

# Some interesting films on US television, May 29-June 4

Marty Jonas (MJ), David Walsh (DW)  
29 May 1999

## Video pick of the week--find it in your video store

*Excalibur* (1981)—John Boorman directed this lush adaptation of the King Arthur legend at fever pitch. As with all of Boorman's work, it is carefully made and embodies his unique, fantastic vision. Starring Helen Mirren, Nigel Terry and Nicol Williamson (outstanding as a sardonic, antic Merlin). (MJ)

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

A&E=Arts & Entertainment, AMC=American Movie Classics, FXM=Fox Movie Channel, HBOF=HBO Family, HBOP=HBO Plus, HBOS=HBO Signature, IFC=Independent Film Channel, TCM=Turner Classic Movies, TMC=The Movie Channel, TNT=Turner Network Television

## Saturday, May 29

\*5:00 a.m. (AMC)—*The Lady Eve* (1941)—Barbara Stanwyck, as a con man's daughter, and Henry Fonda, as a rich young man who happens to love snakes, slug it out in this battle of the sexes directed by Preston Sturges. "Snakes are my life," says Fonda. "What a life!," replies Stanwyck. (DW)

6:00 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)

7:10 a.m. (Encore)—*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)

7:45 a.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)

8:00 a.m. (IFC)—*The Adventures of Baron Munchausen* (1989)—The tall tales of the German baron are retold by Terry Gilliam in his typical brilliant but sprawling style. With John Neville and too much Robin Williams. (MJ)

\*8:00 a.m. (TCM)—*Louise Brooks: Looking for Lulu* (1998)—A profile of the silent screen actress Louise Brooks, one of the most extraordinary figures of the 1920s, the devastating star of *Pandora's Box* (1928). (DW)

\*9:00 a.m. (TCM)—*Pandora's Box* (1928)—The film, directed by G.W. Pabst, is based on two plays by German playwright Franz Wedekind. It is the story of Lulu, also the subject of Alban Berg's opera, who unwittingly brings about the destruction of several men. The film is unforgettable because of the performance, the presence of Louise Brooks, one of the most extraordinary film actresses of the 1920s. (DW)

\*10:00 a.m. (Showtime)—*Reds* (1981)—Warren Beatty's account of the life and times of John Reed, American socialist and author of *Ten Days that Shook the World*, the authoritative chronicle of the October

Revolution of 1917. With Diane Keaton and others. (DW)

12:00 p.m. (AMC)—*Finian's Rainbow* (1968)—Petula Clark sings beautifully, Fred Astaire is miscast as her dreamy dad, and Tommy Steele quickly wears out his welcome as the broad-smiling, hyperactive leprechaun in Francis Copplola's flat version of the hit populist Broadway musical. In the course of this unrelentingly upbeat film, a tobacco-growing commune struggles for survival and a bigoted Southern senator is turned into an African-American. However, the songs by E.Y. Harburg retain their charm. (MJ)

\*12:30 p.m. (TCM)—*A Midsummer Night's Dream* (1935)—Famed German theater director Max Reinhardt oversaw this oddity, with James Cagney as Bottom and Mickey Rooney as Puck in Shakespeare's magical play. (DW)

\*12:50 p.m. (Starz)—*Last Action Hero* (1993)—Arnold Schwarzenegger vehicle that proves to be a delight. A boy goes to a movie theater and meets his idol—an action hero—who steps out of the screen and takes him back in. A good action film that spoofs the genre and plays with the tension between movies and reality. It also includes hilarious send-ups of Olivier's *Hamlet* and Bergman's *The Seventh Seal*. Directed by John McTiernan. (MJ)

1:30 p.m. (Bravo)—*The Big Picture* (1988)—A recently graduated film student tries to succeed in Hollywood. Many hilarious moments. Starring Kevin Bacon, Martin Short and J.T. Walsh. Directed by Christopher Guest. (MJ)

\*3:00 p.m. (TNT)—*The Dirty Dozen* (1967)—Twelve convicts, serving life sentences, are recruited for a suicidal commando raid in Robert Aldrich's film. (DW)

3:15 p.m. (IFC)—*The Adventures of Baron Munchausen* (1989)—See 8:00 a.m.

