

CINEMA

Review:

Swann in Love

Directed by Volker Schlöndorff; scenario by Peter Brook, Jean-Claude Carrière and Marie-Hélène Estienne; adaptation by Volker Schlöndorff; based on the novel *Un Amour de Swann* by Marcel Proust; with Jeremy Irons, Ornella Muti, Alain Delon.

Swann in Love is a genuine love story, the anatomy of a serious, almost terminal love that the elegant, suave high society gentleman Charles Swann (Jeremy Irons) has for his mistress, the one-time prostitute Odette de Crecy (Ornella Muti). Swann is in a precarious position. As a wealthy, cultured man in Parisian society, he has overcome the "handicap" of his Jewish origin, but marriage to Odette could destroy his welcome. He desperately wishes he were not in love. Odette is not his type, has a number of men courting her, is an independent woman, yet he is in love, and only after the day and the long night the film chronicles will he realize how much.

Adapted from the Proust novel, Schlöndorff presents a fascinating, incisive study of a man and his infatuation-turned-love.

Irons is a perfect Swann, a man at ease in society, confident, cool and collected at all times. Yet we can tell that he is troubled, not only through his thoughts, which are opened at times to the audience, but through his barely concealed glances, his increasing boldness (he arrives unannounced to a private dinner party) and his drive to find Odette over the course of a night.

Swann's position becomes clearer when set beside his close friend Baron de Charlus (Alain Delon). They are both precariously within the upper crust of high society and they both enjoy it there. Charlus, like Swann, must watch his step because of his desires. Homosexuality is not yet an accepted way of life in the Paris of a hundred years ago. Charlus seems to be even more acutely aware of his position than Swann is of his, as demonstrated in a marvelous scene where Charlus is forced to bid a handsome young student farewell for an indiscretion. Delon plays Charlus with dignity and self-assurance, creating a fascinating character that is on screen all too brief a time.



Jeremy Irons and Ornella Muti in *Swann in Love*.

Aided by long-time Bergman cinematographer Sven Nykvist, Schlöndorff recreates the splendor of Paris, 1885, in beautiful color and amazing detail. Combined with the impeccable pacing of the film, the result is a picture with a grace and elegance not often seen.

This is a minor masterpiece of character subtlety from Schlöndorff. Unlike his rather obvious film, *The Tin Drum*, this film both challenges and engrosses with a beauty and lyricism that perfectly matches the story.

—Sean Axmaker

NOW SHOWING

Amadeus: Received the Oscar for Best Picture. F. Murray Abraham won the Academy Award for Best Actor for his portrayal of Antonio Salieri, Mozart's insanely jealous and musically inferior competitor. Based on the play by Peter Shaffer and directed by Milos Forman, the film was shot partly on location in Prague, Czechoslovakia. Regardless of its historical accuracy, the film is an entertaining honoring of artistic genius, and makes the music of Mozart accessible to the masses. Mayflower (345-1022).

Blood Simple: A Texas tavern owner hires a sweaty private detective (M. Emmet Walsh) to kill his wife and her lover. The *S.F. Chronicle* calls this a "genuine spine tingler, crisscrossed with slashes of droll, offbeat wit." Pauline Kael calls it "pulp yet art conscious" and says there are plenty of "film noir in-jokes." Directed by Joel and Ethan Coen. Valley River Twin (686-8633).

Care Bears: Animated tale about a mythical land called care-a-lot. Carol King sings the title song. Mickey Rooney plays the voice of Mr. Cherrywood. West 11th (342-4142), Springfield Quad (776-9073).

The Cat's Eye: Stephen King's new horror film. Springfield Quad (726-9073).

Comfort and Joy: Scotland's comedic director Bill Forsythe weaves an amiable tale about total war between Glasgow's ice cream trucks. A good natured film where even the vandals love their fellow man. Bijou (686-2458). Call for showtimes.

The Company of Wolves: Horror film with a dark, surreal setting. Stars Angela Lansbury. West 11th Tri Cinema (342-4142).

Desperately Seeking Susan: Romantic adventure. Madonna makes her film debut as a rock star who is desperately chased by her boyfriend (Robert Joy). Rosanna Arquette is the bored housewife who imitates the rock star to the point of believing she is the star. Directed by Susan Seidelman (*Smithereens*). Springfield Quad (726-9073) and Cinema World (342-6536).

