

E-WATCH

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An Entertainment Guide

De Vito, Cruise, Spielberg: holiday stars

Christmas vacation is always looks forward to as one of the favorite times of year. School's out; you can relax. Why not grab a friend and run to your local cineplex to see the greatest movies of the year. Tom Cruise is expected to be terrific in Oliver Stone's new Vietnam film "Born on the Fourth of July." "War of the Roses" promises to be comically entertaining and Newman is back in his new feature "Blaze." Following are a full description of these movies, plus others coming out in the next month.

The Witches: Finally another decent live-action special effects fantasy movie, in the tradition of *Legend*, *The Neverending Story*, and *Labyrinth* while always keeping its audience in mind: children. Master puppeteer wizard, Jim Henson, is credited with designing the life-like remote control animals. Starring Anjelica Huston and directed by Nicolas Roeg.

War of the Roses: This dark comedy promises to entertain from beginning to end. The veteran trio of Michael Douglas, Danny DeVito, and Kathleen Turner of *Romancing the Stone* and *Jewel of the Nile* return in an entirely unrelated storyline directed by DeVito (who also acts as their divorce lawyer.) Douglas and Turner play Mr. and Mrs. Rose, a wealthy, married yuppie couple who begin to hate each other and are very physical about their hatred in an entertaining way. Flying plates, car munching, furniture ripping, house dividing in a way one would never expect. The usual divorce events take on a much more swarthy mood and get weirder day to day. Produced by James L. Brooks (*Terms of Endearment*, *Broadcast News*, *Steel Magnolias*).

Always: Steven Spielberg. Usually one doesn't need to hear more than those two words before they zoom to the local big-screen house and toss a Lincoln at the ticket booth and grab a tub'o'popcorn to gobble. Spielberg's last screen venture was this summer's blockbuster *Indiana Jones & the Last Crusade*. He's also been busy producing and releasing other films through his Amblin company (along with producing wizards Frank Marshall and Kathleen Kennedy) such as *Dad*, the animated *All Dogs Go to Heaven* with Don Bluth and the *Back to the Future II* with Bob Zemeckis. *Always*, oddly enough, is first a romance film, then an action-adventure film about air fire-fighters who work for a national park until one dies in a plane crash but continues to communicate with his mortal friends. The story is actually based on the classic movie *A Guy Named*

Joe, although Spielberg's version has been re-written almost a dozen times by several reputable people. Starring Richard Dreyfuss, Holly Hunter, John Goodman, and newcomer Brad Johnson. The ever-classy Audrey Hepburn also cameos in a special role.

Born on the Fourth of July: This is the second Vietnam movie in the planned thematic trilogy by director Oliver

Stone; the first being 1986's *Platoon* which started the horde of Vietnam War-based movies such as *Hamburger Hill* and *Platoon Leader*. *Born on the Fourth* is based on the true story of Vietnam vet Ron Kovic who, after being paralyzed in action, turned around and started protesting the war. Kovic kept an eye on the story by co-writing the screenplay himself with Stone. This is an intense 2-1/2 hour film that spans a quarter of a century and pays close attention to even the most minor detail. Even the trailer (preview) currently running in the theaters is more than moving. Tom Cruise, *Platoon* veteran Willem Defoe, and Kyra Sedgwick star. There are many hints by critics and

filmmakers alike that are hinting at an Oscar for Cruise saying that this film is a cornerstone of great change for his career. Although the official release date is Dec. 22 (just in time for Oscar consideration,) this is only in selected theaters; if Portland is not included, do expect it by Jan. 5.

We're No Angels: A comical buddy movie starring Robert De Niro and Sean Penn playing escaped convicts on the



"We're No Angels" casts Robert De Niro (left) and Sean Penn as a pair of fugitives who take cover in a small town disguised as priests. Photo courtesy Paramount.

run while trying to straighten out a case of mistaken identity take refuge in a small town and take on the ironic identity of two priests. A remake of the 1955 flick of the same title, which originally had a trio of escapees. Either way, Paramount is hoping for the best. Written by David Mamet (*The Untouchables*, *About Last Night*), co-starring Demi Moore.

Blaze: The movie-going public is once again graced by Paul Newman on the big screen after just seeing him in the box-office bomb *Fat Man and Little Boy*. is once again based on a true story which took place over 20 years ago, but

E-Watch entertainment insert was compiled and written by Roseann Wentworth except as noted. All letters and calendar information should be sent to Journalism Trailer B.

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