4:30 p.m. (TCM)—*The Barefoot Contessa* (1954)—A trashy effort by Joseph L. Mankiewicz that pretends to tell some hard truths about Hollywood. Great fun, though, and some memorable lines. With Ava Gardner, Humphrey Bogart and Edmond O'Brien. (MJ)

\*4:55 p.m. (TMC)—*Last Action Hero* (1993)—See 12:50 p.m.

\*8:00 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)

8:00 p.m. (TCM)—*From Here to Eternity* (1953)—Fred Zinnemann directed this generally overrated work, based on the James Jones novel, about life on an army post in Hawaii on the eve of Pearl Harbor. With Burt Lancaster, Montgomery Clift, Deborah Kerr, Donna Reed, Frank Sinatra. (DW)

8:00 p.m. (Encore)—*Frantic* (1988)—Roman Polanski's failed attempt to make a Hitchcock-type suspense film. With Harrison Ford. (MJ)

9:00 p.m. (TMC)—*Twilight* (1998)—Crisp dialogue and good plotting carry this film about an elderly detective (Paul Newman) solving murders in Hollywood. Excellent cast also includes Gene Hackman, Susan

Sarandon and James Garner. Many smart observations about growing old. Directed by Robert Benton, from a screenplay by Benton and novelist Richard Russo. (MJ)

9:00 p.m. (Sci-Fi)— *The Fly* (1986)—David Cronenberg's film about a scientist (Jeff Goldblum) who experiments on himself and evolves into a human fly. Cronenberg apparently saw his character's condition as a metaphor for AIDS. Geena Davis is the woman who stands by him. As usual, Cronenberg gets caught up in the machinery of his conceits and loses track of his theme. (DW)

\*10:00 p.m. (Family)— *Lost in America* (1985)—Yuppies, played by Albert Brooks (who also directed) and Julie Hagerty, give up their good corporate jobs to tour the country in an RV, with disastrous (and funny) results. (MJ)

10:15 p.m. (TCM)— *The Nun's Story* (1959)—Audrey Hepburn is a nun undergoing a crisis in Fred Zinnemann's stolid film. She serves in the Belgian Congo and later leaves the convent. (DW)

\*11:20 p.m. (Starz)— *Last Action Hero* (1993)—See 12:50 p.m.

1:00 a.m. (Sci-Fi)— *The Fly* (1986)—See 9:00 p.m.

\*1:45 a.m. (Encore)— *Five Easy Pieces* (1970)—Early Jack Nicholson film that helped define his sardonic screen persona. He plays a concert pianist from a wealthy family who opts to work on an oil rig. Watch for the memorable scene in the diner between Nicholson's character and a waitress. Directed by the underappreciated Bob Rafelson. With Karen Black, Billy "Green" Bush and Susan Anspach. (MJ)

### **Sunday, May 30**

6:00 a.m. (HBOP)— *Super Mario Brothers* (1993)—Underrated, highly imaginative film version of the popular video game, to which it bears only a slight resemblance. The two plumber brothers (Bob Hoskins and John Leguizamo) visit an alternate universe in which evolution took a different course, leaving dinosaurs as the dominant species. Dennis Hopper overacts wonderfully as the dinosaur dictator of this world. (MJ)

6:00 a.m. (TCM)— *Brigadoon* (1954)—Vincente Minnelli's rendition of the Lerner and Loewe musical about two hikers (Gene Kelly and Van Johnson) in Scotland who happen upon a village that comes to life every 300 years. Colorful and charming, but suffers badly from being shot on an obvious Hollywood soundstage. Also starring Cyd Charisse. (MJ)

