

now showing

NEW TO TOWN

Benji, The Hunted: Rated G, and filmed in Oregon with cougars from the Wildlife Safari, this nostalgic movie opens Friday at West 11th Movieland (342-4142) and Springfield Quad (726-9073).

Man Facing Southeast: From Argentina, this drama finds a psychiatrist puzzling over a charismatic patient, who claims extraterrestrial origins. Opens Friday at Cinema 7 (687-0733).

Roxanne: Steve Martin, with the longest nose since Pinocchio, and Daryl Hannah star in a modern-day comedy based on the story of Cyrano de Bergerac. Opens its regular run Friday at Cinema World (342-6536).

Scene of the Crime: Catherine Deneuve and Danielle Darrieux play mother and grandmother to a boy innocently involved in a crime. Mystery/thriller. Opens Friday (correction) at the Bijou (686-2458).

CONTINUING

American Ninja II: Martial arts stars Michael Dudikoff and Steve James pursue a drug pusher responsible for the deaths of four marines. West 11th Movieland (342-4142).

The Believers: A psychiatrist finds himself drawn to the occult. With Martin Sheen and Helen Shaver, it's at Cinema World (342-6536).

Beverly Hills Cop II: As off-beat cop Axel Foley, Eddie Murphy laughs again. Brigitte Nielsen plays villainess. Springfield Quad (726-9073) and West 11th Movieland (342-4142).

The Chipmunk Adventure: Alvin and friends plus the Chipettes sail around the world. Animated. Springfield Quad (726-9073).

Creepshow 2: Three more tales by Stephen King are brought to the screen: *Old Chief Wooden Head*, *The Raft* and *The Hitchhiker*. West 11th Movieland (342-4142).

Ernest Goes to Camp: Jim Varney has his hands full as counselor at a rowdy summer camp. Comedy by John Cherry. Double features with *Ishtar* at Springfield Quad (726-9073) and with *Secret of My Success* at Cinema World (342-6536).

The Gate: Demons wait behind a gate to take back what once was theirs. With gremlin-like creatures and special effects, it's rated PG-13 and is at West 11th Movieland (342-4142).

Harry and the Hendersons: Fantasy/comedy. John Lithgow and Don Ameche are in this movie about a family that falls in love with Bigfoot. McDonald (344-4343).

Hollywood Shuffle: Robert Townsend directs and stars in this exploration of racial stereotypes through a series of comic skits. Valley River Twin (686-8633).

Ishtar: Warren Beatty and Dustin Hoffman appear in their first film roles in five years. As an unsuccessful comic duo lounge act, the two are joined by Isabelle Adjani. Music by Paul Williams. At West 11th (342-4142), and double feature with *Ernest Goes to Camp* at Springfield Quad (726-9073).

Outrageous Fortune: Bette Midler is the naughty half, and Shelley Long the nice, of an odd couple running after the same man, played by Peter Coyote. Double feature with *Tin Men* at Springfield Fine Arts (747-2201).

Predator: An unknown force pursues muscle man Arnold Schwarzenegger. Cinema World (342-6536).

Reform School Girls: Features Wendy Williams and is the late-night show at the Bijou (686-2458).

River's Edge: A high school student is murdered, but the crime is hidden. Dennis Hopper and Crispin Glover are among those reacting to the events of this disturbing drama. West 11th Movieland (342-4142).

The Secret of My Success: Michael J. Fox is Brantley Foster, who uses his charm to get ahead in a large corporation, only to have it backfire on him in comic ways. Helen Slater plays a female executive. Double feature with *Ernest Goes to Camp* at Cinema World (342-6536).

Tin Men: Richard Dreyfuss and Danny DeVito battle each other in this comedy by Barry Levinson (*Diner*). Set in Baltimore in the early '60s, it also stars Barbara Hershey—and a fleet of vintage Cadillacs. Double feature with *Outrageous Fortune* at Springfield Fine Arts (747-2201).

The Untouchables: Robert De Niro, Kevin Costner and Sean Connery revisit the Al Capone era of Chicago in the 1930s. Brian De Palma directs. At Valley River Twin (686-8633) and Springfield Quad (726-9073).

Witches of Eastwick: Jack Nicholson as the devil, with Cher, Michelle Pfeiffer and Susan Sarandon, star in this adaptation of a John Updike novel. National (344-3431).

Thursday, June 18 is the last showing for: Betty Blue at Cinema 7. El Amor Brujo at the Bijou. Raising Arizona at Springfield Quad. A Million Dollar Mystery at Cinema World.

Dark themes balanced by some contagious joy

Review by Lois Wadsworth

Man Facing Southeast

Argentine director Eliseo Subiela's passion play takes place in a Buenos Aires psychiatric hospital where a selfish, bored doctor becomes fascinated by a brilliant patient who claims to be from another planet. The film stars Lorenzo Quinteros as the doctor and Hugo Soto as Rantes.

One day a nurse tells the over-worked Doctor Denis that there's an extra patient in the hospital. He doesn't have any records, and no one admitted him. Paradoxically, he's both inside and outside the system at the same time. The doctor discovers an intense fellow playing the chapel organ while the other patients calmly listen. Rantes tells the doctor that although he knows music, he's not from Earth. His people are afraid of the cruelty of people here, he says, so they've sent him ahead to study "the brain of man." Rantes says that the hospital is the only place that he can tell the truth and not be believed, safely.

Director Subiela draws the differences between Rantes and Doctor Denis very carefully. Denis goes to his apartment, plays the saxophone, watches old home movies, and weeps. He seems to be mourning for a lost life—a wife and children—but when his son calls him and when he takes the children out, he is distracted and distant. He is an alienated man. The alien man, on the other hand, is disturbingly Christ-like in his concern for the suffering of others. The patients begin following him around, reverentially. Gradually, and against his will, the psychiatrist is drawn out of his ennui by Rantes and begins to wonder if the man is what he says he is. The order underlying Rantes' apparent madness intrigues the doctor. He watches him stand for hours without moving, always facing southeast, transmitting data to his home planet.

The story takes on a new twist when Beatriz (Ines Venengo), a mysterious, sensual woman, comes to visit Rantes. Denis gropes crudely for love and feels betrayed when Beatriz tells him that she is from the same planet as Rantes. The planet of feeling, and love, we begin to think.

Man Facing Southeast is not an unqualified success as a film. I would have liked less repetition—the scene in the cafe where Rantes "sends" food to a woman and her hungry children could have been shorter or omitted altogether, and the doctor's neurotic saxophone playing was too boring to see more than once. Despite its dark themes of madness, institutional cruelty, conformity, suffering, and indifference, the film has surprising moments of contagious joy. Watching this intense, taciturn man break into a slow grin, it's impossible not to smile back. And Subiela choreographs the movement in the film; how the actors move and position themselves has something ritualistic or formal about it like dance. When you realize the scope of the themes being intelligently addressed and the fact that the film was made in a country with a recent history of extreme cruelty against nonconformists, you begin to look for a deeper political meaning for the film. In Subiela's Argentina, the alien one is the man or woman who cares for others, who can feel, who can love.

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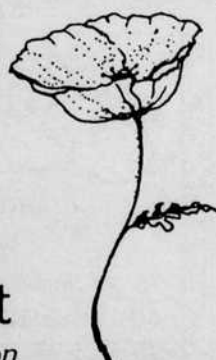
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