

CINEMA

Review:

The Brother From Another Planet

John Sayles, writer, director, editor (and actor), has done it again. Supported by familiar faces and staff from past films (*Sea-Caucus Seven*, *Lianna*, *Baby It's You*)—as well as some new faces and \$200,000, Sayles has succeeded with his first sci-fi film.

Shot last year in Harlem, the film begins with central character "The Brother," careening toward earth, guiding his spaceship to a crash landing in New York Harbor. Pulling himself out of the water at Ellis Island, he stops only long enough to hold his hands to the bleeding stump below his knee and heal the wound—and then quickly into the building shadows where thousands of past aliens had first entered New York. He hears their voices, he feels their



"The Brother" (Joe Morton) with the jazz singer (Dee Dee Bridgewater) he meets in a Harlem nightclub.

vibrations—the same vibes director John Sayles felt when there about two years before shooting *Brother*.

Like friendly aliens ET and Starman, it is Brother's human qualities that involve us. Played by Joe Morton (*Hair*, *Rhinestone* and currently TV's *Another World*), Brother is being pursued by (alien) bounty hunters (Sayles is one of them). He must learn quickly how to survive in his new world—and elude capture. With humble effort and his special talent to mend electrical equipment, he soon wins ac-

ceptance and aid from the native earthlings.

Although at times slapstick, Brother's encounters and adventures in Harlem keep us identified with him. He becomes involved with the ordinary and the exotic as he seeks out love and justice, even risking his freedom.

Simple and unable to speak, Brother's caring wins our hearts. He relies on his eyes, his emotions, and his actions to speak for him. And Brother comes in loud and clear.

—Bill Snyder

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NOW SHOWING

Amadeus: Mozart's music becomes a character in this lavishly filmed (partly in the director's native Prague) adaptation of Peter Schaffer's acclaimed modern stage play. Directed by Milos Forman (*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*), the conflict is between the playfully brazen child-man Mozart (Tom Hulce) and his mediocre musical rival Antonio Salieri (F. Murray Abraham). Cinema World (342-6536).

Ballad of Narayama: Adapted from the novel by Shichiro Fukazawa. A tiny village of impoverished farmers live in the isolated mountains of No. Japan. The constant threat of starvation creates a horrible custom of leaving to die on top of the mountain—in this case the wise old matriarch—those who reach the age of 70. The story balances a powerful confrontation with death against humorous and intimate slices of everyday life. Shows with *Sugar Cane Alley*, Feb. 1-7, Cinema 7 (687-0733).

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).

The Bostonians: Film reviewer Judy Stone (*S.F. Chronicle*) says, "Vanessa Redgrave is brilliant as the wealthy, possessive Bostonian suffragette who despises men. Her infatuation with a charming coquette who is also a dazzling speaker for women's rights is challenged by a courtly Southerner (Christopher Reeve) with an old-fashioned notion of a woman's place. Their three-cornered struggle for supremacy is sustained by tension, humor and a faithful portrait of that early battle for women's rights." Based on the novel by Henry James. Oakway (342-5351).

Brother From Another Planet: Science-fiction comedy from versatile writer-director John Sayles (*The Return of the Seacaucus Seven*, *Lianna*, *Baby It's You*). An escaped Rastafarian from Outer Space crashes near Harlem and is pursued through Manhattan by extraterrestrial bounty hunters. Bijou (686-2458).

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*). Cinema World (342-6536).

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 *The River* at 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).

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

Heavenly Bodies: The next *Flashdance*. Stars Cynthia Dale. West 11th Tri. (342-4142).

The Killing Fields: This British film shows the transformation of Cambodia into a concentration camp after the American evacuation from Saigon. The true story of N.Y. *Times* correspondent Sydney Schanberg (Sam Waterston) and his Cambodian interpreter-friend Dith Pran (Haing S. Ngor). The men were separated and the journalist spent years trying to find Pran, who had been interred in the camps of the Khmer Rouge—the Killing Fields. British stage director Roland Joffe makes his film directorial debut. McDonald (344-4343).

Micki & Maude: Dudley Moore, Amy Irving and Ann Reinking in a Blake Edwards comedy about a man with two wives. Cinema World (342-6536).

A Passage to India: 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).

Purple Rain: Bijou Late Night (686-2458).

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*). Shows with *City Heat* at Springfield Quad (726-9073).

Runaway: Tom Sellick (*Magnum, P.I.*) and Cynthia Rhoades combat a future world where the machines invented to save people begin to turn on them. Shows with *The Terminator*. Fine Arts (747-2201).

A Soldier's Story: Murder mystery, historical drama, racial prejudice. A soldier from a black platoon is murdered outside a military base and a black lawyer is sent from Washington, D.C. to investigate. Directed by Norman Jewison. West 11th Tri Cinema (342-4142).

Starman: Jeff Bridges (*Tron*, *The Last Picture Show*, *Against All Odds*) is the gentle 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).

Sugar Cane Alley: The story of a young boy growing up in the sugar cane fields of Martinique circa 1931. The boy (Garry Cadenat) and his grandmother (Darling Legitim) struggle to pay for the child's schooling, his only hope of escape from a black man's destiny of life in the cane fields. Directed by Euzhan Palcy. Shows with *Ballad of Narayama*. Feb. 1-7 at Cinema 7 (686-0733).

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*. Fine Arts (747-2201).

That's Dancing: Film clips from famous dance movies. Special appearances by Ray Bolger, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Sammy Davis Jr., Gene Kelly, Liza Minelli. Mayflower (345-1022).

2010: More in the nature of *Star Trek* than 2001, 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. Springfield Quad (726-9073).

—S.R.

BIJOU 492 E. 13th
686-2458

"'BROTHER' IS JOHN SAYLES' BEST FILM YET." It's 'Mars On The Hudson', 'Cheers Goes To Harlem', and 'E.T. Rides The Underground Railroad' rolled into one.
—Carrie Rickey, Boston Herald

★★★★★
HILARIOUS...loaded with funny scenes and entertaining characters...among the year's most offbeat films. —William Wolf, Gannett News Services

THE BROTHER FROM ANOTHER PLANET
a new film by John Sayles

Fri.-Sat. 7:15 & 9:30
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BALLAD OF NARAYAMA
Director: Shohei Imamura (Japan 1983)
35 mm, 129 min.
Shows: Fri. & Sat. 7:30 pm
Sun.-Thurs. 7:00 pm
Sunday Matinee 1:30 pm

FEBRUARY 1-7
We are proud to return, as promised, the hit of last year's Eugene Film Festival and Cannes Grand Prize Winner. Dazzling, stunning, moving are just a few adjectives that describe this look at a 19th century poverty-stricken Japanese village and the matriarch that keeps her family together. A must see!

SPECIAL RETURN ENGAGEMENT
Director: Euzhan Palcy (Martinique 1983) 35 mm
Shows: Fri. & Sat. 9:30 pm
Sun.-Thurs. 9:30 pm
Sun. Matinee 3:30 pm

PLUS
Sugar Cane Alley
Person director Euzhan Palcy's acclaimed, richly detailed look at the world of Martinique blacks circa summer 1931. Joe, a plantation boy wants out of his life in the shack and is determined to do so by going to school. "One of the best movies I've seen in a long time." Roger Ebert, *AT THE MOVIES*