

Some interesting films on US television, June 5-June 11

Marty Jonas (MJ), David Walsh (DW)
5 June 1999

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

Eyes Without a Face (Les Yeux sans Visage) (1959)—A gruesome subject transformed into a film of great poetic beauty. A crazed surgeon, holding himself responsible for his daughter's disfigurement in an auto accident, kidnaps young women and attempts to transplant their faces onto hers. The great French director Georges Franju filled this with powerful black-and-white images. Be sure to get the subtitled version. With Pierre Brasseur and Alida Valli. (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, June 5

10:00 a.m. (Showtime)—*Young Frankenstein* (1974)—One of Mel Brooks' 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)

10:30 a.m. (AMC)—*His Girl Friday* (1940)—Marvelous film version of Ben Hecht-Charles MacArthur's *The Front Page*, co-scripted by Hecht, with Cary Grant as scheming editor and Rosalind Russell as his star reporter trying to get married to Ralph Bellamy. Directed by Howard Hawks. (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)

3:00 p.m. (TCM)—*The Gay Divorcee* (1934)—One of the Fred Astaire-Ginger Rogers musicals. Not famous for its plot, but for its musical numbers, including "Continental" and Cole Porter's "Night and Day." Directed by journeyman Mark Sandrich. (DW)

3:30 p.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)

9:00 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)

12:00 p.m. (Comedy)—*The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (1975)—A cult film that is actually quite good, in a campy way. The performance by Tim Curry is particularly outrageous. (MJ)

8:00 p.m. (Bravo)—*A Midnight Clear* (1992)—Strong anti-war film about a squad of US soldiers in France near the end of World War II. Ethan Hawke, Peter Berg, Kevin Dillon, Gary Sinise starred. Directed by Keith Gordon, from William Wharton's novel. (DW)

Coal Miner's Daughter (1980) (TBS)—
Spa—
did her own singing, is excellent in this slightly sanitized biography of country singer Loretta Lynn, born in poverty in Kentucky. Tommy Lee Jones as her husband, Beverly D'Angelo as Patsy Cline and Levon Helm as her coal-miner father also stand out. Directed by Michael Apted. (DW)

12:00 a.m. (IFC)—*Riff Raff* (1991)—A Ken Loach film. The trials and tribulations of building workers in London, with Robert Carlyle (of *Full Monty*). Some moving moments and performances. (DW)

12:00 a.m. (Comedy)—*The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (1975)—See 12:00 p.m.

*12:00 a.m. (Encore)—*A Clockwork Orange* (1971)—Stanley Kubrick's brilliant but thoroughly nasty film about a sadistic young street thug (Malcolm McDowell) in the near future turned into a passive, spiritless citizen by means of a cruel form of aversion therapy. In the process, he also loses his ability to enjoy Beethoven. Kubrick adapted this from the novel by Anthony Burgess, and Burgess always hated the result. (MJ)

12:30 a.m. (Bravo)—*A Midnight Clear* (1992)—See 8:00 p.m.

*1:00 a.m. (TCM)—*The Conversation* (1974)—A security specialist involved in bugging and other surveillance begins to have qualms about his profession. Francis Copolla's detailed, disturbing look at the milieu and practices of the security business is one of his best films. Starring Gene Hackman and the late John Cazale. (MJ)

3:35 a.m. (HBO)—*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)

Sunday, June 6

8:00 a.m. (HBOP)—*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)

9:30 a.m. (AMC)—*Them!* (1954)—One of the extraordinary 1950s black-and-white science fiction films, products of Cold War paranoia and insecurity, among other things. This one is about giant ant mutations terrorizing the Southwest and ultimately Los Angeles. Directed by Gordon Douglas. James Whitmore and Edmund Gwenn co-star. (DW)

10:00 a.m. (TCM)—*Cat People* (1942)—The first of the Val Lewton-produced horror films, directed with considerable elegance by Jacques Tourneur. Extraordinary moments of anxiety. (DW)

11:45 a.m. (IFC)—*What's Up, Tiger Lily?* (1966)—Woody Allen's first film is actually a hilarious redubbing of an atrocious Japanese spy thriller. With music by the Lovin' Spoonful and the voices of Allen and Louise Lasser. (MJ)

1:30 p.m. (TCM)—*The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (1939)—Not a great, but a remarkable, sensual and disturbing film. Charles Laughton is Victor Hugo's Quasimodo, the deformed bell-ringer. Maureen O'Hara is unforgettable, in her US film debut, as Esmerelda. (DW)

2:00 p.m. (Bravo)—*A Midnight Clear* (1992)—See Saturday at 8:00 p.m.