6:45 (Cinemax)— *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1951)—Elia Kazan's version of the Tennessee Williams drama about the strong and the weak in a New Orleans tenement. Marlon Brando, Vivien Leigh, Kim Hunter and Karl Malden. (DW)

7:45 a.m. (IFC)— *Repulsion* (1965)—Catherine Deneuve starred as a sexually repressed girl who goes homicidal when her sister leaves her on her own in an apartment for a few days. Startling at the time, it seems dated today. Directed by Roman Polanski. (DW)

8:00 a.m. (TCM)— *The Barretts of Wimpole Street* (1934)—Sidney Franklin directed this stolid and tasteful MGM production, the story of the romance between poets Robert Browning and Elizabeth Barrett in Victorian England. With Norma Shearer, Fredric March and Charles Laughton. (DW)

9:00 a.m. (Comedy)— *Heaven Help Us* (1985)—On-the-mark depiction of life in a Catholic high school in 1960s Brooklyn. With Donald Sutherland, Andrew McCarthy and Wallace Shawn. Directed by Michael Dinner. (MJ)

\*9:30 a.m. (HBOS)— *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)

\*10:00 a.m. (TCM)— *Key Largo* (1948)—A brutal gangster (Edward G. Robinson) holds a group of people hostage in a hotel during a hurricane. Humphrey Bogart is a returning veteran. Based on Maxwell Anderson's play, script by John Huston (who directed) and Richard Brooks. With Claire Trevor. (DW)

*Sergeant* (1960)—(W) (MC)— Strode  
black US cavalry officer charged with rape and murder in post-Civil War America. John Ford directed. With Jeffrey Hunter, Constance Towers. (DW)

1:45 p.m. (HBOS)— *Against All Odds* (1984)—Decent remake of the 1947 film noir *Out of the Past*. Good performances by Jeff Bridges, Rachel Ward and James Woods. Directed by Taylor Hackford. (MJ)

\*2:00 p.m. (TNT)— *The Big Red One* (1980)—Sam Fuller's war film, semi-autobiographical, about an infantry squadron doing battle in World War II. A vivid account. With Lee Marvin. (DW)

4:00 p.m. (IFC)— *Repulsion* (1965)—See 7:45 a.m.

5:00 p.m. (Bravo)— *Burnt by the Sun* (1994)—Nikita Mikhalkov's film, in which he plays the leading role, about a Soviet leader in 1936 brought face to face with the realities of Stalinism. (DW)

5:00 p.m. (Comedy)— *Heaven Help Us* (1985)—See 9:00 a.m.

\*5:30 p.m. (A&E)— *The Shining* (1980)—Stanley Kubrick departed from Stephen King's bestselling thriller and came up with a film totally his own about slow madness in a snowbound hotel in the Rockies and the violent dissolution of a family. With Jack Nicholson, Shelley Duvall and Scatman Crothers. (MJ)

\*6:00 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)

\*8:00 p.m. (AMC)— *Laura* (1944)—A murder mystery about a woman believed to be dead who suddenly makes an appearance. Otto Preminger directed an extraordinary cast, including Gene Tierney, Dana Andrews, Vincent Price and Clifton Webb. (DW)

8:00 p.m. (TCM)— *The Seventh Cross* (1944)—Seven men are pursued by Gestapo, after their escape from a concentration camp. Directed by Fred Zinnemann, with Spencer Tracy. (DW)

9:30 p.m. (FXM)— *The Razor's Edge* (1946)—An overlong film, with some embarrassingly silly moments, but also some extraordinarily believable ones. With Tyrone Power, looking for the meaning of life, Gene Tierney, Anne Baxter. Directed by Edmund Goulding, from the novel by Somerset Maugham. (DW)

10:00 p.m. (TCM)— *The Search* (1948)—In post-war Germany, an American GI (Montgomery Clift) looks after a child; meanwhile his mother desperately searches for him. Fred Zinnemann directed. (DW)

11:30 p.m. (IFC)— *Crumb* (1994)—Remarkable portrait of family of cartoonist Robert Crumb. His two dysfunctional brothers prove to be considerably more interesting than he. Directed by Terry Zwigoff. (DW)

\*11:30 p.m. (TNT)— *The Big Red One* (1980)—See 2:00 p.m.

