

CINEMA

This week at the movies

Chapel Hill

- Carolina Blue and White, East Franklin St. 942-3061
- Plaza I-III, Eliot Road Ext. 967-4737
- Ram Triple, NCNB Plaza 967-8284
- Varsity Theatres, East Franklin St. 967-8665

Durham

- South Square Mall Cinemas, South Square Mall 493-3502
- Willowdale Cinemas, Willowdale Shopping Center 477-4681
- Yorktowne Twin, Durham-Chapel Hill Blvd 489-2327

PARENTHOOD

Ron Howard's comedy-drama about the joys and woes of family life is truly an ensemble affair, focusing on three very different families. It's hardly surprising that the movie eventually gives two thumbs up to procreation, but it's a close-run thing, and provides much food for thought as it roller coasts to its conclusion. Featuring an excellent cast, including Steve Martin, Rick Moranis, Mary Steenburgen, Tom Hulse, Dianne Wiest, Jason Robards and Keanu Reeves. *Varsity Theatre, Willowdale*

DEAD POETS SOCIETY

The wonderful story of an unorthodox schoolteacher who inspires his young students with the passion and spirit of poetry is one of the year's finest films. It is joyful, tragic, and totally inspiring. Robin Williams gives his finest, most controlled performance to date. Directed by Peter Weir ("Witness"). *Ram Theatre, South Square*

THE ABYSS

James Cameron's underwater special effects extravaganza has come under some criticism, and while it's true that it is probably too clever for its own good, Cameron didn't make "The Terminator" and "Aliens" in order to change tack now. "The Abyss" has the tension and drama you expect from one so well-versed in the medium of suspense. *Carolina Blue and White, South Square*

TURNER AND HOOGH

Tom Hanks proved that he could still star in total drivel with the abysmal "The 'Burbs," but here, even though another cop-and-his-dog movie seems dubious entertainment, he comes out on top. In any case, it's not his dog; the hound's owner has been murdered and Hanks is assigned to look after it. There's something to be said for comedy. *Plaza, Willowdale*

WHEN HARRY MET SALLY

Rob Reiner doesn't believe that men and women can be friends without sexual tension cropping up. Moreover, he suspects that men and women cannot sleep together and still be friends the following morning. And that's what this delightfully-adult comedy is all about. Billy Crystal gives the performance we have come to expect from such a genius, and Meg Ryan is growing up nicely. With Carrie Fisher. *Ram Theatre, South Square*

sex, lies, and videotape

Steven Soderbergh won the top prize at the Cannes Film Festival with this exploration of, well... sex, lies and videotape. See it quick, because it's the one everyone is talking about. It's sensual, erotic, painful, hysterically funny and very important. This one will be around for a while - a real coup for intelligent, low-budget independent film-making. With stunning acting from James Spader, Andie MacDowell, Peter Gallagher and Laura San Giacomo. *Varsity Theatre*

RELENTLESS

He couldn't be a cop, so he became a serial killer. Judd Nelson stars. *Ram Theatre, Willowdale*

HEART OF DIXIE

A college civil rights drama - see review on page 11. *Plaza, Yorktowne*

CASUALTIES OF WAR

A Vietnam drama - see review on page 11. *Carolina Blue and White, Willowdale*

UNCLE BUCK

John Candy plays an obnoxious uncle who babysits his nieces and nephews. John Hughes directs the unfunny fat man once again. *Plaza, South Square*



Andie MacDowell takes a turn with the camera in Steven Soderbergh's 'sex, lies, and videotape'

A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET 5

Freddy is back to do it all over again one more time. Finger-flickin' good. *Willowdale*

BATMAN

Holy \$240 million! Some loved it, some hated it, some wondered what all the fuss was about. But let's face it, we all went. Fat checks on their way to Michael Keaton as the hooded one, and Joker Jack. Directed by Tim Burton. *Willowdale*

LETHAL WEAPON 2

Mel Gibson and Danny Glover are back in buddy-land. Richard Donner once again directs. The only sequel of the summer that deserved to make more money than its predecessor. *Willowdale*

YOUNG EINSTEIN

Australia's current comedy sensation, Yahoo Serious, stars in the off-beat story of Einstein's unknown early life. Yahoo also wrote and directed. *Yorktowne*

At The Union

THE SEARCHERS

John Ford's Western was copied over and over, it's that good. John Wayne stars as the man who's lost his niece (Natalie Wood) to the Indians and goes in search. A large scale film that features on many a critic's all-time top ten list. *Thursday, Sept. 7 at 7 and 9:30 pm*

