

# 'War of the Roses' highlights new videos with dark humor, strong performances

By TODD STONE  
Of The Battalion Staff

**War Of The Roses (Rated R)**  
Release date — today  
If you enjoyed "Romancing The Stone" or its sequel, "Jewel of the Nile," then "War Of The Roses" will entertain your socks off.

Michael Douglas, Kathleen Turner and Danny DeVito's performances elevate "Roses" to a higher level of filmmaking.

However, the mega-talented trio's third effort is opposite of the conventional action-romance found in the "Stone" films.

"War Of The Roses" is a dark comedy about the dissatisfying and detaching suburban lifestyle of a married couple, the Roses, played by Douglas and Turner.

Dissatisfaction leads to hatred and violence, as the couple fights, bickers and divorces. DeVito co-stars as Mr. Rose's attorney, and he provides the more conventional comic-relief.

DeVito also directs, and he takes the Rose's war to extremes. The film's humor is off-beat, and DeVito's incorporation of Hitchcock-style elements makes "War Of The Roses" a memorable visual effort.

Hold on to your socks because this film is a good one. Release date — today.

**Grade: A**  
**We're No Angels (Rated R)**  
Release Date — today

If you're suffering from insomnia, then rent "We're No Angels." It's the best tranquilizer in town.

"Angels" looks good as a preview, but it's just a waste of time and money.



Kathleen Turner and Michael Douglas star in 'War Of The Roses' — video release is today.

Robert De Niro and Sean Penn star as escaped convicts who pretend to be priests to avoid capture. The film is set up as a comedy farce, but it develops into a brain-dead, mundane film.

De Niro plays the street-smart guy and Penn plays the "I'm dumb as a stump, but you can find wisdom in my stupidity" character. Demi

Moore co-stars as the feisty local prostitute.

Penn and De Niro seem to be trying, but David Mamet's screenplay is boring and holds the two stars back. Director Neil Jordan's pacing is excruciatingly slow, and the comedy just isn't there.

This film is a shameful waste of acting talent as the performances of

De Niro, Penn and Moore flush down the toilet of mediocrity.

But if you have trouble sleeping...  
**Grade: D**

**Other Releases: She-Devil (Rated PG-13).** Release date — today.

Release dates are courtesy of 2 Day Video.

# Changing T.S.O.L. ventures from hard-core roots, appeals to fad heavy metal market in new release

**T.S.O.L.**  
**Strange Love**  
Enigma

By JOHN RIGHTER  
Of The Battalion Staff

If nothing else, it can't be said that T.S.O.L. is allergic to change.

Few bands, especially ones that derived their genesis from the L.A. hardcore movement, have undergone and survived so many musical and personnel changes.

The problem is that for every positive step forward, their seems to be a pair of steps back. T.S.O.L., whose more famous acronym stands for True Sounds Of Liberty (the band has completely dissolved use of the full name), no longer has an original member since dropping bassist Mike Roche before their tour in support of *Strange Love*.

Apparently, the new members didn't appreciate Roche and former guitarist Ron Emory's chronic drug problems. With two new members in the last year, lead singer Joe Wood and drummer Mitch Dean, T.S.O.L.ers since '84's groundbreaking *Change Today?*, are left to carry the torch.

Back when T.S.O.L. released their first E.P. in 1981, they were as indicative as any group of the in-

tense vitality that briefly surfaced from America's hardcore movement. From that start the band ventured into the realms of gothic rock, punk, rock and now heavy metal.

*Strange Love* might be an unfair album for me to review because I detest heavy metal. And *Strange Love* is definitely a metal album. A tour opening for Guns-N-Roses and years of playing around that metal haven in L.A. has influenced T.S.O.L. to pursue the currently fad metal market.

For objectivity's sake, if you like metal, then *Strange Love* is as good as any metal album you'll pick up. Wood, once a dead giveaway for Billy Idol, now does a very good Vince Neil (lead singer for Motley Crue) on vocals. And guitarist Marshall Rohner has perfected all the metal grooves and timely solos necessary for headbanger acceptability.

Plus, the band has the ballad-as-hit single with the catchy "In The Wind."

T.S.O.L. once meant something really special. Their initial transformations were refreshing and well calculated, but how can you respect a band void of one single founding member?

The metal deal is the last straw. Intelligence, once the T.S.O.L. trademark, just doesn't work in that genre.



# Destructive, funny gremlins return to big screen for more gross-out action, parody in 'Gremlins 2'

**Gremlins 2**  
Starring Zach Galigan and Phoebe Cates  
Directed By Joe Dante  
Rated PG-13

By DON ATKINSON JR.  
Of The Battalion Staff

After seeing "Gremlins 2," there should be no doubt in anyone's mind that gremlins make terrible pets.

They slime, ooze, giggle and cause havoc with such reckless abandon that it would be hard to imagine a sequel not being made to the original film.

