

Some interesting films on US television, November 14-20

Marty Jonas (MJ), David Walsh (DW)
14 November 1998

Asterisk indicates a film of exceptional interest. All times are EDT.

Saturday, November 14

5:00 p.m. (TCM)-- *The Clock* (1945)--A charming wartime story set in New York City. Robert Walker, a soldier on two-day leave, meets and falls for Judy Garland. They spend the day and night (innocently) together. Vincente Minnelli directed with extraordinary style. (DW)

8:00 p.m. (TCM)-- *Witness For The Prosecution* (1957)--Marlene Dietrich, Tyrone Power and Charles Laughton in Billy Wilder's filming of an Agatha Christie courtroom potboiler. Power's last film. (DW)

10:00 a.m. (AMC)-- *Reap the Wild Wind* (1942)--Cecil B. DeMille directed this intriguing film about nineteenth century salvagers off the coast of Georgia. Ray Milland and John Wayne fight over Paulette Goddard, as a spirited Southern belle. (DW)

10:20 a.m. (Encore)-- *Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery* (1997)--Mike Myers plays a double role in this consistently amusing send-up of James Bond movies and the manners and styles of the 1970s. (MJ)

*12:15 p.m. (AMC)-- *Stagecoach* (1939)--Famed western, directed by John Ford, about a group of disparate passengers thrown together on the same eventful journey. Starring John Wayne, Claire Trevor, Thomas Mitchell, John Carradine. Dudley Nichols wrote the script. (DW)

2:00 p.m. (Comedy)-- *Something Wild* (1986)--Melanie Griffith, in one her rare performances of substance, turns out to be trouble for Jeff Daniels, an uptight businessman. Ray Liotta is her psychotic boyfriend. Not a great film, but it has its moments. Directed by Jonathan Demme. (DW)

*3:00 (HBO Plus)-- *The Year of Living Dangerously* (1983)--Love story set against the background of the military bloodbath against the Communist Party in Indonesia in 1966. The political scenes are very powerful. Linda Hunt is marvelous as the diminutive photographer Billy Kwan, for which she deservedly won an Academy Award. Starring Mel Gibson and Sigourney Weaver. Directed by Peter Weir. (MJ)

6:25 p.m. (Encore)-- *Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery* (1997)--See 10:20 a.m.

7:00 p.m. (HBO Plus)-- *Frantic* (1988)--Roman Polanski's failed attempt to make a Hitchcock-type suspense film. With Harrison Ford. (MJ)

8:00 p.m. (HBO)-- *John Grisham's the Rainmaker* (1997)--Francis Coppola took a John Grisham potboiler and made it into an engrossing but pedestrian film. Nonetheless, it is rich in characters, with particularly good work by Danny DeVito and Mickey Rourke (in a surprising standout performance as an ultra-sleazy lawyer) Also starring Matt Damon, John Voight, and Claire Danes. (MJ)

*10:15 p.m. (TCM)-- *Ride the High Country* (1962)--Sam Peckinpah directed this anti-Western, with Randolph Scott and Joel McCrea, as two aging gunfighters guarding a gold shipment shipped from a remote mining town. (DW)

*12:00 a.m. (USA)-- *Dead Ringers* (1988)--David Cronenberg's

remarkable film about twin gynecologists, played by Jeremy Irons, and their descent into madness. With Genevieve Bujold as an actress who comes between them. (DW)

12:00 a.m. (Comedy)-- *Something Wild* (1986)--See 2:00 p.m.

*12:00 a.m. (TCM)-- *The Shootist* (1976)--John Wayne plays a gunfighter dying of cancer who returns to his hometown for a last bit of peace. James Stewart is the doctor. This excellent, moving film was Wayne's last. Directed by Don Siegel. (MJ)

2:00 a.m. (TCM)-- *Mister Roberts* (1955)--Henry Fonda is an officer aboard a World War II cargo ship, contending with an eccentric captain (James Cagney). Remarkable cast includes William Powell, Jack Lemmon, Ward Bond and Nick Adams. John Ford began as director, but was replaced by Mervyn LeRoy. (DW)

2:10 a.m. (HBO Signature)-- *Serpico* (1973)--Al Pacino plays a loner cop taking on corruption in the New York Police Department. As always, director Sidney Lumet captures the texture of New York City. (MJ)

4:00 a.m. (A&E)-- *Algiers* (1938)--John Cromwell directed this remake of the French *Pepe Le Moko*, about an elusive criminal living and loving in the Casbah in Algiers. Police official uses Hedy Lamarr to lure Pepe (Charles Boyer) out of the quarter. (DW)

4:25 a.m. (HBO)-- *John Grisham's the Rainmaker* (1997)--See 8:00 p.m.

