

At the Movies

MSC Aggie Cinema and Cepheid Variable 845-1515

Purple Rain: Prince stars in this semi-autobiographical look at "The Kid," a struggling musician. The film follows his rise through the club circuit to stardom. Actually, if you have to read something to discover what this movie is about I doubt you are seriously contemplating going. If you do go, don't sing too loud, OK? Friday & Saturday, 7:30 & 9:45 p.m. Saturday Midnight. Rudder Theatre R.

Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars: On July 3, 1973, at London's Hammersmith Odeon, David Bowie bid farewell to his most incredible persona, glitter-rock icon Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars band. This film takes a look at all the flash and dazzle that made Bowie famous — his outrageous and magical stage performance. Friday. Midnight. Rudder Theatre.PG.

Koyaanisqatsi: The title is derived from a Hopi Indian phrase which may mean either "world at balance" or "a way of life that calls for another way of living." Godfrey Reggio visualizes both meanings of the term in his striking impressionistic essay in images and sound. Sunday. 7:30 p.m.Unrated.

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest: A remarkable adaptation of Ken Kesey's classic novel of the '60s. Jack Nicholson plays the free-spirited McMurphy, who finds himself committed to a mental hospital. He attempts to wake up the other patients to the fact that the difference between sanity and insanity is just society's attempt to stifle individualism. Wednesday. 7:30 p.m. R.

Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory: Oompa. Loompa. Doompitty doo. Gene Wilder makes a bizarre, but really good, Willy Wonka who offers a lifetime of chocolate to the finders of five golden tickets. Chocolate rivers, Everlasting Gobstoppers and a nifty-neato glass-elevator make this an adventure anyone would give their eye-teeth to go on. Just beware of the "Blueberry-girl." Thursday. 7:30 & 9:45 p.m. Rudder Theatre. G.

Plitt Cinema III 846-6714

The Breakfast Club: Five kids are stuck in detention for nine hours. Nothing can be more depressing than nine hours with five of your non-closest friends. Funny thing how easy it is

to find friends where you least expect it. Every character will remind you of someone you knew in high school — perhaps even yourself. Let's see, there is a jock, a princess, a brain, a basket-case and a criminal. This is perhaps the first movie I've ever seen where kids are acting like kids. R.

A Passage to India: It was a terrible, horrible, no-good, very bad day for Dr. Aziz. From the moment he instigates a picnic at the caves, to the end of his being tried for a rape charge, he has a very difficult time. This one is about the culture clashes in pre-Gandhi India (as one rather verbose Englishwoman put it, "East is East. It's a matter of culture."). That might be so, but which culture is the one to live by. David Lean, ("Lawrence of Arabia," "Doctor Zhivago") directed. Good movie. PG-13.

Mean Season: Kurt Russell and Mariel Hemingway star in this movie about a reporter (Russell) who gets caught up too strongly in a story he is covering. A murderer starts calling Russell and telling him about his actions beforehand, but Russell can't do anything about it. R.

Post Oak 764-0616

The Killing Fields: Columnist Sydney Schanberg (Sam Waterston) went to Cambodia in 1977 as a New York Time's correspondent. His assistant, Dith Pran (Haing S. Ngor) was Cambodian born. When all Cambodians were ordered out of the country, Schanberg watches Pran enter what was to be known as the "killing fields," the interior Cambodia. This is a very emotional film that tells the story of Schanberg and Pran as much as it does the story of the war. R.

Visionquest: Loudon is a high school wrestler. His goal in life is to beat the best wrestler in the district. Unfortunately, this other wrestler has arms bigger than the telephone pole he trains with. Not a good sign. Loudon's training is cruising along great when he meets the girl of his dreams. When she moves into his house, he becomes obsessed with more than just wrestling. Actually, this movie is surprisingly alright. Matthew Modine ("Birdy" and "Mrs. Soffel") plays Loudon. PG.

Fast Forward: Body rock hits the streets! I'm not sure but something tells me this movie is a combination "Flashdance"/"Breakin'." Maybe it was the break dancing in the street or the dance audition scene that surfaced in the previews. Anyway, lots of people dance around in lots of nothing and get paid for it. (I think I'm in the wrong profession.) Here's a tidbit: Sidney Poitier directed. PG.