3:55 a.m. (IFC)— *Crumb* (1994)—See 11:30 p.m.

4:05 a.m. (HBOS)— *Against All Odds* (1984)—See 1:45 p.m.

4:45 a.m. (Showtime)— *Touch* (1987)—Interesting but disappointing film written and directed by Paul Schrader about faith healing in the South. With Christopher Walken and Bridget Fonda. (MJ)

### **Monday, May 31**

9:15 a.m. (Encore)— *Love with the Proper Stranger* (1963)—Natalie Wood is pregnant and Steve McQueen is her musician boy-friend in this occasionally affecting film shot on location in New York's Greenwich Village. Directed by Robert Mulligan. (DW)

12:00 p.m. (AMC)— *Home of the Brave* (1949)—Mark Robson directed this well-meaning film about black GI suffering abuse from fellow US soldiers in the Pacific during World War II. One of the first to deal with racial discrimination. (DW)

\*12:20 p.m. (TMC)— *The Boys in Company C* (1978)—One of the better realistic films about the Vietnam War. Avoids the clichés of most other war films. With James Whitmore, Jr. and Stan Shaw. Directed by Sidney J. Furie. (MJ)

1:30 p.m. (HBOP)— *Gattaca* (1997)—In this future caper, your place in the productive process is determined by your genetic makeup—which is mapped at birth and stays with you as your main ID for life. One man rebels against the system. Andrew Niccol wrote and directed this intelligent film, highly derivative of the fiction of Philip K. Dick. (MJ)

2:45 p.m. (Cinemax)— *The Firm* (1993)—Another film that takes a shot at the legal profession. In this paranoid potboiler, a young, ambitious lawyer finds out that his high-toned firm is totally owned by organized crime. An unremarkable film is saved by a remarkable performance by Gene Hackman (always dependable), playing a cynical partner. From the bestseller by John Grisham. (MJ)

3:00 p.m. (Comedy)— *National Lampoon's Vacation* (1983)—Chevy Chase and Beverly D'Angelo star in this often hilarious low comedy about a quintessentially middle-class family's cross-country trip to the Wally Land theme park. The sequences with Imogene Coca are especially funny. Directed by Harold Ramis. (MJ)

6:00 p.m. (TCM)— *Battleground* (1949)—William Wellman directed this dramatic reenactment of World War II's Battle of the Bulge. The large cast includes Van Johnson, John Hodiak, Ricardo Montalban and George Murphy. (DW)

6:10 p.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 an historical curiosity. (DW)

\*8:00 p.m. (AMC)— *Laura* (1944)—See Sunday, at 8:00 p.m.

8:00 p.m. (Bravo)— *Things Change* (1988)—A poor Italian-American shoemaker willingly takes the rap for a mobster. David Mamet wrote and directed this disappointing, poorly resolved film that is distinguished by a remarkable performance by the elderly Don Ameche. With Joe Mantegna. (MJ)

8:00 p.m. (TCM)— *They Died with Their Boots On* (1941)—Hollywood's version of the George Custer story. Surprisingly sympathetic to the Indians, in fact. Custer is made out to be an opponent of the campaign that led to his death. The last of the Errol Flynn-Olivia de Havilland cycle of films; directed vividly by Raoul Walsh, with a score by Max Steiner. (DW)

12:00 a.m. (IFC)— *Gray's Anatomy* (1996)—One of actor Spalding Gray's filmed monologues. This time he describes his efforts to find alternative treatments for an eye ailment. Directed by Steven Soderbergh. (DW)