THE ACCIDENTAL TOURIST

The daffy story of a travelwriter who hates to travel makes for a gloriously literal film, but be warned that they blow the lid on the big metaphor at the end. William Hurt and Geena Davis put in excellent performances. Also with Kathleen Turner. *Friday, Sept. 8 at 7, 9:30 pm and Midnight. Admission \$1.50.*

TORCH SONG TRILOGY

Harvey Fierstein recreates his Broadway role of Arnold Beckoff, a female impersonator so passionate in

his quest for respect that he almost bursts out of the screen. Anne Bancroft gives the most grisly performance of 1988, but Matthew Broderick, as Arnold's lover, is good. *Saturday, Sept. 9 at 7 and 9:30 pm.*

SWING TIME

A Fred Astaire/Ginger Rogers classic, with dance routines that leave you breathless and songs that are still lauded today, including "A Fine Romance" and "The Way You Look Tonight." *Sunday, Sept. 10 at 7 and 9:30 pm.*

THE KILLING FIELDS

The Union's Human Rights Film Festival kicks off with the highly-acclaimed story of NY Times correspondent Sidney Schanberg (Sam Waterston) and his Cambodian friend Dith Pran (Haing S. Ngor), as they try and escape the atrocities of the Khmer Rouge. A second chance to see this supremely affecting film on the big screen. Directed by Roland Joffe ("The Mission").

Hollywood summer box office shatters all records

From Associated Press Reports

HOLLYWOOD — With a record \$2.05 billion in ticket sales, Hollywood posted its best summer ever mainly on the strength of such films as *Batman* and the family comedies *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids* and *Parenthood*.

Memorial Day to Labor Day box-office revenues were up 20 percent from last summer's record of \$1.7 billion, with *Batman* emerging as at least the sixth most successful film in movie history on ticket sales in excess of \$240 million.

The top five movies alone combined for more than \$750 million in sales, according to figures released Tuesday.

"Nobody in the business can predict how big a movie goes once it goes big," Rob Friedman, president of worldwide advertising and publicity for Warner Bros., said of *Batman*'s spectacular summer. "Did we know *Batman* was going to be a big movie? Yes. Did we know how big? You never know."

John Krier, president of Exhibitor Relations Co., which compiles box-office figures, said that *Batman*'s smash showing encouraged audiences to explore the entire summer slate.

"And once people arrived, there was a little bit of everything out there, great variety," he said.

Among those contributing to the record season were adult moviego-

ers, who in recent years have stayed at home. Although exact figures are unavailable, it is believed older patrons boosted the grosses of *Dead Poets Society*, *Parenthood* and *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids*.

The healthy summer season makes it likely that 1989 will break last year's record of \$4.46 billion.

Five summer movies surpassed the \$100 million mark: *Batman*, *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* (\$189.5 million); *Lethal Weapon 2* (\$131.3 million); *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids* (\$119.1 million) and *Ghostbusters II* (\$109.9 million). Their combined \$788 million accounted for 40 percent of all summer tickets sold.

Rounding out the top 10 were *Dead*

Poets Society (\$86.4 million); *When Harry Met Sally...* (\$66.6 million); *Parenthood* (\$64.1 million); *Turner and Hooch* (\$57.1 million) and *Star Trek V: The Final Frontier* (\$50.5 million).

Among the high-powered flops were Clint Eastwood's *Pink Cadillac* (\$12.1 million); Sylvester Stallone's *Lock Up* (\$19 million); Michael J. Fox's and Sean Penn's *Casualties of War* (\$14 million) and Dennis Quaid's *Great Balls of Fire* (\$13.7 million).

Several industry observers have pointed out that the summer record was sparked by higher ticket prices, with some theaters in New York and Los Angeles charging \$7 for single

admissions. But, the studios counter, today's movies must struggle for audiences in a more competitive marketplace, fighting the broad appeal of pay cable television and videocassette rentals.

Among the studios, Warner Bros. led all comers during the summer, with its *Batman* and *Lethal Weapon 2* helping the studio account for 24 percent of all tickets sold.

Disney, with no sequels and no over-publicized epics, quietly claimed the No. 2 spot with its *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids* and *Dead Poets Society*.

Among the major studios, Tri-Star and MGM-UA had the most miserable summers, finishing last and next-to-last, respectively.