Protocol: Just when you thought it was safe to go to a movie and not see Goldie Hawn! She's back (low, foreboding music begins). Goldie stars as a spirited Washington D.C. cocktail waitress who accidentally saves the life of a foreign dignitary. As life usually goes in the movie world, the State Department offers her the job of entertaining visiting diplomats. Buck Henry had a hand in the screenplay. PG.

Schulman Six 775-2463

Witness: A Philadelphia cop, John Book, must protect a little Amish boy who is the only witness to a murder. The catch here is that the guy who was murdered was an undercover cop and the murderer is also a cop. Since Book knows the truth, he flees Philadelphia and moves in with the Amish. Completely out of place, he begins his attempt to blend into the background. A romance blossoms between Book and Rachel, the kid's mom. But can romance span cultures so intensely different? Harrison Ford plays Book along the lines of Hans Solo. Really a neat and different movie. R.

Beverly Hills Cop: How much money can this film make? That seems to be the only question left. Eddie Murphy stars as a Detroit cop who follows the trail of a friend's killer to Beverly Hills. This is a comedy-thriller with tons of action and Murphy is as great as always. Only Eddie could wear the same shirt throughout Beverly Hills and not look tacky. Paramount executives are already discussing a sequel. Classic Eddie Murphy. R.

Turk 182: Answering my own question from last week, Turk 182 is a code name used by Timothy Hutton as he tries to fight the system for his brother. Good(?) sources say this is a "really, really good movie," but hey, sources can be wrong. Timothy Hutton is in the movie so lots of girls will go see it. (Something about Hutton makes girls go spend lots of money to gawk. PG-

Mischief: Supposedly, this is a better-than-usual teen flick. Kinda hard for me to believe, but you never know. The kid from "On Golden Pond" is trying to make it with a certain prom queen-type who, we discover, is not as prudish as we originally think. There is also a hunk (played by some 33-year-old guy) who is trying to show the kid the way. And there's a sweet girl who is a prude, as well. R.

Starman: All life forms in the universe have been receiving an invitation to Earth since 1977 thanks to Voyager II. In this film, directed by John Carpenter ("Halloween"), something out there, played by Jeff Bridges, accepts the invitation, comes to Earth and clones himself human from a lock of hair. Karen Allen has the misfortune (or is she actually fortunate?) to be chosen to drive Bridges to the rendezvous point picked by the upper-echelon of his home planet. R.

Heaven Help Us: This week's \$64,000 question is do young boys in Catholic schools ever discover themselves? (time lapse) I think so. (buzzer noise) Bad answer, bad answer. Now for the consolation question: do they discover anything? Someone seems to think so because there's a movie about just that. Supposedly there is at least one character that everyone can relate to, but I have yet to find that one character. R.

Manor East 823-8300

Falcon and the Snowman: Two upper class California kids get themselves involved with the KGB when they begin selling CIA satellite secrets. It seems one of the kids finds out that the CIA is delving into Australian politics. His way of fighting back is to sell secrets to the Soviets. His buddy is a drug dealer on the run for possession of massive amounts of cocaine. Timothy Hutton and Sean Penn star. They are the best things going for the movie. The basic plot is boring. The KGB agents aren't believable, which is a real shame since they are on the screen a whole lot. R.

Mrs. Soffel: Mel Gibson and Diane Keaton star in a steamy love story that is based on fact. Gibson and his brother (Mathew Modine (does this guy ever rest?)) are in jail. Keaton is the warden's wife, but falls in love with Gibson and helps to break the brothers out. Keaton and Gibson give wonderful performances that make the movie worthwhile. The direction by Gillian Armstrong, ("My Brilliant Career"), however, causes the movie to drag (and would someone please tell this woman that a stationery camera is not anathema to a successful film!). R.

Martins' Day: Henry Thomas (of "E.T." fame) stars. Really, that's about all I know. It has something to do with Thomas having to spend the day with some criminal type and they both are named Martin. Maybe that's it. Maybe not. Sounds stupid to me. PG.