2:45 p.m. (Cinemax)—*Gattaca* (1997)—In this future capitalist society, *Last *1450n Harm*. (1993)(HBO) held 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)

*3:30 p.m. (TCM)—*Freaks* (1932)—Tod Browning's astonishing film, really a revenge drama, about a traveling sideshow and its performers. Once described as the most compassionate film ever made. With Olga Baclanova and Wallace Ford. (DW)

4:00 p.m. (Comedy)—*The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (1975)—See Saturday at 12:00 p.m.

4:45 p.m. (TCM)—*Mark of the Vampire* (1935)—One of Tod Browning's remarkable and obsessive horror films. A vampire terrorizes a small village. With Bela Lugosi, Lionel Barrymore and Lionel Atwill. (DW)

5:00 p.m. (Bravo)—*Isadora* (1968)—Occasionally silly biography of the modern dancer Isadora Duncan (1878-1927), starring a young Vanessa Redgrave, who, unfortunately, couldn't dance very well. Directed by Karel Reisz. (DW)

*6:00 p.m. (TCM)—*Dinner at Eight* (1933)—A collection of individuals from various social classes, all facing a crisis, prepare to dine at eight. George Cukor directed this MGM version of the George Kaufman-Edna Ferber play, with Jean Harlow, Marie Dressler, Wallace Beery and John Barrymore. (DW)

*6:00 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)

6:00 p.m. (FXM)—*Unfaithfully Yours* (1948)—Not Preston Sturges at his best, but still amusing. Rex Harrison is a symphony conductor convinced of his wife's (Linda Darnell's) infidelity. (DW)

*8:00 p.m. (TNT)—*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)

9:30 p.m. (IFC)—*What's Up, Tiger Lily?* (1966)—See 11:45 a.m.

*11:00 p.m. (TNT)—*Lone Star* (1996)—See 8:00 p.m.

2:30 a.m. (IFC)—*What's Up, Tiger Lily?* (1966)—See 11:45 a.m.

3:00 a.m. (Sci-Fi)—*The Mephisto Waltz* (1971)—Effective, eerie film about a journalist (Alan Alda) who makes a deal with the devil to become a great concert pianist. With Curt Jurgens. Directed by Paul Wendkos. (MJ)

4:50 a.m. (HBO)—*The Ice Storm* (1997)—Excellent film by Ang Lee of aimlessness and disillusionment in the 1970s. As the middle class disintegrates in suburbia, we see the disintegration of the White House playing out in the background as the Watergate crisis runs its course. The fine cast includes Kevin Kline, Sigourney Weaver, Joan Allen, Jamey Sheridan and Christina Ricci. (MJ)

Monday, June 7

7:00 a.m. (TCM)—*Humoresque* (1946)—A remarkable performance by John Garfield, as a classical violinist from the slums, who falls for a wealthy society lady. With Joan Crawford, Oscar Levant. Directed by Jean Negulesco. (DW)

8:00 a.m. (FXM)—*Unfaithfully Yours* (1948)—See Sunday at 6:00 p.m.

*9:30 a.m. (TCM)—*The Postman Always Rings Twice* (1946)—John Garfield and Lana Turner play the illicit and doomed lovers in the film based on James M. Cain's novel. They kill her husband, the owner of a roadside diner, and suffer the consequences of nearly getting away with it. Tay Garnett directed. (DW)

capitalist society, *Last *1450n Harm*. (1993)(HBO) held 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)

1:15 p.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 Cliff's dream girl. (DW)

*1:00 p.m. (TNT)—*Duel* (1971)—Steven Spielberg's first major film effort, about a businessman (Dennis Weaver) on a lonely stretch of highway who realizes a truck driver is determined to drive him off the road. Empty, but entertaining. (DW)

2:00 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)

*2:00 p.m. (TBS)—*Rio Grande* (1950)—One of John Ford's great cavalry films. John Wayne is an officer with family problems. Claude Jarman, Jr., is his son, Maureen O'Hara his wife. (DW)

2:00 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)

4:00 p.m. (TCM)—*The Valley of Decision* (1945)—Tay Garnett directed this interesting film about romance and labor strife. Greer Garson is a maid who becomes involved with Gregory Peck; his family owned a mine in which her father and brother were killed. Laid in Pittsburgh in 1870. (DW)