\*12:55 a.m. (Starz)— *Deconstructing Harry* (1997)—Woody Allen's film is mean-spirited, misanthropic, bitter, cynical, crude and foul-mouthed, but it is deliberately provocative, often funny and one of his best films of recent years. A writer (Allen) confronts the friends and family members that he has cruelly featured in his novels, as well as their fictional representations. Also, Allen and his character confront their horror at growing old. Compare this film with the one preceding it, the light-hearted romantic musical *Everyone Says I Love You* (1996), which this film seems to rebut. (MJ)

\*2:30 a.m. (AMC)— *Laura* (1944)—See Sunday, at 8:00 p.m.

3:30 a.m. (Cinemax)— *Face/Off* (1997)—Hong Kong action director John Woo lets out all the stops in this exciting, humorous, and (of course) preposterous film about a government agent (John Travolta) and his terrorist nemesis (Nicolas Cage) exchanging faces. (MJ)

4:00 a.m. (Starz)— *This Boy's Life* (1993)—Based on the novel by Tobias Wolff, about a young boy, his mother and his volatile stepfather, set in remote Washington state in the 1950s. With Robert DeNiro, Leonardo DiCaprio and Ellen Barkin. (DW)

## Tuesday, June 1

6:00 a.m. (AMC)— *On the Riviera* (1951)—Danny Kaye does his one-of-a-kind humor and plays a dual role in this farce about mistaken identities.

Directed by Walter Lang. (MJ)

\*7:30 a.m. (AMC)— *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)

8:00 a.m. (HBOP)— *Tucker: The Man and His Dream* (1988)—The pioneer auto-maker (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)

8:30 a.m. (Showtime)— *Detective Story* (1951)—William Wyler's somewhat dated film about the activities inside a New York City police station. Kirk Douglas is a bitter cop, Eleanor Parker his wife, William Bendix another detective. The good cast also includes Horace McMahon, Lee Grant and Joseph Wiseman. (DW)

9:30 a.m. (AMC)— *Bright Leaf* (1950)—Michael Curtiz directed this interesting saga about the tobacco industry in the 19th century. Gary Cooper, seeking revenge on old enemies and old lovers, builds a cigarette empire. With Lauren Bacall, Patricia Neal, Jack Carson. (DW)

9:30 a.m. (TCM)— *Executive Suite* (1954)—A power struggle erupts after the death of a major executive. Interesting to compare the corporate culture of the 1950s (and Hollywood myths about them) with today's. With William Holden, Barbara Stanwyck, June Allyson, Fredric March, Walter Pidgeon. Robert Wise directed. (DW)

10:45 a.m. (IFC)— *Gray's Anatomy* (1996)—See Monday, at 12:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m. (Cinemax)— *Saturday Night Fever* (1977)—A hardware store salesman in Brooklyn becomes a champion disco dancer at night. This is the film that launched John Travolta's film career, and he is a marvel as a dancer. Music by the Bee Gees. Directed by John Badham. (MJ)

\*11:30 a.m. (HBOP)— *The Producers* (1968)—Mel Brooks wrote and directed his funniest film, about two producers whose plan—to mount a deliberately awful Broadway musical that will flop and thereby bring them a tax bonanza—backfires. Starring Gene Wilder and the great, rarely seen (because of blacklisting) Zero Mostel. (MJ)

\*11:30 a.m. (TCM)— *Clash by Night* (1952)—Fritz Lang directed this melodrama which sees Barbara Stanwyck, as a woman bored with her fisherman husband Paul Douglas, suddenly taken with Douglas' cynical friend (Robert Ryan). Clifford Odets wrote the story. (DW)

\*12:00 p.m. (Showtime)— *Spellbound* (1945)—Psychiatrist Ingrid Bergman attempts to unravel patient Gregory Peck's dilemmas. Has he committed a murder? Alfred Hitchcock directed. (DW)