4:45 a.m. (Encore)-- *Ishtar* (1987)--One of the most famous failures in recent Hollywood history, Elaine May directed this \$40 million picture, which stars Warren Beatty and Dustin Hoffman. Interesting as a historical curiosity. (DW)

Sunday, November 15

10:30 a.m. (AMC)-- *Springfield Rifle* (1952)--Andre de Toth's film about a Union officer (Gary Cooper) who goes undercover to expose a Confederate horse stealing ring. Dark and spare, with an exemplary performance by Paul Kelly as the chief villain. (DW)

*12:05 p.m. (AMC)-- *The Grapes of Wrath* (1940)--John Ford's version of the John Steinbeck classic novel, about the Joad family, driven from their home in the 1930s 'Dust Bowl.' Henry Fonda plays Tom Joad. With Jane Darwell, John Carradine. (DW)

*2:00 p.m. (HBO Signature)-- *The Year of Living Dangerously* (1983)--See Saturday, at 3:00 p.m.

*2:00 p.m. (Sundance)-- *Lone Star* (1996)--John Sayles wrote and directed this well-done, politically astute film about the ethnic divisions in Texas. Unfortunately, it suffers from a contrived, hard-to-believe ending. With Chris Cooper and Elizabeth Pena. (MJ)

*2:15 p.m. (AMC)-- *Written on the Wind* (1956)--One of Douglas Sirk's extraordinary films about 1950s America and its discontents. Robert Stack is a drunken heir to an oil fortune, Dorothy Malone his restless sister. They destroy themselves and others without ever understanding why. Not to be missed. (DW)

2:50 p.m. (Encore)-- *Ishtar* (1987)--See Saturday, at 4:45 a.m.

3:00 p.m. (A&E)-- *In Cold Blood* (1967)--Good adaptation by Richard

Brooks of Truman Capote's 'nonfiction novel' about two men (Robert Blake and Scott Wilson) who murder an entire family in the course of a burglary. Filmed in stark black-and-white documentary style on location in Kansas. (MJ)

8:00 p.m. (TCM)-- *Sweet Smell of Success* (1957)--A remarkably frank look at the public relations and gossip column rackets, with Tony Curtis as a press agent who makes a deal with an egomaniacal columnist (Burt Lancaster) to break up the romance of the latter's sister. Directed by the talented Alexander Mackendrick. (DW)

*9:00 p.m. (Sundance)-- *Lone Star* (1996)--See 2:00 p.m.

10:00 p.m. (AMC)-- *Hombre* (1967)--Martin Ritt directed, from an Elmore Leonard story, this film about Indian-raised Paul Newman trying to survive in Arizona in the 1880s. With Diane Cilento, Fredric March, Richard Boone. (DW)

11:45 p.m. (Cinemax)-- *Night Falls on Manhattan* (1997)--Another of Sidney Lumet's tales of police corruption. They are usually incisive, with a good feel for urban realities, but this one, with Andy Garcia as a cop turned crusading DA, is a bit paint-by-numbers. (MJ)

12:35 a.m. (Showtime)-- *Things to Do in Denver When You're Dead* (1995)--Bizarre crime thriller about horrific revenge exacted by mob boss (played with extreme creepiness by Christopher Walken in a motorized wheelchair) upon local hoods. With Andy Garcia and Steve Buscemi. Directed by Gary Fleder. (MJ)

4:00 a.m. (AMC)-- *Hombre* (1967)--See 10:00 p.m.

