



"Of Mice and Men" Gary Sinise stars and directs this latest adaptation of John Steinbeck's classic. Sinise is George to John Malkovich's simple Lennie — two friends, unemployed in California during the depression. When they do find work, they must bend to the will of Curly, the boss' son. Curly is an insensitive lout whose treatment of George and Lennie is only surpassed by his treatment of his wife. Tragedy strikes when Lennie helps Curly's wife.

"Singles" Love stories set in the

heart of the Seattle grunge scene are the center of writer/director Cameron Crowe's hip flick.

Bridget Fonda, Matt Dillon, Campbell Scott and Kyra Sedgwick star as singles searching for old-fashioned love in contemporary society.

Fonda is a waitress at a coffee house pining away for Dillon, the lead singer of an "alternative band." He's not interested in commitment and has little time for her insecurities. Their relationship is funny and familiar for anyone who has ever been involved in a similar situation.

Scott and Sedgwick are young, upwardly mobile, politically correct professionals who also are afraid of commitment. They have the typical communication problem young lovers face.

Crowe hits the mark every time with this picture — the character's interaction and dialogue have a tremendous sense of realism. Not to mention its terrific soundtrack. "Singles" is a must see.

"Whispers in the Dark" Annabella Scierra ("The Hand That Rocks the Cradle") stars in this would-be "Fatal Attraction" thriller.

Scierra is Dr. Ann Hecker, a psychiatrist in Manhattan who's caught up in intrigue and deceit after one of her patients is murdered. She hooks up with an investigator (Anthony LaPaglia, "29th Street") only to find that her lover is the prime suspect. Alan Alda and Jill Clayburgh co-star.

All titles available Wednesday.

— Anne Steyer

Sequel is top-notch horror

"Army of Darkness"



Straight out-and-out horror? No, not at all.

Tongue-in-cheek horror of high quality? Definitely.

Sam Raimi successfully brings the same comic-book atmosphere from his mega-hit "Darkman" to "Army of Darkness" (ends Thursday at The Lincoln, 1145 P St., starts Friday at Plaza 4, 201 N. 12th St.).

Although it's not credited as such, "Army of Darkness" is the third installment in the "Evil Dead" movie series.

The hero of the series is back, played by "Evil Dead" and "Maniac Cop" veteran Bruce Campbell, who also co-produced "Army of Darkness."

He and his junker car have been sucked through a time portal (from the end of "Evil Dead 2"), and he is now being held prisoner in the era of King Arthur.

Our hero with jaw of stone, and brain to match, is eventually called the "Chosen One" who will go fetch one standard All-Powerful magic book from the bad guys.

Campbell beautifully plays his character, with a chain-saw prosthesis on his right hand from "Evil Dead 2." The movie is campy from beginning to end, and Campbell plays the womanizing, wisecracking hero to the hilt.

It's no secret how the movie will end, but the path getting there is the hilarious part. Along the way, Raimi throws in elements from cinematic classics like "Jason and the Argonauts," "The Day the Earth Stood Still" and the Three Stooges' films.

The special effects are fairly standard, but some of the makeup effects (like when our hero gets sucked, face first, into a cursed book) are fairly impressive.

Check it out. It's definitely worth it.

— Gerry Beltz



Courtesy of October Films

Martin Marais (Guillaume Depardieu) and Madeleine (Anne Brochet) in "Tous les matins du monde."

French masterpieces, emotions flow through passionate story

"Tous les matins du monde (All the Mornings of the World)" is an exquisite and melancholy interpretation of the lives of 17th century French cellists Monsieur de Sainte Colombe and Marin Marais.

Sainte Colombe (Jean-Pierre Marielle) fulfills the request of playing his cello for an ill friend whose wish is that his death be accompanied by wine and music.

When Colombe returns home, he finds that his wife has died as well. He then falls into despair, building a shack on his estate wherein he finds solitude to play and write music to mourn his wife.