8:00 p.m. (TCM)—*Glory Alley* (1952)—Fine character actor Ralph Meeker is a boxer who quits just prior to the big fight. Flashbacks explain his story. Directed by Hollywood veteran Raoul Walsh, with Leslie Caron, Gilbert Roland and an appearance by Louis Armstrong. (DW)

8:00 p.m. (Showtime)—*Sliding Doors* (1998)—Charming, likable light comedy that hinges on a gimmick that works well: the film shows the two paths the main character's life could take depending on whether or not she misses her train. A vehicle for the talented Gwyneth Paltrow, performing with a flawless British accent. (MJ)

11:10 p.m. (Starz)—*Frantic* (1988)—Roman Polanski's failed attempt to make a Hitchcock-type suspense film. With Harrison Ford. (MJ)

11:45 p.m. (Encore)—*All That Jazz* (1979)—Choreographer/director Bob Fosse's overwrought autobiographical film about his mental and physical crackup. Not strictly speaking a musical, but it is filled with musical numbers—including a bizarre one occurring during the main character's open-heart surgery. With Roy Scheider and Ben Vereen. (MJ)

1:55 a.m. (Encore)—*Endless Love* (1981)—Franco Zeffirelli made a very bad film out of Scott Spencer's very good novel. With Brooke Shields, Martin Hewitt, Shirley Knight and Richard Kiley. (MJ)

Tuesday, June 8

8:00 a.m. (TCM)—*How the West Was Won* (1963)—An "epic" saga, with more weaknesses than strengths, about three generations of western pioneers. Henry Fonda, Carroll Baker, Gregory Peck, George Peppard and countless others star. Co-directed by John Ford, Henry Hathaway and George Marshall. (DW)

8:00 a.m. (Cinemax)—*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)

9:15 a.m. (Showtime)—*The Spiral Staircase* (1946)—Taut thriller with

Dorothy McGuire as a deaf-mute servant employed in a household in 1906 New England. Directed by Robert Siodmak. (DW)

*10:00 a.m. (IFC)— *The Steel Helmet* (1951)—Gene Evans stars in this Samuel Fuller war drama about US troops behind enemy lines in Korean War. (DW)

10:00 a.m. (FXM)— *The Hustler* (1961)—Basically a boxing film, but set among serious pool sharks. Robert Rossen's movie is beautifully shot and capably acted, but the dialogue is full of stagey, pseudo-profound, high-proletarian language. With Paul Newman, Piper Laurie, George C. Scott and Jackie Gleason. (MJ)

11:50 a.m. (Encore)— *The Hustler* (1961)—See 10:00 a.m.

*1:00 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)

2:00 p.m. (Showtime)— *At Long Last Love* (1975)—Burt Reynolds and Cybill Shepherd can neither sing nor dance—they are definitely not Astaire and Rogers. Still, it's fun to watch them mangle Cole Porter's beautiful music and lyrics. Peter Bogdanovich's glitzy, expensive film proves that a warm affection for 1930's film musicals is not enough. One of the great bombs. With Madeline Kahn (often funny, despite her material) and John Hillerman. (MJ)

*4:00 p.m. (Bravo)— *Blue Collar* (1978)—Paul Schrader (screenwriter of *Taxi Driver*, among other films) wrote and directed this work about corruption in an auto union in Detroit. Richard Pryor and Harvey Keitel co-starred. (DW)

*4:30 p.m. (IFC)— *The Steel Helmet* (1951)—See 10:00 a.m.

*6:45 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)

*7:00 p.m. (HBOF)— *Last Action Hero* (1993)—See Monday at 11:45 a.m.

8:00 p.m. (FXM)— *A Wedding* (1978)—Robert Altman doing what he does best—directing a large ensemble of actors. Carol Burnett stars in this amusing, farcical film. (MJ)

9:40 p.m. (Encore)— *The Hustler* (1961)—See 10:00 a.m.

12:00 a.m. (FXM)— *The Hustler* (1961)—See 10:00 a.m.