12:00 p.m. (FX)— *Wall Street* (1987)—Oliver Stone directed this film about Wall Street sharks and their comeuppance with his usual subtlety and restraint. With Charlie Sheen, Martin Sheen and Michael Douglas. (DW)

1:30 p.m. (TCM)— *The Misfits* (1961)—The last film of both Marilyn Monroe and Clark Gable. John Huston directed this sour tale, written by Arthur Miller, of divorcee Monroe and some unhappy cowboys. With Montgomery Clift, Thelma Ritter, Eli Wallach. (DW)

2:15 p.m. (IFC)— *Diary of a Chambermaid* (1964)—Luis Bunuel shows, perhaps too elliptically, the rise of fascism in 1930s France; at the same time, he skewers the bourgeoisie, its foibles and perversions. Jeanne Moreau plays a chambermaid in a French rural estate, during which time a child is brutally murdered by an overseer who is a leader of Action Francaise. Well done, but the motivations are vague and it is too diffuse to be powerful. (MJ)

\*2:30 p.m. (Cinemax)— *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)

\*3:00 p.m. (HBO)— *Last Action Hero* (1993)—See Saturday, at 12:50 p.m.

3:05 p.m. (AMC)—*The Naked Jungle* (1954)—Above-average Johnny Weissmuller and Maureen O'Sullivan (Mia Farrow's mother). Directed by "One-take" W. S. Van Dyke. (DW)

4:00 p.m. (TCM)—*Kiss Me Kate* (1953)—Vulgar, brassy production of Cole Porter musical, with Howard Keel and Kathryn Grayson, based on Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*. Directed by George Sidney. (DW)

4:00 p.m. (Bravo)—*Things Change* (1988)—See Monday, at 8:00 p.m.

5:00 p.m. (AMC)—*Don't Bother to Knock* (1952)—Marilyn Monroe, in an early role, is a demented baby-sitter who threatens to kill the child in her care. With Richard Widmark, Anne Bancroft, Jim Backus. Directed by Roy Ward Baker. (DW)

6:00 p.m. (IFC)—*Gray's Anatomy* (1996)—See Monday, at 12:00 a.m.

6:00 p.m. (TCM)—*Nothing Sacred* (1937)—Fredric March is a cynical reporter who sets out to make headlines with the story of a Vermont girl (Carole Lombard) supposedly dying from radium poisoning. Ben Hecht wrote the script and William Wellman directed. (DW)

7:15 p.m. (HBOP)—*Breakdown* (1997)—Suspenseful thriller in which the wife of a meek computer programmer (played by Kurt Russell) disappears during a cross-country trip. One of the last performances by the late, great character actor J.T. Walsh. (MJ)

8:15 p.m. (AMC)—*River of No Return* (1954)—Otto Preminger directed this interesting, relatively somber story. Robert Mitchum rescues a man (Rory Calhoun) and a woman (Marilyn Monroe) from drowning. Calhoun promptly steals his horse and takes off. Vengeful Mitchum, with his young son, and Monroe pursue him by raft. (DW)

10:35 p.m. (TBS)—*A Fistful of Dollars* (1964)—In the first of Sergio Leone's Italian Westerns Clint Eastwood, in the role that made him a star, plays the Man With No Name. The story, a remake of Kurosawa's *Yojimbo*, involves warring families in a border town. Ennio Morricone's score is striking. With Gian Maria Volonte and Marianne Koch. (DW)

**Wednesday, June 2**

8:00 a.m. (IFC)—*Diary of a Chambermaid* (1964)—See Tuesday, at 2:15 p.m.

\*10:00 a.m. (FXM)—*The Culpepper Cattle Company* (1972)—An unjustly forgotten film about a naive young man joining up with a cattle drive. Grittily realistic depictions of the daily working life of cowboys—the kind of detail rarely shown in Westerns. A gem. With Gary Grimes, Billy "Green" Bush and Geoffrey Lewis. Directed by Dick Richards. (MJ)

11:00 a.m. (AMC)—*Finian's Rainbow* (1968)—See Saturday, at 12:00 p.m.

