

Stars shine in 'St. Elmo's' but script extinguishes 'Fire'

By Lise Olsen
Senior Reporter

"St. Elmo's Fire" is another film in the tradition of "Diner," "The Big Chill" and "Breakfast Club." Unfortunately, the "talk show movie" formula, so effective in the previous films never seems to light "St. Elmo's Fire."

REVIEW MOVIE

The film is about seven friends who've just graduated from Georgetown University. All seven are basically out to get rich, get successful, and get laid quick — without becoming to "yuppy-ish" in the process. And of course, the seven congregate at St. Elmo's Bar, though much less often than the viewer might expect. More typically, the setting switches to one of the seven's "house and garden show-place" apartments.

A lot of other expectations produced by the amount of advance publicity are unfulfilled in the final product.

None of the main characters have any real depth, nor do they provide any real insightful or powerful messages, all of which were so prevalent in the film's ancestry. Instead "St. Elmo's Fire" replaces these with slapstick and sex scenes, (probably inserted to please the "teenage sex-flick summer crowd.")

The appeal of the movie floats uncertainly between adult and adolescent target audiences, leaving the movie audience both amused and confused.

With seven main characters, the viewer has to spend the first half-hour or so sorting out names and putting them with faces, and histories. In the process, the story line gets lost.

The plot, although generally simple, is construed and cut up into many subplots that it comes incoherent. The ending might have resurrected the movie if it had been powerful enough. However, the simplistic finale lacked emotional or even comical impact.

The sole strength of the movie is the cast. Billed as the new actors and

actresses of the '80's, the young cast is impressive while their roles are not.

Emilio Estevez, a talented, brash actor whose credits include "Repo Man" and "Breakfast Club" is wasted in the shallow, yet most amusing role of an obsessed lover.

Rob Lowe gives a "teen idol" appearance in St. Elmo's Fire. Lowe plays "Billy" a Rick Springfield look-a-like, whose troubled life loosely ties the film together. Unfortunately, the potential impact of Billy's character flaws is spoiled by too-easy solutions to his complex problems.

Judd Nelson, Ally Sheedy, Demi Moore, Mare Winningham and Andrew McCarthy round out the talent.

In spite of the quality of the cast, and a few laughs, St. Elmo's Fire is disappointing. The film-makers made a lot of promises that they haven't produced. There's a lot of smoke, but not much fire. St. Elmo's Fire is currently playing at the Cinema Twin, 13th and P Streets.

WEEKEND

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Drumstick, 547 N. 48th St. — Friday and Saturday, The Nelsons. Cover charge is \$3.

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Pla-Mor Ballroom, 6600 W. O St. — Saturday, 8:30-12:30, Orville Von Seggren. Cover charge is \$3.25, Sunday, 6-10, Ernie Kucera, cover charge is \$2.25.

Rivera's, 1920 W. O St. — Friday and Saturday, Roy Williams. No cover charge.

Royal Grove is closed this weekend. **Speakeasy**, 3233 1/2 S. 13th St. — Friday and Saturday, Brandy. No cover charge.

Sweep Left, 815 O St. — Friday and Saturday, Bad Reputation. Cover charge is \$1.

Tucker Inn, 3235 S. 13th St. — Friday and Saturday, Free Ride. Cover charge is \$2.

The Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St. — Friday and Saturday, James Harman. Cover charge is \$4.

MOVIES

Cinema 1 & 2, The Emerald Forest, 12:30, 2:45, 5, 7:15 and 9:30; St. Elmo's Fire, 1, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45 and 10.

Cooper Theatre — Pale Rider, 12, 2:30, 5, 7:30 and 10.

Douglas 3 — Fletch, 1:35, 3:35, 5:35, 7:35 and 9:35; Rambo, 1:25, 3:25, 5:25, 7:25 and 9:25; Prizzi's Honor, 2, 5, 7:30 and 9:50.

East Park 3 — Cocoon, 1, 3:05, 5:30, 7:20 and 9:30; The Goonies, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:30 and 9:35; Rambo, 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40 and 9:40.

Plaza 4 — Red Sonia, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7 and 9:15; The Goonies, 12:30, 2:45, 5, 7:30 and 10; Cocoon, 1, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45 and 10; The Return to Oz, 12:15, 2:30, 5, 7:15 and 9:30.

Starview Outdoor Theatre — Red Sonia and Cat's Eye; Show begins at dusk.

State Theatre — A View to a Kill, 12, 2:30, 5, 7:30 and 10.

Stuart Theatre — Back to the Future, 1, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30 and 9:40.

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| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 73 TV's Nicholas Nickleby | 18 Christian et al. | 43 Girl with a pupil? |
| 1 Undergrad pad | | 19 Famed rabbi-journalist: 1804-78 | 49 Winged: Comb. form |
| 5 Composer Joe Green | DOWN | 23 Miss's equivalent | 52 Happen again |
| 10 Samoan city | 1 Doomed Russian council | 24 Jimmy Valentine, e.g. | 53 Originate |
| 14 Eye part | 2 Diamond category | 26 Lock | 55 "Falstaff" composer: 1913 |
| 15 Hera's admirer | 3 Pianist's pause | 27 Conrad tale | 56 Normandy town |
| 16 Illiterate signing | 4 Pia follower | 28 Peep show | 57 Jezebel's spouse |
| 17 Degree for a would-be Einstein | 5 Mate for mulier | 30 Philosopher's family | 58 Norse god |
| 20 Change | 6 Outside: Prefix | 32 Hari | 59 Waste allowance |
| 21 "Rivers to the Sea" poet | 7 Fissure | 33 Marry in haste | 60 Food fish |
| 22 An incarnation of Vishnu | 8 Doctor, at times | 34 Chapeau for Corot | 62 — noire |
| 25 Basic biol. chain | 9 Quechua | 35 Primeval chaos | 63 Wreath atop Bors |
| 26 Son of Odin | 10 Canned | 37 Remnant of "Ten Little Indians" | 64 Letters for sages? |
| 29 Eri's creation | 11 Pedro's anana | 12 Extensive: Abbr. | 66 — Paulo |
| 31 Microscopic animal | 13 Noted writer: 1909-55 | 39 Nosy beast | 67 In last mo. |
| 36 Colorful horse | | 42 Antonio's barrister | |
| 38 Fibber | | | |
| 40 Mr. Garth in "Middle-march" | | | |
| 41 S. B. Clough's forte | | | |
| 44 Pool occupant | | | |
| 45 Calaboose | | | |
| 46 Lawick-Goodall's friends | | | |
| 47 Pure | | | |
| 48 Insignificant one | | | |
| 50 French connections | | | |
| 51 La leader | | | |
| 54 Innkeeper, in Italy | | | |
| 56 Heraldic crosses | | | |
| 61 Kind of grease | | | |
| 65 De Bakey's forte | | | |
| 68 Doctorow's "Loon —" | | | |
| 69 Common | | | |
| 70 An evergreen | | | |
| 71 News note | | | |
| 72 Transfer a plant | | | |

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