1:45 a.m. (HBO)— *City of Industry* (1997)—Harvey Keitel gives an excellent performance (almost a reprise of his role in Tarantino's *Reservoir Dogs*) as an old-school criminal at the end of his career. Otherwise, this is a competently made film about a jewel heist and its aftermath, set in the rundown Los Angeles that is becoming familiar to moviegoers. Directed by John Irvin. (MJ)

*1:05 a.m. (TBS)— *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)

*4:35 a.m. (IFC)— *The Steel Helmet* (1951)—See 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, June 9

5:05 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)

9:45 a.m. (AMC)— *Dark Command* (1940)—Raoul Walsh directed this lively Hollywood version of the rise and fall of the murderous Quantrill raiders, active in Kansas during the Civil War. Walter Pidgeon plays William Quantrill, John Wayne is the marshal with whom he clashes. (DW)

10:00 a.m. (TCM)— *Jezebel* (1938)—Bette Davis again, as an antebellum Southern belle causing trouble with her willful behavior. Also Henry Fonda. Directed by William Wyler. (DW)

Hamlet *1:00 (TMC)—Kenneth Branagh (TMC)—starred

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)

2:45 p.m. (AMC)— *Dallas* (1950)—A story set in post-Civil War Dallas, with Gary Cooper seeking revenge on those who wronged him. Ruth Roman and Steve Cochran co-star. Directed by Stuart Heisler. (DW)

3:45 p.m. (HBOP)— *Breakdown* (1997)—See Saturday at 9:00 p.m.

*4:00 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)

5:55 p.m. (Starz)— *Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery* (1997)—See 5:05 a.m.

6:00 p.m. (TCM)— *The Tender Trap* (1955)—Likable film, real 1950s fare, about a "swinging" bachelor (Frank Sinatra) and a determined young woman (Debbie Reynolds) out to ensnare him. Charles Walters directed; memorable Cahn-Van Heusen title song. (DW)

8:00 p.m. (TCM)— *The Cincinnati Kid* (1965)—Norman Jewison directed this film about a big poker game in New Orleans. The performances of Steve McQueen, Tuesday Weld and Edward G. Robinson are the best things in the film. (DW)

10:05 p.m. (AMC)— *The Molly Maguires* (1970)—Sean Connery and Richard Harris co-starred in this well-meaning film about the secret organization of Irish-born miners in Pennsylvania in the 1870s. Directed by Martin Ritt. (DW)

*1:25 a.m. (Encore)— *A Clockwork Orange* (1971)—See Saturday at 12:00 a.m.

*2:15 a.m. (TCM)— *The Fortune Cookie* (1966)—Billy Wilder's ultra-cynical story about a television cameraman (Jack Lemmon) injured during a football game and the attempts by his shyster lawyer (Walter Matthau) to sue for millions. (DW)

4:15 a.m. (AMC)— *The Molly Maguires* (1970)—See 10:05 p.m.

Thursday, June 10

7:15 a.m. (TMC)— *Duel in the Sun* (1946)—King Vidor's intense Western psychodrama. Jennifer Jones, a "half-breed," is caught between two brothers (Gregory Peck and Joseph Cotten). With Lionel Barrymore, Lillian Gish, Herbert Marshall, Charles Bickford and Walter Huston. (DW)

7:45 a.m. (AMC)— *Captain Horatio Hornblower* (1951)—Raoul Walsh directed this sea epic set in the Napoleonic wars, based on the C.S. Forester novels, in his vivid, muscular style. Some remarkable sequences. The normally dull Gregory Peck is well-cast as Hornblower. (DW)

*8:00 a.m. (TCM)— *Meet Me in St. Louis* (1944)—Vincente Minnelli's sentimental, but very evocative musical about turn-of-the-century family life in St. Louis, set during the World's Fair of 1903. Judy Garland is memorable; she sings "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" and "The Trolley Song," among others. Margaret O'Brien is her younger sister. With Leon Ames and Mary Astor. (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)

10:00 a.m. (History)— *The Spirit of St. Louis* (1957)—James Stewart, a little long in the tooth, plays Charles Lindbergh in this mediocre Billy Wilder film about the first transatlantic flight in 1927. (DW)

*1:45 p.m. (HBO)— *Last Action Hero* (1993)—See Monday at 11:45 a.m.

*2:00 p.m. (TCM)— *The Pirate* (1948)—One of Vincente Minnelli's classic MGM musicals, with his wife, Judy Garland. Gene Kelly is a circus clown she mistakes for a pirate. Cole Porter wrote the songs. (DW)

*2:30 p.m. (IFC)— *Diary of a Chambermaid* (1964)—~~Reis Johns~~ ~~Bun~~ ~~Victor~~ McLaglen. (DW) 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)

3:00 p.m. (History)— *The Spirit of St. Louis* (1957)—see 10:00 a.m.

4:00 p.m. (FXM)— *At Long Last Love* (1975)—See Tuesday at 2:00 p.m.

