

CINEMA

Review: First Name: Carmen

Directed by Jean-Luc Godard; screenplay by Ann-Marie Mieville, adapted from the novel *Carmen* by Prosper Merimee; starring Maruschka Detmers, Jacques Bonafie, Myriem Roussel, Jean-Luc Godard.

"I'm the girl who shouldn't be called Carmen," speaks a voice over the opening credits. "I can't get involved."

Film Series: S. African Blacks, Aus. Aborigines

Three student organizations at the University of Oregon will present a series of films on the struggles of people of color in Southern Africa and Australia, Monday, Jan. 28, through Thursday, Jan. 31.

Monday's program will focus on the plight of Australia's aboriginal peoples in two films shown in Room 167 EMU at 8 pm. *Munda Nyuringu* (He's Taken the Land, He Believes It's His, He Won't Give It Back) tells the Aborigines' stories in their own words. *On Sacred Ground*, which was banned for export by the Australian government due to the racist sentiments expressed by officials in the film, documents an attempt by a U.S. minerals exploration company to drill on a site which is sacred to a group of traditionally oriented Aborigines. U of O Professor Kenneth Lieberman, who has worked extensively with Aboriginal rights groups will speak between the films.

Tuesday's film, *Last Grave at Dimbaza*, is the classic documentary which remains the best investigation of the devastating human costs of South Africa's apartheid system of institutionalized racial discrimination. Shown in 167 EMU at 8 pm, U of O Professor David Anthony, a specialist in African history, will speak following the film.

Namibia, a former German colony which is occupied and ruled by South Africa, will be the subject of Wednesday evening's films, *Free Namibia* and *Namibia: Africa's Last Colony*, shown at 8 pm in Room 213-215 EMU. These two films provide a unique black perspective on this country, so little known to most Americans, which is quickly becoming a test of America's foreign policy resolve.

Thursday's films chronicle some of the forms of resistance used against the apartheid regime in South Africa. *You Have Struck a Rock!* captures the courage and strength of Black South African women, who led the struggle against the extension of the hated pass system (requiring blacks to carry an internal "passport"), while *Allan Boesak: Choosing for Justice* tells the story of a coloured (mixed race) minister who has found the strength to fight apartheid from his position in the conservative South African Dutch Reformed Church—long a staunch supporter of apartheid.

The films are sponsored by Students for a Progressive Agenda, Catalyst Films, and the Black Student Union. All are located in the Erb Memorial Student Union (13th & University Streets), and are all free and open to the public.

So begins Jean-Luc Godard's latest film, a pulp retelling of *Carmen* that is a mix of comedy, romance, politics, crime, drama and farce. Loosely adapted from the novel by regular collaborator Ann-Marie Mieville, *First Name: Carmen* is a gorgeous, challenging, incredibly fun work that brilliantly explores new avenues of sound and images. It's an experiment that is surprisingly fresh from a director who has been experimenting for over 25 years.

Dutch actress Maruschka Detmers stars as Carmen X, a key member in a terrorist-like gang of inept criminals. In the midst of a disastrous bank heist she finds herself in a farcical gun battle with a policeman even more inept than the gang, Joseph Bonafie (Jacques Bonafie). They wind up scrambling for weapons and end writhing in each other's arms before escaping together, he planning on becoming her lover.

She decides to pull a new job—a kidnapping—under the cover of shooting a film, and she persuades her "famous film director" Uncle Jean (played by a wry Godard himself), now washed up and living in a home for the mentally unstable, to direct the phantom picture. Intercut with the preparations, the sex and seduction and the oddball ravings of Uncle Jean are beautiful shots of the sea, heavy traffic, trains passing

against a deep blue sky and sequences of a quartet rehearsing Beethoven for the upcoming shooting.

Godard plays with sound and image by using the soundtrack, which includes the Beethoven, seagulls, traffic, dialogue and a song by Tom Waits, to precede and carry over images while overlaying sources and sometimes replacing the source. Cinematographer Raoul Coutard, a longtime collaborator, provides beautiful photography and wonderful compositions, which Godard cuts together in a typically crazy, self-reflexive fashion. It's not surprising that this was a big winner at the Venice Film Festival, walking off with awards for best cinematography (Coutard), best sound (Francois Musy) and best film, awarded by a jury of filmmakers.

First Name: Carmen is the cinema of discovery and wonder. Godard treats cinema as a toy, always playing around and finding new ways to do things in a fun, exciting fashion. His results are a sheer delight, a playful, erotic, bizarre and wickedly funny film that deserves to be seen for the sheer audacity of it. This is truly cinema for cinema lovers.

