

# Just Movies

Check theaters for specific times. Movies are subject to change without notice. All listings are current (effective Friday) through press time.

## MSC Grove

### Mad Max:

Tonight, Mel Gibson stars in this thriller about a battle between policemen and motorcyclists for control of the highways. Australian George Miller directed this well-made smash 'em up vision of the future. Rated R.

### Best Little Whorehouse in Texas:

Friday and Saturday. Dolly Parton and Burt Reynolds star in the tale of the infamous "Chicken Ranch." Not as good as the play, but still a fun movie. Rated R.

### Foul Play:

Sunday. Chevy Chase and Eddie Hawt star in this comedy about an airhead librarian and a San Francisco police detective who uncover midgets, symphonies and a plot to assassinate the pope. Fast-action, and for a night of humor at its best. Rated PG.

### Harold and Maude:

Monday. A wealthy teenager, out of control on suicide, falls in love with a young-at-heart octogenarian. At that point, played by Ruth Gordon, Madcap, black comedy people mixed with a warm, human touch. A minor classic among the new wave. Rated PG.

### Marathon Man:

Tuesday. A graduate student, played by Dustin Hoffman, inadvertently gets mixed up with some international spies. Lawrence Olivier plays the villain. A chilling, suspenseful story that ranks among the best of the genre. Rated PG.



Christopher Reeve takes Richard Pryor for a ride in Superman III. The movie starts here this weekend.

the best of the spy thrillers. Also stars Roy Scheider and Martha Keller. Rated PG.

### Stripes:

Wednesday. Bill Murray, at his best, stars in this comedy about a band of misfit soldiers who accidentally invade Czechoslovakia and struggle to get out. Also stars Warren Oates, P.J. Soles and John Candy of SCTV fame. Rated R.

### Plitt Cinema III

#### Superman III:

On two screens. Christopher Reeve returns as the man from Metropolis, Superman. This time, though, he is facing something of a mid-life crisis and has a new leading lady, Lana Lang (played by Annette O'Toole), the girl Superman (er, Clark Kent) left behind in his hometown, Smallville. Of course, the usual array of villains is back to pester the man of steel. Robert Vaughn plays an evil tycoon and Richard Pryor plays a computer whiz who falls in with the bad guys. With director Richard Lester still at the helm, Number Three promises to be just as campy and fun as Number Two was. Rated PG.

idea, but this movie does it as well as it can be done. Director George Miller did an excellent job of capturing the beauty and ruggedness of the Australian countryside. Kirk Douglas is at his best in dual roles as twin brothers and Tom Burlinson, the star, makes the story believable and inspiring. The story, trite as it may be, will melt even the hardest of hearts. Rated PG.

### Class 1990: The Bronx Warrior:

A new movie, so new that no one seems to know what it's about. Rated R.

### Homework:

Joan Collins stars in this story (yet another) of an older woman who falls for a school boy. Rated R.

### Manor East

#### Return of the Jedi:

Although "Jedi" is not as good as "Star Wars" because of its lack of novelty and its massive pre-release publicity, it compensates with special effects, bizarre aliens and a fast pace. Creator George Lucas and director Richard Marquand make "Jedi" two hours that seems like a four-minute roller coaster ride. All the original characters are back (and played as competently as usual) along with some new villains and a race of loveable, courageous teddy bears, the Ewoks. Rated PG.

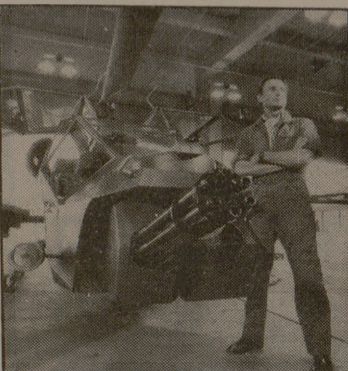
### Man From Snowy River:

See this one before it leaves. Even if you don't like Westerns or the usual "boy grows to manhood" stories, this is still an entertaining movie. You've seen the plot before: young man from the wrong side of the tracks falls in love with a rich man's daughter and must prove he is worthy of her. It may not be a new

### Post Oak

#### Blue Thunder:

Roy Scheider stars as a police helicopter pilot assigned to test an ultra-sophisticated surveillance and attack helicopter in this fast-paced adventure. The question is: will the good guys get the copter or will the bad guys get it? Also stars Candy Clark, Malcom McDowell and Warren Oates. Directed by John Badham. Rated R.



#### Flashdance:

Being hailed as the next "Saturday Night Fever," this movie has lots of flash, lots of hot music, lots of hot dancing, but not much plot. Sort of like MTV on the silver screen. Jennifer Beals stars as the welder-by-day, dancer-by-night. Rated R.

