

FRIDAY 18th January "THE ACCIDENTAL TOURIST" - USA 1988 121 mins

Cast features William Hurt, Kathleen Turner, Geena Davis in an adoption by Lawrence Kasdan (Body Heat, The Big Chill) of Anne Tyler's prize-winning novel.

Kasdan manages to capture the essence of this story of loss and its aftermath without treating us to a smidgen of sentimentality nor does he lose the essential nuances of the beautifully brief novel. Here is a story which is relevant, touching and comic. Hurt's performance has been criticised as being too wooden. Come and see for your self!

FRIDAY 1st February "UN DIMANCHE A LA CAMPAGNE" - France 1984 94 mins

Set in the summer of 1910, this is an evocation of the period as a family gathering brings the usual(?) confrontations. However, the handling is gentle, the outdoor scenes reminiscent of High Impressionists with a Renoir Boating Party thrown in. In all ways a very pleasant visual experience. You can almost hear the bees.

FRIDAY 15th February "BORN IN FLAMES" - USA 1983 80 mins

An all women main cast. Not your usual American film. But that's not to put it down. The title could tell it like it is, but there is a lot of humour in there, as well as action, and a great deal of dedication to the cause. Very powerful. This film was well received at the Federation appraisal screening in 1989.

FRIDAY 1st March "DEATH OF A BUREAUCRAT" - Cuba 1966 84 mins

Made by Tomas Alea, the director of 'Memories Of Underdevelopment' (1968) which was well received at the Sydney Film Festival, this film is a bit of a dark horse. Though reviewed as 'an amusing satire' and is seen as paying tribute to Laurel & Hardy, Bunuel and Bergman, we however are left with only our critical facilities. What do we think?

FRIDAY 15th March "THE LEFT-HANDED GUN" - USA 1958 102 mins

The first film of Arthur Penn, starring Paul Newman, Hurd Hatfield. Here we have Billy the Kid seen again - as a Western with psychological/religious under(or over) tones. Why did he act that way? A film which seeks to give answers. Watch for the scene in the hotel lobby with the nickelodeon! This film is now considered one of the best of the Western genre.

FRIDAY 5th April "PHANTOM OF THE OPERA" - USA 1925 94 mins

This is the original film version. There have been at least three remakes and later films pay homage to this version. The film is considered patchy by critics who nevertheless heap praise - "its highs are way up there with the best in the tradition of Gothic fantasy" (Time Out) Halliwell awards ***. A must for Lloyd-Webber patrons!