
Synopsis: A psychotic and violent thief goes on a spree in the title town, taking a naive woman along for the ride and keeping the investigating policeman one step behind.

■ Mo' Better Blues [3.7]

Drama: Character Study
1990, Color, 129 minutes [R: adult situations, language]
Director: Spike Lee
Cast: Denzel Washington, Spike Lee, Wesley Snipes, Giancarlo Esposito, Robin Harris, Joie Lee, Cynda Williams
Synopsis: The life and times of a trumpeter (Washington) and his peers are chronicles: friends, loyalty, business, gambling, womanizing and jazz.

■ My Blue Heaven [3.0]

Comedy: Character Study
1990, Color [PG-13: language, adult themes]
Director: Herbert Ross
Cast: Steve Martin, Rick Moranis, Joan Cusack, Carol Kane
Synopsis: Vinnie, a New York hood (Martin), is placed in the federal witness protection program. Relocated to suburbia, Vinnie has a tough time readjusting, but he just might be able to teach a few things to the FBI agent assigned to his case (Moranis).

■ Mystery Train [2.6]

Comedy/Drama: Character Study
1990, Color, 110 minutes
[R: language, adult themes & situations]
Director: Jim Jarmusch
Cast: Masatoshi Magase, Youki Kudo, Nicoletta Braschi, Elizabeth Bracco, Joe Strummer, Rick Aviles, Steve Buscemi, Cinque Lee, Screamin' Jay Hawkins
Synopsis: Three stories unrelated in dramatic and emotional tone share the same time period and location on one particular night in Memphis, Tennessee. Sometimes funny, sometimes scary, "Mystery Train" represents the circumstantial ironies of life.
Note: Portions in Japanese with English subtitles.

■ Navy Seals [1.8]

Drama: Action
1990, Color, 113 minutes [R: Violence, language]
Director: Lewis Teague
Cast: Michael Biehn, Charlie Sheen, Joanne Whalley-Kilmer, Rick Rossovich, Bill Paxton
Synopsis: The title special task force discovers stolen U.S. missiles during a rescue operation. Despite administrative flack, they undertake tracking down the missiles and destroying them.

■ Problem Child [1.7]

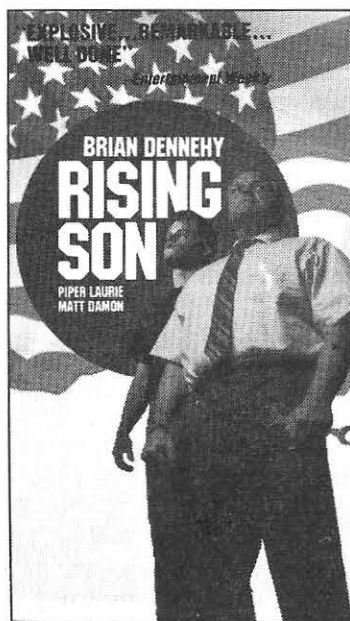
Comedy, 1990, Color, 98 minutes [PG]
Director: Dennis Dugan
Cast: John Ritter, Amy Yasbeck, Michael Oliver, Michael Richards, Gilbert Gottfried, Jack Warden
Synopsis: A childless couple adopts a 7-year-old who turns out to be their worst nightmare. Does the orphanage have a return policy?

■ Rising Son [2.5]

Drama: Character Study
1990, Color, 92 minutes [Not Rated]
Director: John Coles
Cast: Brian Dennehy, Piper Laurie, Graham Beckel, Emily Longstreith, Ving Rhames, Jane Adams, Richard Jenkins, Matt Damon
Synopsis: A good but stubborn man must discover new ways to hold onto his wife and son when hard times hit.

■ Robocop 2 [2.2]

Drama: Action, Fantasy
1990, Color [R: language, violence]
Director: Irvin Kershner
Cast: Peter Weller, Nancy Allen, Daniel O'Herlihy
Synopsis: Sequel to the 1987 film. In its takeover attempt of Detroit, the firm that invented the title cyborg (part human, part machine) re-programs him for ineffectiveness. At the same time, the company develops a new robocop from a criminal mind.