# Eddie Murphy makes 'Trading Places' work

by Gary Barker

**Battalion Staff**  
If Eddie Murphy was previously mentioned only in connection with "Saturday Night Live," "Trading Places" confirms his status as an outstanding comic movie star.

It's not that the rest of the cast, the plot or the directing in "Trading Places" is that mediocre — just that Murphy is that good.

It's easy to see from Murphy's performance in "Trading Places" why the most recent episodes of "Saturday Night Live" have been more like "The Eddie Murphy Show." His delivery, range and mastery of character types make him one of the best in the business.

So anyway, back to the movie. "Trading Places" is the latest remake of Mark Twain's "The Prince and the Pauper" tale. Murphy plays the pauper (Billy Ray Valentine), a hustler from Philadelphia's ghetto and a con man extraordinaire. He mimics a blind man with no legs to beg for a living and pretends, convincingly, to be a martial arts expert when threatened with force.

Dan Aykroyd plays the prince (Louis Winthorpe III), a prissy, Ivy League-educated stock broker who manages a prestigious stock brokerage. The trading places of the two men is handled by the Duke brothers,

owners of the stock brokerage which Winthorpe manages. The Duke brothers (well played by Ralph Bellamy and Don Ameche) have a longstanding debate about heredity versus environment and, being the calloused tycoons that they are, make a bet.

They wager on what would happen if a poor black from the ghetto is given the same chances as Winthorpe. And, they wonder, what would happen to a well-bred man like Winthorpe if he is placed in the ghetto?

formation from street hustler to stock broker is wonderful and believable.

But which one is better at managing the brokerage? The movie makes sure that their skills are equal: both Valentine and Winthorpe are crackerjack stock brokers who know enough about human nature and con games to make it.

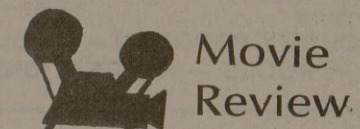
But the joy of the movie comes

not from learning that a black from the ghetto can manage a brokerage house as well as any blue blood, but in the revenge that Valentine and Winthorpe seek when they uncover the bet.

However, as sweet as the revenge is and as wonderful as Murphy is, director John Landis seems to have been having a case of indecision in this film. Sometimes he couldn't decide if he wanted the movie to be silly or if he wanted it to stay believable and satirical.

If the movie had been silly more often, it would have been less annoying; as it is, the silly moments are few and thus stand out against the other more believable moments.

Fortunately for moviegoers, Aykroyd and Murphy are both talented enough to carry the movie through silly and believable.



Aykroyd is tossed out on the street, framed for a crime and — Gasp! — deprived of his credit cards. Murphy is taken off the

streets and given Winthorpe's townhouse, his valet, his limousine and, after very little training, his position as manager of the brokerage.

While Aykroyd's portrayal of the down-and-out Winthorpe is funny and one of his better performances this year, Murphy's portrayal of Valentine's trans-

### Tron:

Walt Disney's story of a computer programmer who is transported inside the computer where he must do battle to save himself and his girl. Lots of computer-enhanced graphics, but a hokey plot: sort of like visual candy. Rated PG.

### Schulman Six

#### WarGames:

Matthew Broderick stars as a teenage computer whiz who stumbles into the Pentagon's defense computer and almost starts World War III in this clever, high-tech film. Director John Badham ("Blue Thunder") wonderfully plays on our fears of technology and nuclear war. Rated PG.

### Octopussy:

The usual James Bond stuff. Roger Moore (not the real thing) stars as 007 and Maud

Adams has the title (Can you believe it?) role. The typical Roger Moore Bond film, nothing more, nothing less. Rated PG.

### Trading Places:

Dan Aykroyd and Eddie Murphy star in this funny update of the old "Prince and the Pauper" story. Aykroyd stars

as a wealthy, preppy commodity broker and Murphy stars as a street hustler who gets to trade places with Aykroyd on a bet. See review this page. Rated R.

### Psycho II:

Anthony Perkins returns as Hitchcock's classic schizo, Norman Bates. Twenty-two years later he returns to Bates Motel. Norman is not happy when he finds that the old Bates Motel has been turned into an "adult motel." Also stars Vera Miles. Rated R.

### The Man With Two Brains:

A Steve Martin/Carl Reiner collaboration about a surgeon who falls in love with Kathleen Turner's ("Body Heat") body, but has another brain in mind, a disembodied one with whom he talks telepathically. I haven't seen it, but I've been told that it's almost as bad as the last Martin/Reiner bomb, "Dead Men Don't Wear Plaid." Rated R.

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