Monday, November 16

6:00 a.m. (TCM)-- *Little Women* (1949)--Mervyn LeRoy directed this, the second version of Louisa May Alcott's novel about a quarter of sisters growing up in New England during the Civil War. This version is inferior to George Cukor's 1933 film. June Allyson, Margaret O'Brien, Elizabeth Taylor and Janet Leigh costar. (DW)

*6:00 a.m. (Sundance)-- *Last Year at Marienbad* (1961)--Alain Resnais's enigmatic film is one of the classics of French cinema. It asks questions (never answered) about the nature of time and memory. A marvelous film to watch, with its energetically mobile camera and lengthy tracking shots down ornate corridors. (MJ)

*9:00 a.m. (Cinemax)-- *William Shakespeare's 'Romeo + Juliet'* (1996)--Inventive and exciting modern-dress version of the play. Starring Claire Danes and Leonardo DiCaprio. (MJ)

11:30 a.m. (TCM)-- *Father of the Bride* (1950)--Spencer Tracy is the father and Elizabeth Taylor the bride in Vincente Minnelli's look at the American marriage ritual. Amusing, and sometimes pointed. With Joan Bennett. (DW)

11:45 a.m. (HBO Signature)-- *Carousel* (1956)--Hollywood turned a great dark Broadway musical into a perky feel-good film. Most of the Rodgers and Hammerstein songs are intact, however. Starring Gordon MacRae and Shirley Jones. Directed by Henry King. (MJ)

*12:30 p.m. (Sundance)-- *Last Year at Marienbad* (1961)--See 6:00 a.m.

1:15 p.m. (TCM)-- *Father's Little Dividend* (1951)--Amusing follow-up to *Father of the Bride*, with Spencer Tracy as the father and Elizabeth Taylor as the bride. Vincente Minnelli directed. (DW)

1:30 p.m. (HBO Family)-- *The Court Jester* (1956)--Classic Danny Kaye farce of confused identities in the Middle Ages. Lots of witty verbal humor. Directed by Melvin Frank and Norman Panama. (MJ)

2:00 p.m. (USA)-- *Heaven Can Wait* (1978)--Warren Beatty stars as a football player who dies before his time and returns to earth in another body, that of a millionaire businessman. Julie Christie is a social activist who awakens his conscience. With Jack Warden. Directed by Beatty and Buck Henry. Good-natured, but not extraordinarily insightful. (DW)

4:00 p.m. (TCM)-- *The Last Time I Saw Paris* (1954)--Director Richard Brooks's strained effort to capture F. Scott Fitzgerald's story, now set in post-World War II Europe. A tale of disillusionment and loss. With Elizabeth Taylor and Van Johnson. (DW)

Last Year at Marienbad (1961)--See 6:00 a.m.

*9:00 p.m. (Bravo)-- *Ju Dou* (1990)--Young peasant woman (Gong Li) is forced to marry an elderly factory owner and commences an affair with his nephew, in this story about China in the 1920s. Directed by Zhang Yimou, the film was banned in China. (DW)

*9:00 p.m. (TMC)-- *Chinatown* (1974)--The best example of modern film noir. A convoluted tale of incest, corruption, and the fight over access to southern California water. Jack Nicholson plays the private detective. With Faye Dunaway, John Huston. Directed by Roman Polanski. (MJ)

*10:30 p.m. (TBS)-- *The Searchers* (1956)--John Ford classic. John Wayne and Jeffrey Hunter search for Wayne's niece, taken by Indians. Natalie Wood plays the girl. An essential American film. (DW)

*1:00 a.m. (Bravo)-- *Ju Dou* (1990)--See 9:00 p.m.

1:00 a.m. (Disney)-- *Treasure Island* (1950)--Robert Newton's enjoyably overdone portrayal of Long John Silver ('Har, har, Jim Horkens!') is the highlight of this Disney version of the Robert Louis Stevenson classic. With Bobby Driscoll as Jim Hawkins. (MJ)

Tuesday, November 17

*6:00 a.m. (TCM)-- *Madame Bovary* (1949)--Vincente Minnelli's film version of the Gustave Flaubert novel about a bored provincial wife who thinks she has found true love. Jennifer Jones is Emma Bovary, with Van Heflin, James Mason. (DW)

*7:00 a.m. (AMC)-- *Limelight* (1952)--Chaplin is a washed-up music hall comic who saves Claire Bloom from suicide in this exquisitely painful look at the art of performance. Chaplin and Buster Keaton, two immortals, team up in one memorable scene. (DW)

*7:10 a.m. (TMC)-- *Chinatown* (1974)--See Monday, at 9:00 p.m.

