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reviews

"Born in East L.A."
Written and directed by Cheech Marin
Starring Cheech Marin
***

In his first major movie roll without Tommy Chong, Cheech Marin is breaking new ground for himself. Not only is this his first attempt at soloing in something major, but it also indicates a welcome change of style for Marin.

The humor of Cheech and Chong wore thin after their first two movies and it hit a low in "The Corsican Brothers," their last movie together. In "Born in East L.A." Marin drops all of the marijuana jokes and most of the bathroom humor is gone except for an occasional flatulation reference.

Marin plays the part of Rudy Roblez, an auto mechanic who lives in East Los Angeles with his mother, sister, and sister's children. When Rudy goes to pick up his cousin who just arrived in town, he gets caught in a raid by U.S. Immigration officers and is mistaken for an illegal alien. Rudy is then deported to Mexico and spends the rest of the movie trying to get back into the United States.

After he fails to convince the border officials that he is an American citizen, Rudy tries to find work in Tijuana so he can earn enough money to buy his way back the illegal way. He eventually finds the work but has trouble getting across the border.

The movie drags some in the beginning, but once Rudy finds himself in Tijuana it develops an interesting story line along with some likeable characters. The best scenes center around Rudy's attempts to outwit the border patrol.

There are a few very funny scenes, but as a comedy this is an average to below average movie. It does, however, provide a very enjoyable look at the hispanic culture of East Los Angeles as well as the lives of the people just south of the border who are trying to immigrate into the United States.

Marin was able to depict these people in a sympathetic, light-hearted way that is not always realistic but gets the point across without preaching. It is this element that makes "Born in East L.A." worth seeing. It is by no means a classic, but it is better than the average movie.

—Review by Tom Reinarts

"Misery"
Stephen King
Viking Press
$18.95

Paul Sheldon, a historical romance novelist, wakes up one winter morning to indescribable pain. He has suffered two shattered legs and a crushed knee. He finds himself in a room that closely resembles a hospital.

But abusive instruments such as blow-torches, axes and electric knives replace standard operating equipment.

Instead of a doctor, Paul is greeted by a half-crazed, overweight ex-nurse who has just saved his life and says: "I'm your number one fan."

"Misery" by Stephen King is a novel within a novel. King creates the character of Paul Sheldon who has just written a series of best sellers in which Misery Chastain is the main character. But Paul's last book in the series was different. It was "nasty" and Annie is furious.

Stephen King's creation of the psychotic nurse, Annie Wilkes, may be his most horrifying so far out of his 18 fiction novels.

Annie has a manic-depressive nature that guides her strange sense of good and bad, just and unjust. She lives in wonderland, where up is down and down is up.

It's not fair, for example, that Paul has killed Annie's favorite character in his latest best-seller recently released in paperback.

"You . . . you . . . you cockadoodie dirty bird!" Annie shouts at him while he's seething in pain. "She can't be dead! I thought you were good, but you are not good. You are just a lying old dirty birdie."

And Annie doesn't think killing someone with a lawnmower is bad — as long as that person is a dirty bird.

Since Annie wants Paul to be good, she buys him paper and a typewriter (with missing keys) and tells him to simply bring Misery back to life.

Wheelchair bound, drug-dependent and locked in a room with an audience of one, Paul is forced to create Misery while in misery himself.

Along with the novel-within-a-novel motif, "Misery" also contains a theme within a theme.

Paul has to overcome one kind of misery while bringing another back to life. And for him to keep writing "trashy romance novels" about Misery Chastain is a third misery in itself.

Unlike most of King's books, this one is not complex in plot. Instead the complexity arises in character development. King shows torment of the mind as the focus of the novel.

This psychological theme dominates the book. King gives his readers clues subtly through character dialogue, and also through Paul's realization that there is no arguing with insanity.

Like a lot of horror stories, the ending is predictable.

But predictable as it may be, it hooks you, pulls you under and won't let you go until you come up gasping for air. You must read every last terrifying, gruesome detail.

—Review by Janet Goode

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and the colors are bright and bold. The hues range from kelly green to canary yellow to chartreuse.

You can take your pick in fabrics for both coats and sweaters this year. Coats come in anything from cashmere to alpaca to dyed fur, and stretch fabrics of all colors work beautifully for sweaters.

