

Jamie Lee Curtis is back in thriller with a role in 'Steel'

In one way, the career of Jamie Lee Curtis has come full circle. "Blue Steel" has her fighting to the death with a psychotic murderer, just as she did in "Halloween," her screen debut in 1978. Only this time, Curtis, not the killer, is the star.

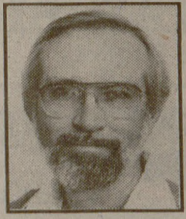
Since that time, Curtis has proven to be one of our most versatile actresses, who somehow escaped being typecast, despite being the woman in jeopardy in "Halloween II," "Prom Night," "The Fog" and "Terror Train."

Though she proves to be a convincing action hero in "Blue Steel," her forte, surprisingly, is comedy. She was very good in "Trading Places" and "A Fish Called Wanda." And she has her own highly-regarded television sitcom, "Anything But Love."

The angular lines of her face contrast with the curves of her body to give Curtis the ability to convey a tough sexuality, a characteristic of many of her roles. When given the opportunity, as in the under-rated but powerful 1983 film "Love Letters," Curtis gives a heart-rending, introspective performance of great depth. Next time you are in the video store, check it out.

In "Blue Steel," Curtis's character is humanized more than in similar films. Her upbringing in the house of a wife-beater helps the viewer understand why the character wants to be a cop: to have some power. Yet she answers that inevitable question in a sarcastic way that protects her vulnerability.

For Jamie Lee Curtis fans, "Blue Steel" is another gem.



Jim Butler
Movies

REVIEWS

penseful directing keep film engrossing. Rated R for violence, profanity, nudity and sexual content.★★★

"Black Rain," Schulman 6. Ridley Scott's stylish direction manages to make an otherwise mediocre movie moderately entertaining. Michael Douglas plays a New York cop pursuing a killer in Japan. Douglas makes the character bearable. Rated R for profanity and graphic violence.★★★½

"Blue Steel," Post Oak 3. Jamie Lee Curtis is impressive as a rookie cop who finds herself pursued by a psychopathic killer. Setup is stupid, but suspense scenes work. Rated R for graphic violence, profanity and discreet sex scene.★★★

"Born on the Fourth of July," Schulman 6. Tom Cruise gives a gut-wrenching performance in the true story of Ron Kovic, who changed from gung-ho Marine to anti-war protestor after being partially paralyzed in Vietnam. Directed by Oliver Stone. Extremely emotional experience. Rated R for profanity, violence and partial nudity.★★★★

"Driving Miss Daisy," Plaza 3. Heart-warming film about the 25-year relationship between an old Jewish woman and her black chauffeur. Jessica Tandy and Morgan Freeman are superb in the lead roles. Rated PG.★★★★

"Glory," Manor East 3. Stirring epic of the first black regiment to fight in the Civil War. Beautifully filmed, superbly acted by Matthew Broderick, Denzel Washington and Morgan Freeman. Rated R for graphic battle scenes.★★★★

"Hard to Kill," Cinema 3. Mediocre actioner starring Steven Seagal as a cop who gets revenge for the murder of his wife. Rated R for graphic violence and profanity.★

"House Party," Cinema 3. Black teens rumble, rap and romance in an innocuous comedy about nothing much. Good performances by Christopher Reid and Christopher Martin as rappers Kid'n'Play. Rated R for extensive profanity.★

"The Hunt for Red October," Plaza 3. Very good action thriller about the defecting commander of a Russian nuclear submarine. Sean Connery is impressive, along with Alec Baldwin. Complicated plot leaves little time for details. Rated PG for some scenes that may be too intense for young children.★★★½

"Joe Versus the Volcano," Post Oak 3. Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan are delightful in a bizarre comedy that has everything but an ending. Unpredictable turns and zany situations will keep you laughing. Rated PG, suitable for children.★★★½

"Lambada," Manor East 3. Film is about the importance of education, not the super-sexy dance craze of the title. Good dancing and attractive cast cover many flaws. Rated PG for sexual references and suggestive dancing.★★★

"The Last of the Finest," Cinema 3. Brian Dennehy leads a squad of ex-cops in pursuit of government-protected dope dealers and gun runners. Film uses Iran-Contra scandal, unsuccessfully, as subtext. Rated R for violence and profanity.★★