8:00 a.m. (TCM)-- *Julius Caesar* (1953)--Joseph L. Mankiewicz's intelligently filmed version of Shakespeare's tragedy. James Mason as Brutus, John Gielgud as Cassius, Louis Calhern as Caesar and Marlon Brando as Antony. (DW)

*10:45 a.m. (AMC)-- *Sullivan's Travels* (1941)--A classic Preston Sturges satire. A Hollywood director (Joel McCrea) suddenly discovers a social conscience and sets out to make a 'serious' film, much to the consternation of the film studio. Veronica Lake is the working-class girl he meets on his travels. (DW)

12:00 p.m. (FXM)-- *Five Fingers* (1952)--James Mason stars as a gentlemanly spy in World War II. Directed by Joseph L. Mankiewicz. (MJ)

12:00 p.m. (TCM)-- *Cry Terror!* (1958)--Andrew L. Stone and his helpful wife-editor made this little suspense drama about psychopath Rod Steiger who kidnaps and bombs to blackmail an airline. With James Mason, Inger Stevens, Angie Dickinson and Neville Brand. (DW)

12:30 p.m. (AMC)-- *Magnificent Obsession* (1954)--The first, and perhaps least ironic, of Douglas Sirk's extraordinary 1950s melodramas, starring Jane Wyman and Rock Hudson. (DW)

*12:30 p.m. (Bravo)-- *Ju Dou* (1990)--See Monday, at 9:00 p.m.

*2:30 p.m. (AMC)-- *All That Heaven Allows* (1955)--Extraordinarily perceptive view of postwar America. Jane Wyman plays a rich woman in love with a gardener. Her children and friends do everything to disrupt the relationship. The scene in which her children give her a television as a present is a classic. Directed by Douglas Sirk, the basis for R.W. Fassbinder's *Ali: Fear Eats the Soul*. (DW)

4:00 p.m. (Cinemax)-- *The Fifth Element* (1997)--Vacuous, silly science fiction film in which the future of the universe hinges on a Brooklyn cabdriver (played in proletarian style by Bruce Willis) finding something called 'the fifth element.' Worth seeing only for its imaginative settings and special effects. Typical scenery-chewing villainy by Gary Oldman. Directed by Luc Besson. (MJ)

*6:00 p.m. (TCM)-- *Singin' in the Rain* (1952)--Is there anyone who hasn't seen this film by now? Anyway, it's a remarkable musical, with Gene Kelly, Debbie Reynolds, Donald O'Connor, about the days of silent

film. Stanley Donen and Kelly directed. (DW)

6:15 p.m. (HBO Signature)-- *The Godfather, Part III* (1990)--Not the best of the *Godfather* trilogy, but a cut above most current films. This time the Corleone family, led by Michael (Al Pacino), gets involved with the sinister machinations of the Vatican and international finance. With Andy Garcia, Diane Keaton, and Sophia Coppola. Directed by Francis Coppola. (MJ)

*8:00 p.m. (AMC)-- *Point Blank* (1967)--A brilliant crime thriller, directed by John Boorman. Robber (Lee Marvin) seeks revenge on those who left him for dead. A challenging film, often nonlinear in form. With Angie Dickinson, Carroll O'Connor, and John Vernon. (MJ)

8:00 p.m. (HBO)-- *John Grisham's the Rainmaker* (1997)--See Saturday, at 8:00 p.m.

*8:00 p.m. (TCM)--*2001: A Space Odyssey* (1968)--Stanley Kubrick's science fiction epic. A space vehicle heads for Jupiter in search of aliens. One critic, somewhat unfairly, called it a project 'so devoid of life and feeling as to render a computer called Hal the most sympathetic character in a jumbled scenario.' Despite silly ending, the film is worth seeing. (DW)

10:00 p.m. (HBO Signature)-- *Frantic* (1988)--See Saturday, at 7:00 p.m.

