

# Entertainment Outlook



## FILMETER

What's new in movies and video  
Robert DiMatteo

By Robert DiMatteo

**MARRIED TO THE MOB (R)** Director Jonathan Demme ("Melvin and Howard," "Something Wild") has an easy virtuosity. Though his films teem with idiosyncratic Americana, a wide range of music and cultural "signs," they seem to unfold casually. Demme's skill and intelligence don't get in the way of our fun.

His latest is, like "Something Wild," a twisted genre piece. The genre this time is the gangster movie, here transformed into a glittering slapstick romantic comedy. Continuing to prove that she's as much sensitive actress as cool beauty, Michelle Pfeiffer stars as Angela DeMarco, the perfect suburban Long Island wife. Except for one thing: Her husband (Alec Baldwin) is a hit man for mobster Tony the Tiger (Dean Stockwell). After Tony loses hubby, Angela flees with her child to Lower East Side Manhattan in hopes of starting a new life.

We all know how the mob likes to be one big happy family. So it's not surprising when Tony decides he wants Angela enough to track her down and woo her — even though his own wife (Mercedes Ruehl) has threatened to wipe him out if she catches him cheating. Meanwhile, two clumsy FBI agents are also on Angela's heels. One of them (Matthew Modine) is over-enthusiastic and given to silly disguises. He takes one look at Angela, and he's smitten.

The script is just serviceable — a farce-spinning conceit that makes the FBI and the mob two sides of the same goonish coin. But Demme and his cast make it breathe. There's a terrific appreciation of the kitschy melting-pot details of American life — a lively garish style that unites the film's view of Long Island, Manhattan and Miami (where the climax takes place).

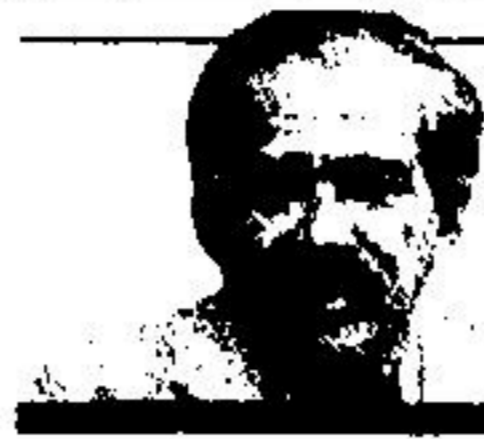
Matthew Modine and Michelle

Pfeiffer make an intriguingly odd, almost pristine and weightless romantic couple. Modine's boyishness never quite hooks up with Pfeiffer's qualities. Meanwhile, Stockwell and Mercedes Ruehl threaten to steal the show. Ruehl is a wonderful shrewish wife — hilarious yet powerful — and Stockwell's Tony is a dapper, narcissistic creep. **GRADE: ★★★**

**TUCKER: THE MAN AND HIS DREAM (PG)** There's an appealing Frank Capraesque parable of a free-spirited American dreamer at the center of Francis Ford Coppola's portrait of Preston Tucker — the revolutionary auto maker who took on the combined powers of the Detroit car manufacturers and their Washington politicians. Framed by an assertively corny, mock-Tucker company promo film, the movie is a celebration of the visionary instinct, done with nostalgic Norman Rockwell imagery. It's deft and enjoyable, but it's also all on one level, and ends up seeming shallow.

As Tucker, the gifted Jeff Bridges has a beguiling sunniness and spunk: You believe this guy could do anything. But, like the movie as a whole, Bridges doesn't deepen or grow in the role. He's just a pawn in the film's genial pro-individualist/anti-big-business-and-bureaucracy scheme. The real Tucker died a broken man, one of several dark facts that don't make it into this picture.

The lovely stage actress Joan Allen looks downright anorexic as Mrs. Tucker, and her supportive-wife role is just as thin. On the other hand, a jowly, mustachioed Martin Landau is a revelation as a shrewd businessman and Tucker associate Abe Karatz, and Dean Stockwell turns in a fine, eerie cameo performance as Howard Hughes. **GRADE: ★★★**



## ASK DICK KLEINER

### Is she Powers or Power?

By Dick Kleiner

Q. Please settle an argument going on in our beauty salon. Lili says no, and Adele says yes. The question is: Is Stefanie Powers the daughter of Tyrone Power? Please let peace reign in our shop again. — THE MANICURIST, Atlantic City, N.J.

A. Peace can now reign, assuming Adele takes her loss calmly. Stefanie Powers real name is Stefania Federkiewicz, and Tyrone was never a Federkiewicz.

Q. I saw an interview with Oprah Winfrey and she said her first name was Harpo backwards. Is that how they got the name of the character who played her husband in "The Color Purple"? — L.L.B., Syracuse, Ind.

A. No. I asked Oprah that question, and she said it was just one of those strange coincidences.

Q. We are fans of the TV program "Full House." There is a gap we can-



Stefanie Powers Oprah Winfrey

not fill. In the credit lines each of the excellent cast is identified, except Michelle, the baby. Who is she? — J.M.H., Kutztown, Pa.