The Oregon premier plays at Cinema 7 with *Entre Nous*, Jan. 25-31.

—Sean Axmaker

NOW SHOWING

Beverly Hills Cop: Eddie Murphy is a Detroit cop who comes to Beverly Hills to solve the murder of his best friend. Directed by Martin Brest (*Going in Style*). National (344-3431) and Springfield Quad (726-9073).

Buckaroo Banzai: Peter Weller (*Shoot the Moon*) is the world's leading scientist and hottest rock 'n' roller. He sets out to stop the evil aliens from destroying the earth. Directed by screenwriter W.D. Richter, the cast includes: John Lithgow (*Terms of Endearment*), Jeff Goldblum (journalist from *People Magazine* in *The Big Chill*) and Ellen Barkin (*Diner*). Shows with *City Heat*. Cinema World (342-6536).

Choose Me: Genevieve Bujold is a sexually-inhibited radio talk show shrink (Dr. Love) rooming with a lusty female tavern owner (Lesley Ann Warren). They get tangled up with the spirited and crazy Keith Carradine. Directed by Alan Rudolph, this modern love comedy is full of ridiculous twists, accented by neon, guns, libido and improvisational jazz. We are reminded that movies can be crazy fun. Also shows *Late Night*. Bijou (686-2458).

City Heat: Burt Reynolds and Clint Eastwood play private eye and cop in this 30's gangster thing. Directed by Richard Benjamin. Also stars Jane Alexander, Madeline Kahn, Rip Torn, Richard Roundtree. Shows with *Buckaroo Banzai*. Cinema World (342-6536) and Springfield Quad (726-9073).

Cotton Club: Francis Ford Coppola's lavish music, dance, gangster extravaganza. Co-written with Pulitzer-prize winning novelist Wm. Kennedy. The stories are drawn from *The Cotton Club*, a New York prohibition-era speakeasy. Stars Richard Gere, Gregory Hines, Dianne Lane, Lonette McKee. Valley River Twin (686-8633).

Dune: The story spans four planets and focuses on the water-starved world of Arrakis, also known as Dune, which is at the brink of economic and ecological ruin due to bad mining practices. The hero, Paul Atreides (newcomer Kyle MacLachlan), joins an army of sandworms to fight the forces of evil. Directed by David Lynch (*The Elephant Man*, *Eraserhead*), the film also stars Jose Ferrer as the evil Emperor and Max Von Sydow as the Fremmen planetologist, Dr. Kynes. West 11th (342-4142) and Springfield Quad (726-9073).

Entre Nous: The story of two young married women of the 50's who become inseparable friends. The film explores the power of their particular friendship and the discoveries and changes it provokes in their identities and marriages.

If you saw Fr. Director Dianne Kurys' *Peppermint Soda* (the feminine equivalent work to Fellini's *Amarcord*), you may not want to miss this film. If you didn't see it, you may want to discover this rising director with an uncanny ability for visual and story depiction of female intimacies, struggles and humor. Shows with *First Name: Carmen* at Cinema 7 (687-0733).

First Name: Carmen: Jean-Luc Godard's 1984 release which was awarded Best Film at the Venice Film Festival. *N.Y. Times* critic Vincent Canby called it: "Deadpan, cockeyed, witty. Godard's fine contemplative ever-surprising new comedy... is the freest, funniest *Carmen* in this year of unconventional *Carmens*." Shows with *Entre Nous* (Cinema 7, 687-0733).

Flamingo Kid: Light drama. A city kid takes a summer job at an upper-middle-class resort and grows up. Directed by Gary Marshall, writer-director of TV's *LaVerne* and Shirley. West 11th Tri-Cinema (342-4142).

Ghoulies: Comedy. Horror film spoof. Springfield Quad (726-9073).

Micki & Maude: Blake Edwards ("10") directs Dudley Moore as a TV journalist who wants a baby but can't get his busy lawyer wife (Ann Reinking, *All That Jazz*) to cooperate. The journalist meets a beautiful cellist (Amy Irving, *Yentl*) and winds up with two wives, both pregnant. This film is slow to pick up, but has some crack-up scenes near the end. Cinema World (342-6536).

A Passage to India: Under the influence of mysticism and racism, British Director David Lean (*Ryan's Daughter*, *Doctor Zhivago*, *Lawrence of Arabia*, *The Bridge on the River Kwai*) put his "Leanscapes" to E.M. Forster's intricately woven novel, *A Passage to India*, to create a superb cinematic entertainment that is both a love story and historical comment.