12:05 a.m. (HBO Family)-- *Tucker: The Man and His Dream* (1988)--The pioneer automaker (played by Jeff Bridges) and his company are destroyed by the giants of the auto industry. Director Francis Coppola obviously meant this as a parable about the independent artist versus the film industry, with Tucker standing in for Coppola. The whole thing seems oversimplified. Good performance by Martin Landau. (MJ)

12:30 a.m. (AMC)-- *Pete Kelly's Blues* (1955)--Underrated film about a jazz band in the 1920s and its fight against being taken over by the mob, as told by the trumpet player (Jack Webb, who also directed). Excellent jazz score. Director Webb made good use of the wide screen, so the film is best seen in letterbox format. With Peggy Lee (who won an Academy Award). (MJ)

2:00 a.m. (FXM)-- *Five Fingers* (1952)--See 12:00 p.m.

2:30 a.m. (Showtime)-- *Kansas City* (1996)--Uneven period piece by Robert Altman. Worth seeing for the fine jazz music playing throughout, and for the excellent performances by Miranda Richardson and Harry Belafonte (as a mellow but bitter black mobster who utters trenchant comments about racism in America). But the plot is ridiculous, and Jennifer Jason Leigh provides the annoying grimaces and mannerisms we have come to expect from her. (MJ)

4:00 a.m. (TCM)--*2010* (1984)--A nuts-and-bolts sequel that tries (and fails) to answer the riddles of Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey*. Though it holds one's interest and is well made, it lacks the vision, magic and mystery of the first film. With Keir Dullea, Roy Scheider and John Lithgow. Directed by Peter Hyams. (MJ)

Wednesday, November 18

*6:00 a.m. (TCM)-- *The Maltese Falcon* (1941)--John Huston classic, based on the Dashiell Hammett novel, with Humphrey Bogart as private detective Sam Spade. Sidney Greenstreet, Mary Astor and Peter Lorre brilliantly costar. (DW)

8:00 a.m. (TCM)-- *Virginia City* (1940)--Intriguing Michael Curtiz Civil War drama, the follow-up to *Dodge City*, with Miriam Hopkins as a Confederate spy posing as a dancehall girl, Errol Flynn, Randolph Scott. (DW)

8:15 a.m. (HBO Plus)-- *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* (1977)--Steven Spielberg's special-effects-filled take on UFO sighting as a religious experience. Starring Richard Dreyfuss. (MJ)

10:00 a.m. (TCM)-- *Dark Victory* (1939)--Bette Davis is a socialite who learns she has a terminal illness. George Brent is her brain surgeon husband. Directed by Edmund Goulding. (DW)

*12:00 p.m. (FXM)-- *Man Hunt* (1941)--Suspenseful film directed by

Fritz Lang about a hunter who gets Hitler in his sights but doesn't pull the trigger; from that point on, he is hunted by the Nazis. With Walter Pidgeon, Joan Bennett and George Sanders. (MJ)

12:00 p.m. (TCM)-- *Kid Galahad* (1937)--Classic hard-boiled, nonsense Warner Bros. film of the 1930s. Edward G. Robinson is the boxing promoter, Wayne Morris is the fighter on the rise, Bette Davis is the girl who comes between them. Michael Curtiz directed with his customary efficiency and flair. (DW)

12:15 p.m. (AMC)-- *Ride the Pink Horse* (1947)--Robert Montgomery directed himself as a man coming to a New Mexico town to blackmail a gangster (Fred Clark) during a fiesta. Interesting *film noir* type, with Wanda Hendrix and Thomas Gomez. (DW)

3:30 p.m. (AMC)-- *The Big Sky* (1952)--One of Howard Hawks's most unsettling Westerns. For the first hour and a half the film seems simply to be a picturesque adventure story, then Hawks makes something different out of it. With Kirk Douglas, Dewey Martin, Arthur Hunnicutt and Elizabeth Threalt. (DW)

*4:00 p.m. (TCM)-- *To Have and Have Not* (1944)--Howard Hawks classic, based (very loosely) on a short story by Ernest Hemingway, with Bogart as an apolitical fishing boat captain who gets dragged into French Resistance efforts. Lauren Bacall is outstanding in her debut. Dialogue by William Faulkner and Jules Furthman. (DW)

5:00 p.m. (HBO Signature)-- *Carousel* (1956)--See Monday, at 11:45 a.m.

