# 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."



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 showplace," apartments.

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

any real depth, nor do they provide any impressive while their roles are not. 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

None of the main characters have actresses of the '80's, the young cast is

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 charge is \$1. much fire. St. Elmo's Fire is currently playing at the Cinema Twin, 13th and P Friday and Saturday, Free Ride. Cover

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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, Saturday, 8:30-12:30, Orville Von 5:25, 7:25 and 9:25; Prizzi's Honor, 2, 5,

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,

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

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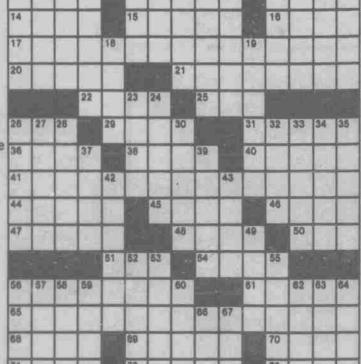
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