

CINEMA

Jagged Edge

Richard Marquand directs Glenn Close and Jeff Bridges in this lurid murder mystery.

In the first few minutes of *Jagged Edge*, a ritual sex murder of a beautiful wealthy woman occurs, graphically and lovingly tracked by the camera. This grotesque image is indelibly imprinted, as Director Marquand and screenwriter Joe Esterhaus intend; the murder weapon is a large hunting knife with a *Jagged Edge*, get it? The typical moviegoer spends the rest of the film dreading the next heinous murder. *Time* magazine (10/7/85) calls this the picture's "scuzz quotient" and believes the film sinks under the weight of this sleaziness.

If you can skip the first few minutes of the film, the plot quickly settles into high gear for the murder trial of the dead woman's husband. Glenn Close is Teddy Barnes, a lawyer forced to take the case for the defense by her firm's very proper male law

partners who don't want to lose a rich client. Jeff Bridges (everyone's favorite *Starman*) is Jack Forrester, a powerful San Francisco newspaper publisher who inherits the entire old-money fortune of his murdered wife, and finds himself accused of murder by the District Attorney his paper has a vendetta going with. Peter Coyote (of *E.T.* fame) plays the unsympathetic DA; for added interest, there's no love lost between the DA and the sassy lady lawyer who used to

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work for him, either. Two excellent supporting roles round out the plot: a lover of the deceased woman who's into kinky sex (Marshall Colt) and the private detective buddy of lawyer Barnes (Robert Loggia).

Let's blame Joe Esterhaus (*Flashdance*) for writing a script that has this supposedly independent woman attorney falling in love and sleeping with a handsome client accused of a malevolent sexual crime. Further, let's blame

director Richard Marquand for what *People* magazine (10/14/85) describes as a "criminally misconceived" role for actress Close, who deserves something better. Ultimately, however, Close must ask herself why she has consented to riding two flawed vehicles into this Oscar season. *Maxie* and now *Jagged Edge*. Maybe she just cannot resist the thrill of wearing beautiful clothes: she looks quite wonderful in this movie's big-city career woman fashions. For that matter, the clothes make the man, too, and Jeff Bridges is comfortably gorgeous in his spendy togs. The surface is slick in *Jagged Edge*.

Having criticized the film for its violence and sexist slant, it's only fair to tell you that *Jagged Edge* is also a suspenseful thriller, a courtroom melodrama that will keep you interested in "who done it" right to the very end. Despite the serious defects which mar the film, *Jagged Edge* appeals to the sleuth in us who loves to solve a mystery, and succeeds in maintaining an atmosphere of unsettling apprehension.

—Lois Wadsworth

Now showing

Agnes of God: A court-appointed psychiatrist (Jane Fonda) investigates whether a young nun (Meg Tilly), charged with murdering her newborn baby, is capable of standing trial. Anne Bancroft plays the mother superior. McDonald (344-4343).

American Ninja: Your guess is as good as mine, I'm afraid. West 11th (342-4142).

Back to the Future: A boy trips back to the past, and meets the teenagers who'll become his parents. West 11th (342-4142) and Springfield Quad (726-9073).

Bring on the Night: Sting's first concert film, featuring jazz, rock, and reggae, with back-up from his four-piece jazz band. Cinema World (342-6536).

Commando: Arnold Schwarzenegger as Chuck Norris as Rambo. Showing with *Silver Bullet*. Mayflower (345-1022).

Death Wish III: Charles Bronson is back on the streets, doing what he does best. Cinema World (342-6536).

French Cancan: New release of master director Jean Renoir's 1954 film about life in and around the famed Moulin Rouge dance hall. Cinema 7 (687-0733).

Jagged Edge: Murder mystery. Glenn Close as a lawyer wondering whether her client deserves love or prison. Co-stars Jeff Bridges. Valley River Twin (686-8633).

The Journey of Natty Gann: A girl searches for her father during the Depression. A Disney release. Springfield Quad (726-9073) and West 11th (342-4142).

Kiss of the Spider Woman: A leftist journalist shares a Latin American cell with a gay film devotee. Beneath their personal conflicts lie analogous, impossible yearnings. Stars William Hurt, Raul Julia, Sonia Braga. Playing at the Bijou (686-2458).

Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome: This is Mel Gibson's third fling as Australia's postapocalyptic hero. Eternal rock star Tina Turner provides the challenge. Be ready for lots of violent action. Plays with *Pale Rider* at Fine Arts (747-2201) and with *Vision Quest* at Valley River Twin (686-8633).

National Lampoon's European Vacation: Chevy Chase and family rip the continent. Playing with *Summer Rental*. Oakway (342-5351).

Once Bitten: Vampire spoof. Sneak preview this Saturday at West 11th (342-4142).

Pale Rider: Clint Eastwood rides again. Shows with *Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome*. Showing at Fine Arts (747-2201).

Plenty: Meryl Streep as a woman reaching for much too much while sliding deeper and deeper. Playing at National (344-3431).

Silver Bullet: Werewolves, à la Stephen King. Horrors. Shows with *Commando*. Mayflower (345-1022).

Summer Rental: John Candy takes his family for a stressful vacation at the beach. With *National Lampoon's European Vacation*. Oakway (342-5351).

Sweet Dreams: Jessica Lange portrays country-western singer Patsy Cline. Co-stars Ed Harris. Cinema World (342-6536).

Target: A father and son search for their abducted wife and mother. Arthur Penn (*Bonnie and Clyde*) directs Gene Hackman and Matt Dillon. Springfield Quad (726-9073).

To Live and Die in L.A.: Action-drama. Secret Service agents on the trail of a murderous counterfeiter. Cinema World (342-6536) and Springfield Quad (726-9073).

Vision Quest: Romantic Comedy. A teenager is trying to win a wrestling scholarship to college and a girl disturbs his concentration. Playing with *Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome* at Valley River Twin (686-8633).

—Michael Sussman



Jujubees on Toast

Live Matinee is this town's oldest comedy company. On Friday evenings, Nov. 8 and 15, at 7:30 & 9:30, and Saturday matinees, Nov. 9 and 16, at 2 pm, come celebrate Live Matinee's 8th Birthday and 23rd production with an all new show of live comedy on stage at Cinema 7, 10th & Olive, in the Atrium Building. Entitled *Jujubees on Toast*, Live Matinee promises a wide assortment of comic bits. So give yourself a lift from these soggy days with toasty comedy from Live Matinee. Advance tickets are available at Cinema 7 during evening hours and 20 minutes prior to each show. Remember, no children under 12 admitted.

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