8:00 p.m. (TCM)-- *Smash Up, The Story of a Woman* (1947)--Susan Hayward, in her film breakthrough, does a remarkable turn as a nightclub singer who sinks into alcoholism. Stuart Heisler directed and John Howard Lawson wrote the script, based on a story by Dorothy Parker and Frank Cavett. (DW)

8:05 p.m. (AMC)-- *Call Northside 777* (1948)--A solid, matter-of-fact drama about a reporter (James Stewart) righting a wrong: proving that a convicted killer is innocent. With Richard Conte and Lee J. Cobb. (DW)

*10:00 p.m. (TCM)-- *The Awful Truth* (1937)--Classic screwball comedy. Cary Grant and Irene Dunne divorce, and plan to re-wed. Each does his or her best to interfere in the other's life. Ralph Bellamy is memorable as Dunne's would-be Oklahoman of a husband. Perhaps Leo McCarey's best film. (DW)

11:50 p.m. (Encore)-- *Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery* (1997)--See Saturday, at 10:20 a.m.

Thursday, November 19

*6:00 a.m. (TCM)-- *The Red Badge of Courage* (1951)--John Huston's intelligent adaptation of Stephen Crane's Civil War novel, about a young soldier in the Union army who runs from his first encounter with the enemy, but comes to terms with his fear. (DW)

6:00 a.m. (AMC)-- *Ladies of Leisure* (1930)--Remarkably frank film, early Frank Capra, about the relationship between the poor and somewhat loose Barbara Stanwyck, who gives a luminous performance, and Ralph Graves, an artist and a playboy. (DW)

7:45 a.m. (AMC)-- *Unfinished Business* (1941)--A remarkable film in many ways, despite its conventional story. Irene Dunne is an aspiring singer from a small town who goes to the big city. Rejected by one brother (Preston Foster), she marries the other (Robert Montgomery) on the rebound. Early scene on the train between Dunne and Foster is remarkable for its sexual frankness. Gregory La Cava directed. (DW)

10:00 a.m. (TCM)-- *Gunga Din* (1939)--If one sets aside the history and politics of this film, about the heroic British army fighting off thuggee cult in nineteenth century India, 'the most entertaining of the juvenile Kipling movies.' (DW)

*12:00 p.m. (FX)-- *The Stepfather* (1987)--Gruesome slasher film that is actually a clever attack on the values of the Reagan era. A psychotic killer goes from city to city, marrying widows with children. When they fail to meet his high standards of a perfect family, he slays them all and moves

on. A sleeper that shouldn't be missed. Starring Terry O'Quinn as the stepfather. Directed by Joseph Ruben. (MJ)

12:00 p.m. (TCM)-- *David Copperfield* (1935)--W.C. Fields as Mr. Micawber and Basil Rathbone as Murdstone are highlights of this lavish film version of the Dickens novel. Freddie Bartholemew is the young David Copperfield. Directed by George Cukor. (DW)

*1:20 p.m. (TMC)-- *Hamlet* (1996)--Kenneth Branagh starred in and directed this long, unabridged film of Shakespeare's play. It is exciting and lucid, and it dispenses with the oedipal nonsense of other recent versions. Branagh is strong in the part, and Derek Jacobi is the definitive Claudius. Also starring Julie Christie and Kate Winslet. (MJ)

*2:15 p.m. (TCM)-- *A Night at the Opera* (1935)--Along with Duck Soup, one of the Marx Brothers' best efforts. Unfortunately, a silly, uninteresting love story occasionally gets in the way. Directed by Sam Wood; with the inimitable Margaret Dumont, also Kitty Carlisle and Alan Jones. (DW)

4:55 p.m. (Encore)-- *Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery* (1997)--See Saturday, at 10:20 a.m.

6:00 p.m. (AMC)-- *Kiss of Death* (1947)--Perhaps best known for Richard Widmark's turn as a giggling, psychopathic killer. Victor Mature is a criminal who goes to work for the authorities. Directed by Henry Hathaway. (DW)

7:00 p.m. (HBO Signature)-- *Frantic* (1988)--See Saturday, at 7:00 p.m.