"Look Who's Talking," Schulman 6. Surprisingly funny film about an unwed mother (Kirstie Alley) searching for a husband. John Travolta is charming as a taxi driver, and Bruce Willis is a smart choice for the baby's voice. Rated PG-13 for mild profanity and sexual references.★★★

"Lord of the Flies," Post Oak 3. Director Harry Hook changes subjects of William Golding's

novel from British to American, and film comes off as a study in gang psychology rather than a comment on civilization. Rated R for profanity and violence.★★

"Revenge," Manor East 3. Erotic thriller starring Kevin Costner, Anthony Quinn and Madeleine Stowe. Longtime friendship is destroyed when Costner falls in love with Quinn's young wife. Rated R for graphic violence, profanity, brief partial nudity and implied sex.★★★½

"Steel Magnolias," Schulman 6. All-star cast and sharp writing combine for a very funny film that also has its sad moments. Cast includes Sally Field, Julia Roberts, Shirley MacLaine, Olympia Dukakis, Dolly Parton and Daryl Hannah. Rated PG for mild profanity.★★★½

"Stella," Plaza 3. Remake of a 1937 melodrama. Better Midler plays a single mother who makes numerous sacrifices for her daughter. Disjointed in first half, second half smoother. Women will enjoy the film for than men will. Rated PG-13 for mild vulgarities.★★★

"Tango & Cash," Schulman 6. An exciting jailbreak scene and other good action sequences overcome a weak script. Sylvester Stallone and Kurt Russell are appealing as rival cops who are framed by a mob boss. Rated R for extreme violence, profanity and brief nudity.★★★½

"Tremors," Schulman 6. Very funny, very scary old-fashioned, sci-fi monster movie. Kevin Bacon and Fred Ward are hapless handymen in small Nevada town threatened by giant sand worms. Good acting, clever special effects. Rated R for earthy language and mild violence.★★★

OPENING FRIDAY: "Pretty Woman," starring Julia Roberts and Richard Gere, Manor East 3; "Enemies: A Love Story," starring Ron Silver and Lena Olin, Manor East 3; "Roger & Me," Plaza 3; "The Forbidden Dance," Schulman 6; "The Fourth War," Cinema 3.

LEAVING TODAY: "Tremors," "Revenge," "Stella," "Bad Influence," "Last of the Finest," "Bad Influence," Cinema 3. Rob Lowe plays a satanic character who befriends James Spader and turns his life into a nightmare. Fine acting and sus-

Sneak peeks, laser discs at video stores

By Bo Emerson
special to Thumbs Up

ATLANTA — Attention tapeheads: Expect your local video store to feature more laser discs, quicker checkouts, interactive software that gives 30-second previews of the movies you want to rent, and maybe even a "Horror Workout" exercise tape.

That was the message at the Great Southern Video Show, which ended March 7. The nearly 3,000 video store owners and others in related industries (such as popcorn manufacturers) who attended had a chance to view the world of video in fast forward.

A few coming attractions:
■Laser discs: Experts predicted that by 1995, 35 percent of U.S. households will own laser disc players. Less than 3 percent view the higher quality discs now.

■Interactive previews: Some stores already are outfitted with monitors allowing patrons to view clips from 50 different movies. Select-A-View spokeswoman Sharon A. Johnson said. Customers see the clips for free, but the cost to store owners range from \$6,500 to \$9,500 for the hardware and four years of service. The previews (edited for a PG audience) are stored on videodiscs and changed every six weeks.

■Title swaps: Some independent store owners in non-competitive markets may share inventories, providing greater breadth of titles for their customers willing to wait a day.

Most chain video stores, such as Blockbuster Video and West Coast Video, will carry big theatrical films such as "Dick Tracy" and "The Hunt for Red October" when they arrive on tape, but where do you go for the 1937 version of "A Star Is Born," or that hard-to-find copy of "Elevator Girls in Bondage"?


Turn to the independent video store owner, said Lee Oser, CEO of Hampton International Communications, which produced the exposition.

That's where the independent shines, if he knows what he's do-

ing," Oser said. "The chains operate on tonnage, on volume, on low profit margins. They are looking for high cash turnover, which means they are mostly philosophically addicted to the new titles."

The independents, on the other hand, can make money on cheaper older titles that will continue to circulate for several years, Oser said. By offering an alternative, the independents are surviving, he said.

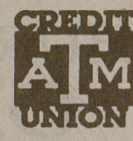
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