12:30 p.m. (TCM)—*Alice Adams* (1935)—Katharine Hepburn as social-climbing girl in George Cukor's filming of Booth Tarkington's novel. Memorable dinner-table scene, as Hepburn embarrassingly tries to impress wealthy Fred MacMurray. (DW)

12:30 p.m. (AMC)—*Niagara* (1953)—Marilyn Monroe is an adulterous wife planning to kill her husband (Joseph Cotten) on their honeymoon at Niagara Falls, in this somewhat overwrought, but tense film, directed by Henry Hathaway. (DW)

\*1:30 p.m. (IFC)—*I Shot Jesse James* (1949)—Samuel Fuller's remarkable film—done mostly in close-ups—about the shooting of Jesse James by Robert Ford, "that dirty little coward." With Reed Hadley and John Ireland. (MJ)

2:30 p.m. (TCM)—*As You Desire Me* (1932)—Fairly inept version of a Pirandello play, directed by George Fitzmaurice, about an amnesiac returning to a husband she doesn't remember. Greta Garbo has some memorable moments as the woman, with Melvyn Douglas and Erich von Stroheim. (DW)

3:15 p.m. (AMC)—*Sodom and Gomorrah* (1963)—Robert Aldrich directed this above average Biblical epic. Starring Stewart Granger and Pier Angeli. (MJ)

4:00 p.m. (TCM)—*Tarzan, the Ape Man* (1932)—The original Tarzan, directed by John H. Auer.

8:00 p.m. (TCM)—*The Sting* (1973)—A pair of con men (Paul Newman and Robert Redford) pull an intricate scam on a gangster during the Depression. Good, playful, with lots of surprises. Memorable score made up of Scott Joplin ragtime music. With Robert Shaw. Directed by George Roy Hill. (MJ)

\*9:00 p.m. (USA)—*Red Rock West* (1993)—Modern attempt at film noir, only partially successful, with Nicholas Cage, Dennis Hopper and the late (great) J.T. Walsh. Directed by John Dahl. (DW)

\*9:05 p.m. (Encore)—*Sorcerer* (1977)—Three trucks driven by desperate men run all kinds of hazards to bring volatile shipments of explosives to an oil field fire in Latin America. William Friedkin directed this underrated, highly suspenseful remake of the French classic *The Wages of Fear*. Starring Roy Scheider. (MJ)

\*11:00 p.m. (Bravo)—*Amarcord* (1974)—Fellini's semi-autobiographical work about a small town in Italy under Mussolini. An extraordinary film. (DW)

\*12:00 a.m. (FXM)—*The Culpepper Cattle Company* (1972)—see 10:00 a.m.

\*12:25 a.m. (HBOP)—*Last Action Hero* (1993)—See Saturday, at 12:50 p.m.

4:30 a.m. (TCM)—*The Crowd Roars* (1932)—James Cagney is a race car driver in this early sound film, directed by Howard Hawks. With Joan Blondell and Ann Dvorak (who was to star in Hawks's immortal *Scarface* the same year). (DW)

**Thursday, June 3**

\*6:00 a.m. (IFC)—*I Shot Jesse James* (1949)—See Wednesday, at 1:30 p.m.

7:00 a.m. (HBOS)—*A Place in the Sun* (1951)—A George Stevens film based on Theodore Dreiser's *An American Tragedy*. Not very faithful to the book, but valuable in its own right. Elizabeth Taylor is extraordinary as Montgomery Clift's dream girl. (DW)

\*12:30 p.m. (Bravo)—*Amarcord* (1974)—See Wednesday, at 11:00 p.m.

\*1:00 p.m. (USA)—*Red Rock West* (1993)—See Wednesday, at 9:00 p.m.