Colombe lives undisturbed until young Marais (played by Gerard Depardieu's son Guillaume) appears and requests an education. Colombe, who feels life severely and has poured his sensibility of it into his music,

eventually rejects Marais and his mis-directed sensuality.

Not until Marais becomes an adult (played by Gerard Depardieu) does he come to understand the passion of master Colombe and the sadness he has caused and experienced.

"Tous les matins du monde" absorbs the senses to the point that subtitles evaporate. What remains is a beautiful visual and musical lesson in how art equals truth.

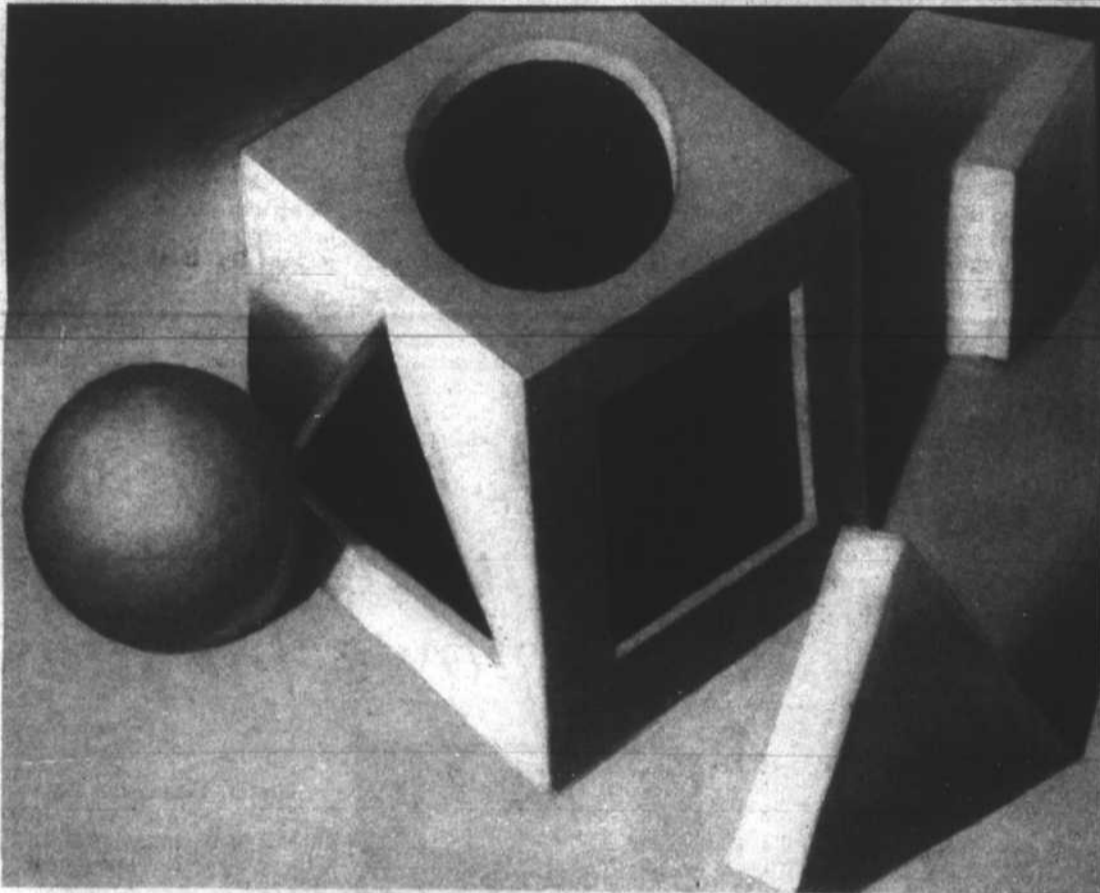
"Tous les matins du monde" will play at the Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater Thursday, March 4 through Sunday, March 7, and Tuesday, March 9 through Saturday, March 13. Showtimes are 7 and 9:15 p.m. daily with matinees Saturday at 12:45 and 3 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 and 4:45 p.m.

— Calvin Clinchard



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