■ **The Rocky Horror Picture Show** [2.0]

Comedy: Musical, Fantasy/Horror

1975, Color, 095 minutes [adult themes & situations]

Director: Jim Sharman

Cast: Tim Curry, Susan Sarandon, Barry Bostwick, Richard O'Brien, Jonathan Adams, Meatloaf, Little Nell, Charles Gray, Patricia Quinn

Synopsis: A very square couple (Sarandon and Bostwick) is stranded and must seek help from a strange mansion where they meet a bi-sexual version of Dr. Frankenstein and his equally peculiar houseguests, all set to campy, satirical lyrics.

□ **Romero** [3.6]

Drama: Character Study, Social Commentary

1989, Color, 102 minutes [PG-13]

Director: John Duigan

Cast: Raul Julia, Richard Jordan, Ana Alicia, Eddie Velez, Alejandro Bracho, Tono Plana, Lucy Reina, Harold Gould, Al Ruscio, Robert Viharo

Synopsis: Archbishop Romero positions himself against the oppressive government and the militant resistance in 1977 El Salvador—a reasonable man in an unreasonable world.

■ **Short Time** [NOT REVIEWED]

1990, Color, 100 minutes [PG-13]

Director: Gregg Champion

Cast: Dabney Coleman, Matt Frewer, Teri Garr, Barry Corbin, Joe Pantoliano

□ **Sorcerer** [4.0]

Drama: Adventure

1977, Color, 122 minutes [PG: language, adult themes]

Director: William Friedkin

Cast: Roy Scheider, Bruno Cremer, Francisco Rabal, Amidou, Ramon Bieri

Synopsis: Four fugitives of justice stuck in a no-name, Latin American country, have one chance at escape: an American oil company offers them exceptional wages for driving trucks of nitroglycerine 218 miles to the site of a well fire.

Note: Originally filmed as "The Wages of Fear," directed by H.G. Clouzot in 1952, in French with English subtitles.

□ **Strapless** [3.3]

Drama: Character Study,

1988, Color [R: adult themes, situations]

Director: David Hare

Cast: Blair Brown, Bruno Ganz, Bridget Fonda

Synopsis: An American doctor (Brown) living in England, verges on major changes in her non-committal life: a new respect for her reckless, younger sister, actively protesting cuts in hospital funding, and a love relationship with a mysterious man.

■ **Tie Me Up! Tie Me Down!** [NOT REVIEWED]

1990, Color, 105 minutes [NC-17]

Director: Pedro Almodovar

Cast: Antonio Banderas, Victoria Abril

■ **Torn Apart** [2.0]

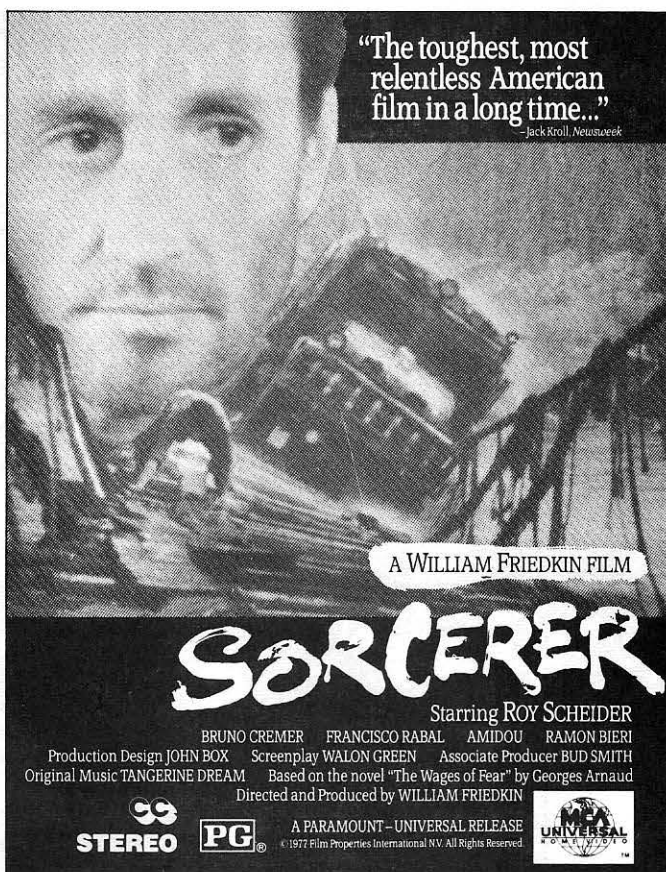
Drama: Romance, Social Commentary

1990, Color, 095 minutes [R]

Director: Jack Fisher

Cast: Adrian Pasdar, Cecilia Peck, Makram Khoury, Arnon Zadok, Margrit Polak, Michael Morim, Amos Lavi, Hanna Azulai, Barry Primus

Synopsis: An Israeli and Arab fall in love in this Romeo and Juliet tale where the parents are really entire cultures at war.