The shape in coats is everything but stuffy. The shorter and swingier, the better.

It seems that colors are quite important this year, with the traditional fall colors ranking in their usual popularity. However, the newest fall color is red. A lipstick-red suit for the office is going to be a nice addition to the working woman's wardrobe.

Red is also a great attention-getter for evening wear. Red velvet, satin and lace are sure to turn some heads as you make a grand entrance at any party.

Also great for evening is the little black dress that's been around forever. However, this year's little black dress is anything but simple with its skin-baring stretch lace and fur trims.

Those of you who are graduating this fall and wonder what's in for the office look, what is appropriate in the office is to look at what your superiors are wearing. Whatever they can get away with, you should be able to get away with as well.

For women, the shorter skirts are usually OK at work but you should wear stockings that match the skirt and the shoes. You want to be one color from the waste down so as not to call attention to your shorter skirts and longer legs.

Jackets are very traditional in office situations, and fitted jackets are hot this year.

The fit of your jacket is important and if it doesn't fit, get it altered. The fit is worth the price of an alteration.

You should also remember that the shorter hemlines require a little reproportional thinking in reference to jackets. They should fit narrowly over the hips and nip the waistline, while not fitting tightly.

As far as men go, you already know what to wear since men have always been in the office environment. However, suits still look the most professional. Many places allow slacks and sports coats, but once again you should look to your co-workers for help.

With almost everything you wear you'll want exciting subdued to bold. You should choose the style according to what you're wearing, what you want to emphasize and how many people you'd like to notice you.

Now that we've got our bodies in synch with the new trends, we really must update our home decorations. It seems that anything inflatable is the way to go when redecorating. And when I say anything, I mean from palm trees to food.

Yes, you can pull out your inflatable rafts from summer or your beach balls and leave them all over your apartment and look very fashionable.

Word has it that you can even buy inflatable animals, ice buckets and desserts. That way you won't have to clean up messes, your ice won't melt and you won't gain any weight.

The main thing you want to remember this fall is that in today's fashion world, anything goes. No one is going to dare to tell you you're wrong because all is right. These tips above are simply the newest in the hall closet and if you don't like them or can't afford them, don't sweat it. You'll look great in whatever you feel great wearing.

actually read this far, are wondering what's in the fashion forecast for you. I'm pretty worst nightmares may soon be realized. Not only will our jeans be faded. But also the stuff in

Knock 'em dead with colored gemstones

DALLAS (AP) — Flirty, feminine skirts and dresses; sporty, above-the-knee knits; fur-trimmed jackets adorned with peplums; ever-so-daring backless evening wear — Fall '87 offers a look for every mood and a fit for every figure.

To complement these versatile fashions, the American Gem Trade Association (AGTA) says knock 'em dead with color in a bevy of brilliant gemstone jewelry designs.

"A colored gemstone jewelry creation is one of the few pieces in a fashion wardrobe that endures from season to season and year to year," notes Maurice Shire, president of AGTA, a non-profit organization representing the colored gemstone industry.

Warm spice, paprika, pumpkin, chocolate and pearlized taupe highlight fall's rich selection of warm brown tones.

To complement these brown tones for special occasion wear, AGTA recommends elegant rings, necklaces and earrings adorned by topaz, a gemstone that is found in several colors including yellow, champagne and sherry.

For warm brown tones for office and weekend wear, AGTA suggests bold jewelry creations featuring citrine, a gemstone that is more durable and less expensive than topaz. A citrine's color can range from pale yellow to intense red-gold known as "Madeira."

Found in Brazil and Madagascar, citrine ranges in size from two millimeters to as large as 1,000 carats, making it a perfect choice for chunky, sculptural jewelry designs.

Wine country colors such as mauve, pink, rose, burgundy and purple bring a Renaissance feeling to fall.

Ranging in color from royal purple to pale lilac (rose de France), amethyst is a durable gemstone that's right for these fashions.

Look for jewelry pieces with large, unusual "designer"-cut amethysts to add pizzazz to your jewelry wardrobe.

A purplish-red gemstone with pink undertones, the rhodolite garnet, the five-year anniversary stone, also is good with wine country colors. Two of the most unusual rhodolite garnets are the cabochon (non-faceted) and four-legged "star" stones.