4:00 p.m. (HBO)—*Contact* (1997)—An intelligent, refreshingly non-xenophobic film on the search for extraterrestrial intelligence. Jodie Foster plays the single-minded astrophysicist in this adaptation from the novel by the late Carl Sagan. Unfortunately, toward the end the film becomes mushy-minded and tries to make its peace with religion. (MJ)

9:00 p.m. (HBOS)—*A Place in the Sun* (1951)—See 7:00 a.m.

9:00 p.m. (USA)—*Dazed and Confused* (1993)—Richard Linklater's evocative, unsentimental portrait of the last day of school at a suburban Texas high school in 1976. A variety of narrative strands, too many to mention. With Jason London, Milla Jovovich, Ben Affleck, Matthew McConaughey, Parker Posey, among others. (DW)

9:40 p.m. (Encore)—*The Name of the Rose* (1986)—A murder mystery set in a medieval monastery (the MacGuffin is a lost book by Aristotle). Though lacking much of the rich detail of Umberto Eco's fine novel, the film stands well on its own. Sean Connery is perfect as the monk-detective, John of Baskerville. With Christian Slater, F. Murray Abraham and William Hickey. Directed by Jean-Jacques Annaud. (MJ)

**Friday, June 4**

\*6:45 a.m. (Showtime)—*Rebecca* (1940)—Alfred Hitchcock's first US-made film, with Joan Fontaine as the second wife of nobleman Laurence Olivier. The first wife's presence hovers over the place. Judith Anderson is memorable as the sinister housekeeper, loyal to the first wife. (DW)

\*8:00 a.m. (HBO)—*Last Action Hero* (1993)—See Saturday, at 12:50 p.m.

9:50 a.m. (Starz)—*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)

10:00 a.m. (Cinemax)— *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 stand-out performance as an ultra-sleazy lawyer) Also starring Matt Damon, John Voight and Claire Danes. (MJ)

\*2:45 p.m. (Showtime)— *The Miracle of Morgan's Creek* (1943)—One of Preston Sturges's wonderful comic looks at American morals and manners. Eddie Bracken, Betty Hutton and William Demarest. (DW)

\*3:30 p.m. (Cinemax)— *Zardoz* (1973)—Odd saga spanning thousands of years in the future, with Sean Connery and Charlotte Rampling. A good-bad film bursting with half-baked ideas and marvelous images. Directed by John Boorman, an exceptional director who takes chances. (MJ)

\*4:00 p.m. (HBO)— *Last Action Hero* (1993)—See Saturday, at 12:50 p.m.

8:00 p.m. (TCM)— *Tarzan, the Ape Man* (1932)—See Wednesday, at 4:00 p.m.

8:00 p.m. (Starz)— *Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery* (1997)—See 9:50 a.m.

\*9:00 p.m. (Encore)— *Touch of Evil* (1958)—One of Orson Welles's greatest films. He plays a corrupt police chief in a border town who plants evidence to convict the "guilty"—in this instance a hapless young Mexican. A tale of moral, physical and political corruption that is rich in every way. With Charlton Heston, Janet Leigh, Joseph Calleia and Akim Tamiroff, and uncredited cameos by Joseph Cotten, Marlene Dietrich and Mercedes McCambridge. (MJ)

9:40 p.m. (Cinemax)— *The Devil's Advocate* (1997)—Satan (portrayed in an over-the-top performance by Al Pacino) runs a white-shoe law firm in New York City. Keanu Reeves, as an ambitious young lawyer, makes a Faustian bargain and suffers for it. A very funny horror film that trades on the public's distrust of the legal profession. (MJ)

2:00 a.m. (TCM)— *Autumn Sonata* (1978)—Ingrid Bergman (in her last film) is a concert pianist who faces the daughter she's neglected in this somewhat tired and cliched work by Swedish director Ingmar Bergman. (DW)

4:00 a.m. (TCM)— *Gaslight* (1944)—Charles Boyer tries to drive Ingrid Bergman mad in George Cukor's period thriller. (DW)



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