Using the same director and the same basic storyline and characters, producer Steven Spielberg takes no chances with "Gremlins 2." The mischievous gremlins are back and hell-bent on destruction — this time attacking a New York corporate building instead of a small town.

The cast features veteran "Gremlins" actors Zach Galigan and Phoebe Cates reprising their original roles, as well as Christopher Lee as Dr. Catheter and Robert Prosky as a Count Dracula-style television host.

Once the main characters are established, "Gremlins 2" wastes no time getting to the action.

If you've seen the first film, you know there are three basic rules for gremlins: don't get them wet, don't let them eat after midnight and don't expose them to bright light. Getting wet or eating after midnight

causes gremlins to reproduce and bright light will kill them.

Of course, once these three rules are established, you can guess what happens next.

The cute and good-natured gremlin, Gizmo (voice by Howie Mandel), gets wet and gives birth to a bunch of not-so-cute and bad-natured gremlins who promptly cruise the local yogurt bar for a post-midnight snack.

They in turn give birth to some more parental-nightmare gremlins who proceed to trash the building for the rest of the movie.

From that point on, "Gremlins 2" becomes less a movie and more a series of parody sketches involving the creatures.

Although it is good fun to watch, the scenes seem to be strung to-

gether with little narrative continuity.

The best sketches involve Hulk Hogan, movie critic Leonard Maltin, a drunk cooking show host, a genetics laboratory and an intelligent talking gremlin (voice by Tony Randall).

Gizmo even gets involved in the parody action when he gets "pushed too far" and emulates Rambo to get revenge on his evil gremlin offspring.

If you enjoyed the original "Gremlins," you will probably enjoy this sequel. Using the same theme of innocence in the midst of evil, the same gross-out special effects and almost the same plot, "Gremlins 2" stands up as a comparable film.

Director Joe Dante ("Gremlins" and "Innerspace") makes good use of light, shadow and color to create a

unique atmosphere. His sense of humor is well executed from scene to scene, and his narrative style effectively moves the film along.

The only gripe I have with "Gremlins 2" is the way it uses its characters. The original "Gremlins" revolved more around the people involved than the gremlins themselves.

However, "Gremlins 2" reverses that emphasis and uses its characters as little more than gremlin bait.

Many good characters, especially the Ted Turner/Donald Trump-inspired corporate mogul, are simply wasted. Once established, the cast of "Gremlins 2" becomes more set decoration than anything else.

Although not quite as good as the original, "Gremlins 2" is an entertaining movie with plenty of good laughs and action to spare.

## WARD



by Scott McCullar © 1990

Call Now For an Appointment!  
**ROUTINE CLEANING, X-RAYS and EXAM \$39.00**  
(Reg. \$59 less \$20 pretreatment cash discount)

**CarePlus** Dental Centers

Bryan  
 Jim Arents, DDS  
 Karen Arents, DDS  
 1103 E. Villa Maria  
 268-1407

College Station  
 Dan Lawson, DDS  
 1712 S. W Parkway  
 696-9578

\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800
<b>ASTHMA STUDY</b>											
\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800
Individuals (12 and older) who have asthma to participate in a research study. <b>\$800 incentive</b> for those who enroll and complete study.											
\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800
<b>Insomnia</b>											
\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
Individuals (21-55 years old) who occasionally have trouble sleeping due to short term stress to participate in a 1 week insomnia research study. <b>\$100 incentive</b> for those chosen to participate.											
\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
<b>HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE STUDY</b>											
\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300
Individuals with high blood pressure, either on or off blood pressure medication daily to participate in a high blood pressure research study. <b>\$300 incentive</b> for those who enroll and complete study.											
\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300

**CALL PAULL RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL**  
**776-0400**

**Bridal Gown Sample SALE**  
 at  
**LADIES AND LORDS**  
 AT TEXAS 707

- Bridal Sample 30-70% off
- Save hundreds & hundreds of dollars
- Priced from \$89.00
- Re-order your favorite gown sale price everyday
- From famous makers such as...

- Alfred Angelo • Ilissa • Country Elegance •
- J.P. Originals • Bianchi • San Martin •
- Joelle Bridals • Bridal Fashions • Biljoy •
- Michelle Piccone Couture

**LADIES AND LORDS**  
 Where 5 or more bridesmaids receive a special discount!

**LADIES AND LORDS • 707 Texas Ave.**  
 College Station • 764-8289

Hours 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Mon.-Sat • Open Thurs. till 8 p.m.  
 Next to the pink Taco Cabana

**LSAT**  
**GMAT**  
**MCAT**  
**GRE**

**Test Your Best!**  
**Classes Forming Now.**

**STANLEY H. KAPLAN**  
 Take Kaplan Or Take Your Chances

Additional classes added to meet demand.  
 Call now for schedules and special discounts.

**696-3196**  
 707 Texas Ave. Suite #110-E