Set in a richly colored, politically fragile British Colonial India (1926), the story is an impassioned treatment of racially forbidden loves—one a deep and honorable friendship between two men, Indian Dr. Aziz and British schoolmaster Fielding (Victor Banerjee and James Fox); the other a forbidden yet uncontrollable connection between the vibrant Dr. Aziz and the beautiful Adele Quested (Judy Davis, *My Brilliant Career*). Story, acting, cinematography, sound, direction and editing are all praiseworthy. West 11th Tri Cinema (342-4142).

Protocol: Goldie Hawn seduces a Middle Eastern potentate and persuades him to permit placement of an American military base in his country. Directed by Herbert Ross (*Footloose*). Script by Buck Henry (*First Family*). Valley River Twin (686-8633).

The River: Sissy Spacek and Mel Gibson fight the gov't. bureaucrats to protect their small Tennessee family farm in the early 1900's. Directed by Mark Rydell (*On Golden Pond*). McDonald (344-4343).

Starman: Jeff Bridges (*Tron*, *The Last Picture Show*, *Against All Odds*) is the endearing alien who materializes in the form of the dead husband of Karen Allen (*Animal House*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*). Directed by John Carpenter (*Halloween*, *The Thing*). Light comedy, escapist, family fare. PG rating. Springfield Quad (726-9073).

Supergirl: Played by Helen Slater (a 20-year-old graduate of New York's High School of the Performing Arts that was featured in *Fame*), she is Superman's cousin Kara, sent off to earth just before the planet Krypton was destroyed. She pursues truth, justice and the American way in Chicago. Co-stars Fayen Dunaway, Brenda Vaccaro, Peter On'Loole. Directed by Jeannot Szwarc. Shows with *Breakin' 2* at the Fine Arts (747-2201).

CINEMA 7
Attrium Bldg
687-0733

JANUARY 25-31

Director: Diane Kurys (France 1983)
35 mm, 110 min.
Shows: Fri. & Sat. 8:00 pm
Sun.-Thurs. 7:00 pm
Sun. Matinee 2 pm

Entre Nous

Nominated for Oscar—Best Foreign Film femme director Kurys has been propelled to the top rank of commercial French directors. Isabelle Huppert and Mios-Mios in this outstanding drama about their friendship. Archetypically French, civilized yet surreal.

WITH **FIRST NAME: CARMEN**

Winner Golden Lion: Best Film Venice Film Festival. "Deadpan, cockeyed, witty. Godard's fine contemplative ever surprising new comedy. First Name: Carmen is by far the freest, funniest *Carmen* in this year of unconventional *Carmens*." Canby, N.Y. TIMES

Oregon Premiere
Director: Jean-Luc Godard (France 1984)
35 mm, 85 min.
Shows: Fri. & Sat. 10:00 pm
Sun.-Thurs. 9:00 pm
Sun. Matinee 4 pm

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The Terminator: Arnold Schwarzenegger is the perfect robot-beast from the future sent back to kill the woman (Linda Hamilton) who will bear humanity's white knight. Both dreadful and comic images of life after the nuclear holocaust. Non-stop action and scary stuff. Shows with *Runaway*. Oakway (342-5351).

That's Dancing: Film clips from famous dance movies. Special appearances by Ray Bolger,

BIJOU 492 E. 13th
686-2458

★★★★★

"Hip, outrageous, beautiful
a generous, funny romance
with music at its heart and
farce around its edges."

MUST END JAN. 31
In the middle of the night,
when there's no one else.

Choose Me
a serious comedy

Genevieve Bujold Keith Carradine Lesley Ann Warren

Thur. 7, 9:15, 11:15 pm
Fri-Sat 7:15, 9:30, 11:45 pm
Sat-Sun Bargain Mat. 4 pm

Late Show Thur-Sat reduced admn!!

Sun. 4 & 7 pm only
Mon.-Wed. 7 & 9:15 pm
Miser Monday \$2.50

Sunday evening
Special Sneak Preview
with **Choose Me!**

Mikhail Baryshnikov, Sammy Davis Jr., Gene Kelly, Liza Minnelli. Cinema World (342-6536).

2010: More in the nature of *Star Trek* than *1001*, a well-done comic book film story. While Russia and the U.S. prepare to fight a war over a crisis in Honduras, a Russian craft with a Russian-American crew sets out to explore the circles of Jupiter. Cinema World (342-6536) and Mayflower (345-1022).

—S.R.