■ **Total Recall** [1.9]

Drama: Action, Fantasy/Science Fiction

1990, Color [R: language, graphic violence]

Director: Paul Verhoeven

Cast: Arnold Schwarzenegger

Synopsis: Set in the future, a man is tormented by dreams and a feeling of an unfulfilled life. He is soon the center of a manhunt that involves confused identities, ruthless agents and rebellious mutants.

□ **Where the Heart Is** [3.0]

Comedy: Social Commentary, 1990, Color, 094 minutes

Director: John Boorman

Cast: Dabney Coleman, Uma Thurman, Joanna Cassidy, Crispin Glover, Suzy Amis, Christopher Plummer, Maury Chaykin, David Hewlett

Synopsis: A developer moves his children out of the house and into an historic landmark to teach them about life. As fate would have it, the father also learns a thing or two when his firm faces near disaster.

■ **Young Guns II** [2.4]

Drama: Western, 1990, Color [PG-13: violence, language]

Director: Geoff Murphy

Cast: Emilio Estevez, Kiefer Sutherland, Lou Diamond Phillips, Christian Slater, William Petersen

Synopsis: This sequel finds the Billy the Kid-Arkansas Dave gang thinking of going straight. Unfortunately, powers in the Southwest hire the kid's friend, Pat Garrett, to hunt him down.

■ COMING SOON

In order by release date:

The Adventures of Ford Fairlane

03 JANUARY 1991

Delta Force 2

09 JANUARY 1991

Mo' Better Blues

17 JANUARY 1991

Young Guns II

17 JANUARY 1991

The Freshman

23 JANUARY 1991

The China Lake Murders

31 JANUARY 1991

Die Hard 2

31 JANUARY 1991

Navy Seals

31 JANUARY 1991

Problem Child

31 JANUARY 1991

Cinema Paradiso

06 FEBRUARY 1991

I Come in Peace

06 FEBRUARY 1991

Days of Thunder

07 FEBRUARY 1991

Flatliners

13 FEBRUARY 1991

Darkman

14 FEBRUARY 1991

Quick Change

20 FEBRUARY 1991

State of Grace

28 FEBRUARY 1991

The Two Jakes

28 FEBRUARY 1991



JANUARY ALTERNATIVES

Cross referencing themes and stars from the most current video releases:

■ ACTION

Another 48 Hrs

Non-stop sequel with Nick Nolte & Eddie Murphy

Charley Varrick

Little seen adventure with Walter Matthau

Die Hard

The original with Bruce Willis

Fire Birds

Nicholas Cage & Tommy Lee Jones star as helicopter heroes

48 Hrs

The original pairing of Nolte & Murphy

The Getaway

Steve McQueen is on the run

Lethal Weapon

Lethal Weapon 2

A double dose of Mel Gibson & Danny Glover

Marathon Man

Dustin Hoffman & Laurence Olivier star in this taut thriller

Miami Blues

A roller coaster of action starring Alec Baldwin

Midnight Run

Robert De Niro & Charles Grodin go cross country



■ DENZEL WASHINGTON

Glory

Washington won an Oscar in this Civil War drama

Heart Condition

A "spirited" comedy with Bob Hoskins

The Mighty Quinn

A murder mystery set in the Caribbean

■ BRUCE WILLIS

Blind Date

A misadventure with Kim Basinger

Die Hard

The original

In Country

Casualties on the home front from the Viet Nam war



■ CRIME/COMEDY

Dollars

Warren Beatty & Goldie Hawn: a heist, a chase, & some laughs

Happy New Year

Peter Falk & Charles Durning like jewelry

My Blue Heaven

Steve Martin & Rick Moranis as mob witness & FBI agent

■ GRITTY WESTERNS

Once Upon a Time in the West

Leone's last western epic

The Professionals

Burt Lancaster & Lee Marvin hire out

The Wild Bunch

William Holden looks for a final peace in a changing West

Young Guns

The original

■ JAZZ

Bird

Filmed biography of the jazz saxophonist

Theolonius Monk: Straight No Chaser

The career of composer & pianist is documented

Young Man With a Horn

Kirk Douglas stars, loosely based on the life of Bix Bierderbecke