10:00 p.m. (HBO Signature)-- *Young Frankenstein* (1974)--One of Mel Brooks's funnier and more successful parodies, this time of the classic horror film by James Whale. Particularly effective because it uses many of the original sets. With Peter Boyle (as the monster) and Gene Wilder (as Dr. Frankenstein). (MJ)

*10:35 p.m. (TNT)-- *Escape from Alcatraz* (1979)--Clint Eastwood plays a convict determined to break out of Alcatraz, the supposedly inescapable prison. Based on a true story, the film methodically follows Eastwood's efforts. Directed by Don Siegel. (DW)

11:45 p.m. (AMC)-- *Kiss of Death* (1947)--See 6:00 p.m.

Friday, November 20

7:00 a.m. (Encore)-- *Ishtar* (1987)--See Saturday, at 4:45 a.m.

8:50 a.m. (Encore)-- *The Best Years of Our Lives* (1946)--William Wyler's occasionally affecting drama about ex-servicemen in postwar America. With Fredric March, Dana Andrews, Myrna Loy, Virginia Mayo and Teresa Wright. (DW)

10:00 a.m. (Cinemax)-- *The Abominable Dr. Phibes* (1971)--Vincent Price stars in this very strange, baroque horror film about a man who devises imaginative forms of revenge. Price's character has been injured in an accident, so he speaks but never moves his lips--an eerie touch. Directed by Robert Fuest. (MJ)

3:00 p.m. (HBO Signature)-- *Carousel* (1956)--See Monday, at 11:45 a.m.

4:00 p.m. (Bravo)-- *Charlie Bubbles* (1968)--British actor Albert Finney's directing debut, about a married and unhappy writer who begins an affair with Liza Minnelli, as his secretary. It has moving moments. (DW)

6:10 p.m. (Encore)-- *Ishtar* (1987)--See Saturday, at 4:45 a.m.

*7:00 p.m. (HBO Signature)-- *The Year of Living Dangerously* (1983)--See Saturday, at 3:00 p.m.

8:00 p.m. (AMC)-- *A New Leaf* (1971)--Elaine May's first directing effort in which she also costarred as a clumsy, introverted heiress wooed by Walter Matthau, a playboy who has run through his fortune. The final cut was taken out of May's hands and she disclaimed it. (DW)

*8:00 p.m. (TCM)-- *The Seven Samurai* (1954)--Classic Kurosawa film about a village in medieval Japan that hires samurai warriors to defend them against bandits. (DW)

9:00 p.m. (Bravo)-- *Barton Fink* (1991)--One of the Coen Brothers' weakest and most inadvertently revealing efforts, a cynical look at a

socially conscious playwright working in Hollywood in the 1930s, and the 'American reality' he uncovers. With John Turturro, John Goodman. (DW)

9:55 p.m. (Encore)-- *Dog Day Afternoon* (1975)--Based on a true story about a man who held up a Brooklyn bank to raise the money for his lover's sex-change operation. With Al Pacino, John Cazale, Charles Durning. Directed by Sidney Lumet. (DW)

*12:35 a.m. (TMC)-- *The Warriors* (1979)--Walter Hill's bizarre and exciting retelling of Xenophon's ancient Greek classic *The March Up-Country*. Set in nighttime New York City, the film shows members of a juvenile gang fighting their way back to the Bronx. (MJ)

1:00 a.m. (Bravo)-- *Barton Fink* (1991)--See 9:00 p.m.

2:00 a.m. (AMC)-- *A New Leaf* (1971)--See 8:00 p.m.

*2:00 a.m. (TCM)-- *Rashomon* (1950)--Well-known work by Japanese master Akira Kurosawa. In medieval Japan, four people give differing accounts of violent attack by a bandit on a nobleman. With Toshiro Mifune. (DW)

2:35 a.m. (HBO Family)-- *Tucker: The Man and His Dream* (1988)--See Tuesday, at 12:05 a.m.

4:00 a.m. (Bravo)-- *Charlie Bubbles* (1968)--See 4:00 p.m.

*4:00 a.m. (A&E)-- *The King of Marvin Gardens* (1972)--Overlooked film by Bob Rafelson about the American dream and those who foolishly pursue it. Jack Nicholson atypically plays an introvert. With Bruce Dern, Ellen Burstyn and Scatman Crothers. (MJ)



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