

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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Page 9



Justin Firestone

## Monty Hall great guru to student

Television, the great social equalizer. Monty Hall, TV's big dealer. "Let's Make a Deal," the consummate game show.

These three things were instrumental to my childhood.

After school when I was little (and now that I'm somewhat bigger) I went home and filled my brain with game shows.

There is no denying that the best game show of all time is "The Price is Right," but since it's on at 10 a.m., I was either at school or sleeping when it was on, and watching it on tape is never as good as watching it live.

The show I remember best of all is "Let's Make a Deal," because it's still being re-run when I get home from school. What shocks even me is that I still remember every one of the episodes of "Let's Make a Deal."

Remember the zonks, the prizes, and even the contestants. When watching an episode I don't remember that well, I still know where the prizes are because of the patterns that Monty uses when he hides them.

I've always been the first to admit that I watched a lot of television when I was younger, but to be able to remember which door to choose to find the Big Deal takes some pretty intense viewing.

At least with "The Brady Bunch," you got a plot to remember, and not too many episodes. A game show has no perceivable plot, and has many more times the number of episodes that a sitcom does.

The passive reader will say that watching that much television is bad for you. On the contrary, watching "Let's Make a Deal" provides many life lessons.

Because of Monty Hall, I now know that if I choose the box, and there's a chicken in it, and then Monty asks me if I want to keep the chicken, or trade it away for a curtain, I should keep the chicken because there's probably a \$1,000 bill hidden somewhere on its person.

Also, if I have the choice of keeping the wallet full of 20 unnamed bills, or going for the Big Deal, I should probably go for the Big Deal because it's worth about \$10,000, and the wallet probably has only 50s or 100s in it, meaning I'd have a maximum of \$2,000 if I kept the wallet.

Then, if I go for the Big Deal, and there's carpet behind Door No. 2, I should take Door No. 2 because the Big Deal is behind carpet about 80 percent of the time.

Contrasting this is if Monty's Cookie Jar is revealed behind Door No. 3, I should avoid it like Cheez-Wiz because Monty hardly ever keeps more than \$800 in his Cookie Jar.

As you can see, there's more than just "game" in a game show.



Ruben Martinez (Andy Garcia) battles his twin brother Robby (also played by Garcia) in court over ownership of his adoptive mother's ranch in "Steal Big, Steal Little."

Courtesy of Savoy Pictures

## Garcia plays double role in tale of twins

By Brian Priesman  
Film Critic

Once upon a time, in the rolling hills of Santa Barbara, lived twin brothers.

One brother was kind to all and loved everything with an open heart, especially the land they called home.

The other brother, whose heart had grown cold, could not see past his own greed.

And so begins the story of "Steal Big, Steal Little," Andrew Davis' newest film, the story of twins Ruben Martinez and Robby Martin.

Andy Garcia ("The Godfather, Part III," "The Untouchables," "Hero") does double duty in "Steal Big, Steal Little," as the two brothers, Ruben and Robby. The brothers were adopted at an early age by one of Santa Barbara's wealthiest women, Mona Rowland-Downey, played to perfection by Holland Taylor ("Fame," "Romancing the Stone," "She's Having a Baby").

As the boys grow older, they begin to grow apart, Ruben following Mona and her caring nature and Robby following Mona's greedy husband.

Out of this philosophical difference comes a

lifelong rivalry between the two identical twins.

The complex plot is set in motion when Mona goes on an extended trip to Italy. Robby, who had assumed that he would gain control of the ranch when Mona died, has been working with a group of wealthy landowners to develop plans to turn the ranch into a lavish development.

When Mona discovers this, she fires Robby and hires Ruben to run the ranch, only if Ruben realizes his dream and travels to Chicago to win back his wife and reunite his family. She also changes her will, leaving Ruben everything — including the \$250,000 dollars of unreported cash she hid in her mattress.

Ruben and his family return from Chicago only to discover that Mona has passed on. Robby, who has just discovered the change in the will, turns down Ruben's offer of half of everything and schemes to dispossess his brother and the ranch families who live on the estate.

Into this familial battleground walks Lou Perilli, played by Alan Arkin ("The Heart is a Lonely Hunter," "Wait Until Dark," "Edward Scissorhands"). Lou, who befriended Ruben's wife in Chicago, experiences his own financial crisis, with the local loan shark. His only course of action is to travel to Santa Barbara and gain some money from Ruben.

Upon Lou's arrival, he immediately sees the problems Ruben is having with his brother. Using his street-smart abilities, Lou is able to put the

### The Facts

**Film:** Steal Big, Steal Little

**Stars:** Andy Garcia, Andy Garcia

**Director:** Andrew Davis

**Rating:** PG-13

**Grade:** B+

**Five Words:** Epic fable about family, dreams

### Movie Review



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## Outback dishes up down-under delights

By Albert Schmid  
Restaurant Critic

If you're looking for a great steak and an unusual atmosphere, try Lincoln's newest steakhouse, the Outback.

I started off my meal with the Gold Coast Coconut Shrimp (\$6.45) while my dining companions split the Bloomin' Onion (\$4.95), which we could all have split because it was so large. The shrimp were served with a

great sweet-and-sour orange marmalade sauce that went well with the shrimp. The onion came with a

strong, but good, horseradish sauce.

The "Aussie-Tizer" menu was small but very well-rounded, featuring grilled shrimp, the Outback's version of buffalo wings, cheese fries, and "Walkabout Soup." Prices range from \$2.25 for a cup of soup to \$6.45 for the grilled shrimp.

For dinner, I tried the 12 ounce sirloin steak dinner (\$11.95). It was juicy and well-seasoned and was served with a choice of a house or Caesar salad, bushman bread, and a choice of a "jacket potato" (baked potato), "Aussie chips" (french fries) or steamed vegetables.

The only problem I had with the steak was that it was cut at a diagonal, making it a little tougher than it might otherwise have been.

My dinner included so much food, it was almost hard to finish. The

steak reminded me of a Cajun blackened steak, although not as hot.

One of my companions had the Alice Springs Chicken (\$10.45), a grilled chicken breast with bacon, Monterey Jack and Cheddar cheeses, mushrooms and a honey mustard sauce, while my other companion had the Veggie Pasta Pemberton (\$8.95), charred vegetables with Portobello mushrooms and sundried tomatoes in a semolina sauce with garlic and herbs.

Both enjoyed their dinners and said they would order them again.

Other entrees available include steaks for all appetites, including the 9 ounce tenderloin (\$14.95) and the 20 ounce porterhouse (\$17.95). Other entrees include chicken, fish, baby back ribs, shrimp, and pork chops with prices from \$8.95 to \$17.95.

I finished my meal with the Cinnamon Oblivion (\$4.45), which was truly incredible. The dessert featured vanilla ice cream covered with cinnamon apples and pecans and topped with the Outback's own caramel sauce.

The dessert menu itself, however, was not very well-rounded. Three of the four items I had to choose from were vanilla ice cream dishes and the other was cheesecake. Prices ranged from \$2.95 to \$4.45.

The atmosphere at the Outback was great. We sat at a large wooden booth and table with boomerangs and maps hanging on the wall.

The Outback, 633 N. 48th St., between O and Vine streets, is open Monday through Friday 4 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., Saturday 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. and Sunday 12 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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