The Falcon and the Snowman: True story of young idealist Christopher John Boyce, who, while working for TRX Corporation in 1974, decided (with friend Andrew Dalton Lee) to sell U.S. spy satellite data to the Soviets. Timothy Hutton (*Ordinary People*, *Ice Man*) plays Boyce, and Sean Penn (*Fast Times at Ridgemont High*, *Bad Boys*) plays Lee. Directed by John Schlesinger (*Yanks*). Shows with *Vision Quest* at the Fine Arts (747-2201).

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. Oakway (342-5351).

Ladyhawk: Medieval Romance. Rutger Hauer (the evil replicant in *Blade Runner*) is the dashing swordsman Navarre who suffers from the unrequited love of the fair Isabeau (Michelle Pfeiffer, *Scarface*). John Wood (*Wargames*) is her rejected jealous lover who bestows a curse which transforms Isabeau to a hawk by day and Navarre to a wolf by night. Directed by Richard Donner (*The Omen*, *Superman*). Cinema World (342-6536).

Mask: Cher is the perfect biker mama in this "Elephant Man" (true-life) story about a teenage boy with a horribly disfigured face. Newcomer Eric Stoltz (*The Wild Life*) is sensitive and poignant as the misfit whose mother's love gives him the courage to live. Cher is tough and funny and sweet. The bikers give the film its comic relief, and provides a support community of misfits in which Mom and son live, work and play. National (344-3431).

Moving Violations: From the creators of *Police Academy*, a parody of driving schools. West 11th Tri (342-4142).

Paradise Motel: Teens must be the only ones who can afford to go to the movies—here's another teen flick about a guy whose parents move to L.A., buy a motel and to gain acceptance the kid lets his friends "use" motel rooms. West 11th (342-4142).

Return of the Jedi: Luke Skywalker confronts Darth Vader in a struggle to free the galaxy. Valley River Twin (686-8633).

Stranger Than Paradise: A funny, weird tale of a young Hungarian emigrant and her two deadbeat buddies. A shaggy-dog story made in Cleveland, Florida and Manhattan. The aimless lives of this group are made funny and entertaining by the low-key humor of director Jim Jarmusch. Bijou (686-2458). Call for showtimes.

Swann in Love: From the director of such amazing films as *The Tin Drum* and *Circle of Deceit*, here is German director Volker Schlöndorff's version of Marcel Proust's *Remembrance of Things Past*. Stars Jeremy Irons (*Brides Head Revisited*, *Betrayal*, *Moonlighting*), Alain Delon, Ornella Muti. Cinema 7 (687-0733).

Vision Quest: Romantic comedy. A teenager is trying to win a wrestling scholarship to college and a girl disturbs his concentration. Shows with *Falcon & Snowman* at Fine Arts (747-2201).

Witness: An American detective-love story from the Australian master of subliminal tension, Peter Weir (*Picnic at Hanging Rock*, *The Last Wave*, *Gallipoli*, *The Year of Living Dangerously*). Cultures clash as a 20th century police department meets 17th century agrarian-religious culture. Lukas Haas (*Testament*) is a young Amish boy who witnesses a murder. Investigating detective Harrison Ford discovers that police colleagues are involved in the murder, and hides out with the boy and his mother (Kelly McGillis, *Reuben, Reuben*) in Pennsylvania Amish Country, while a plan is devised. Springfield Quad (726-9073).

—S.R.

CINEMA 7 687-0733

"ENGROSSING. SEXY AND SMART!"
—David Ansen, Newsweek

SWANN IN LOVE

Fri., Sat. and Thurs. (No Sunday evening performance this show only)
7:30 & 9:40 pm
Sunday at 2:00 pm
Mon. thru Wed. at 7:30 only

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MUST END APRIL 25th

STRANGER THAN PARADISE

★★★★★
A COMPLETELY NOVEL CINEMATIC TREAT. Jim Jarmusch is a true original, and his lovably loopy black-and-white road movie is so astonishingly different that it has to be seen to be believed.
—Kathleen Carroll, Daily News

Thurs., April 18th, 7:15 & 9:15
Thurs. Late Nite 11 pm \$2
Fri.-Sat. 9:15
Fri.-Sat. Late Nite 11:15 \$2.50
Sun.-Thurs. 9:15 only
SEPARATE ADMISSION

STARTS FRI. APRIL 19th

Comfort and Joy

From Bill Forsyth, the Director/Writer of "Local Hero" and "Gregory's Girl"

Alan Bird's a disc jockey who has somehow gotten stuck in the middle of a cold war between two feuding ice cream companies, Mr. McCool and Mr. Bunny. Now, his girlfriend is leaving him. His boss is looking for an insanity clause in his contract. Even his crazy psychiatrist thinks he's a raving lunatic. And any way you look at it he's going to get creamed.

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