*4:00 p.m. (TCM)— *In the Good Old Summertime* (1949)—This musical remake of *The Shop Around the Corner* is one of the fine films from MGM's Golden Age. With Judy Garland and Van Johnson. Directed by Robert Z. Leonard. (MJ)

4:15 p.m. (Showtime)— *Young Frankenstein* (1974)—See Saturday at 10:00 a.m.

6:00 p.m. (Cinemax)— *Saturday Night Fever* (1977)—See Saturday at 3:30 p.m.

*8:00 p.m. (TCM)— *Babes in Arms* (1939)—One of the original "Hey, kids, let's put on a show" movies, with Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland as teenagers of vaudeville parents. Busby Berkeley directed with his customary energy. (DW)

8:00 p.m. (Showtime)— *Saturday Night Fever* (1977)—See Saturday at 3:30 p.m.

2:00 a.m. (Comedy)— *Heaven Help Us* (1985)—See 9:00 a.m.

4:00 a.m. (TCM)— *Words and Music* (1948)—Colorful, upbeat, less-than-true "biography" of the great Broadway musical team of Richard Rodgers (Tom Drake) and Lorenz Hart (Mickey Rooney). From the Golden Age of the MGM Musical. Helped by exuberant acting by Drake and Rooney, and by great musical performances by Gene Kelly, Judy Garland and Lena Horne. Directed by Norman Taurog. (MJ)

*4:00 a.m. (Showtime)— *The Boys in Company C* (1978)—One of the better realistic films about the Vietnam War. Avoids the cliches of most other war films. With James Whitmore, Jr. and Stan Shaw. Directed by Sidney J. Furie. (MJ)

4:00 a.m. (A&E) [Part 1]— *Giant* (1956)—George Stevens directed this work, described by many as "epic," about two generations of a Texas family. With Rock Hudson, Elizabeth Taylor, and James Dean in his last role. (DW)

Friday, June 11

6:00 a.m. (FXM)— *At Long Last Love* (1975)—See Tuesday at 2:00 p.m.

9:00 a.m. (TCM)— *Across the Pacific* (1942)—World War II spy and action drama, with Humphrey Bogart as an army officer cashiered so that he can make contact with pro-Japanese forces. John Huston directed. (DW)

*9:30 a.m. (Cinemax)— *Obsession* (1976)—This Brian De Palma pastiche of Hitchcock, mostly of *Vertigo*, is very good in its own right. Excellent performances by Genevieve Bujold (in two roles), Cliff Robertson and John Lithgow, and a haunting musical score by Bernard Herrmann. (MJ)

*10:00 a.m. (IFC)— *Diary of a Chambermaid* (1964)—See Thursday at 2:30 p.m.

*10:30 a.m. (AMC)— *My Darling Clementine* (1946)—John Ford directed this Western about the lead-up to the gunfight at the O.K. Corral. Henry Fonda is Wyatt Earp and Victor Mature Doc Holliday. With Ward Bond, Tim Holt, Walter Brennan. (DW)

*1:00 p.m. (TNT)— *Play Misty for Me* (1971)—Clint Eastwood directed and starred as a jazz-playing disc jockey who jilts a woman (Jessica Walter) and is then stalked by her. With Donna Mills. (DW)

1:00 p.m. (HBO)— *Contact* (1997)—See Monday at 2:00 p.m.

*2:00 p.m. (TBS)— *She Wore a Yellow Ribbon* (1949)—The second part of John Ford's cavalry trilogy, with John Wayne as an officer about to retire, drawn into campaign against a group of Indians. With Joanne Dru

*3:00 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)

*4:00 p.m. (TCM)— *Casablanca* (1942)—The Michael Curtiz classic about life and love in wartime Morocco, with Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman. (DW)

6:00 p.m. (TCM)— *High Society* (1956)—Glossy musical version of *The Philadelphia Story* has music and lyrics by the great Cole Porter. Starring Frank Sinatra, Bing Crosby, Grace Kelly and Louis Armstrong. Directed by Charles Walters. (MJ)

*8:00 p.m. (TNT)— *Lone Star* (1996)—see Sunday at 8:00 p.m.

*10:00 p.m. (HBOF)— *Last Action Hero* (1993)—See Monday at 11:45 a.m.

*1:35 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)

4:00 a.m. (A&E) [Part 2]— *Giant* (1956)—See Thursday at 4:00 a.m.

*4:00 a.m. (TNT)— *Play Misty for Me* (1971)—See 1:00 p.m.

*4:05 a.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)



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