A. She is actually twins, as is usually the case with babies on TV shows. They use twins, since each one can work a few hours, thus doubling the amount of time on camera. Ashley Olsen, the baby who plays Michelle, is generally on camera — with her twin, Marcy Kate Olsen, acting as her stand-in.

Q. I saw the film, "Somewhere in

Time," with Christopher Reeve and Jane Seymour, and thought the hotel they used for the setting was beautiful. It was listed in the credits, so I know it is a real place. Can you find out the specific location, and if it is open to outsiders? My boy friend and I would like to go there. — J.S., Warsaw, Ind.

A. Buy a ticket for Mackinac Island in Michigan. I've been there and it is very beautiful, indeed.

Q. Could you please tell me who starred in the '62 movie "State Fair," with Pat Boone and Bobby Darin. She played the daughter of Alice Faye. — J.L., Texas City, Texas.

A. That was Pamela Tiffin.

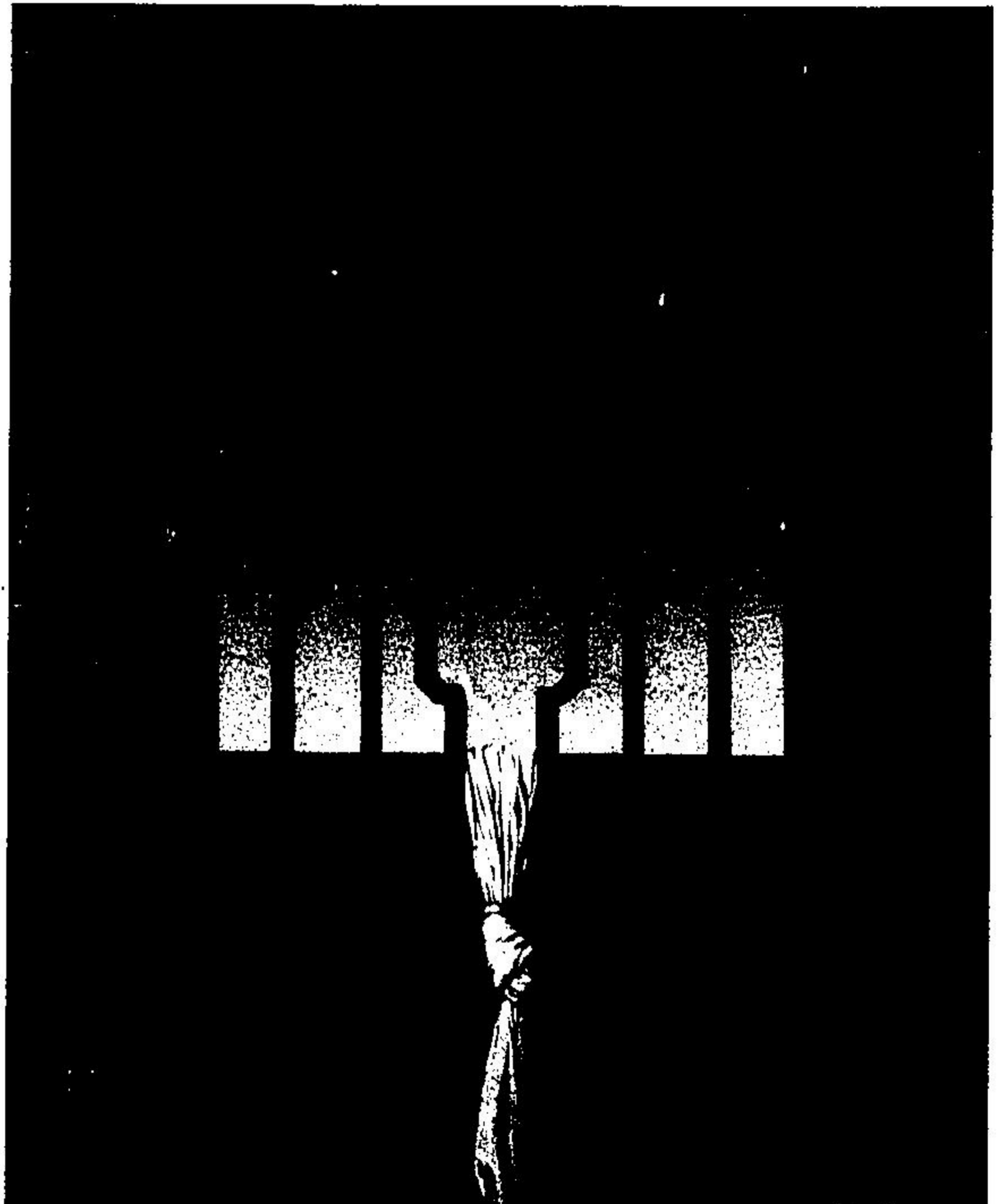
Q. My husband and I argued over Donna Mills, of "Knots Landing." He says she once played Karen Wolek on "One Life to Live" and I say he's wrong. Who's right? — C.M., Gadsden, Ala.

A. You are. Judith Light was Karen Wolek.

Q. Many years ago, probably in the '60s, I saw a movie about several women at a college reunion. I think it was called "The Girls" and Candice Bergen was one of the stars. Was that the correct title, and is it on VCR? — L.D.H., Amarillo, Texas.

A. No, you're off by a few letters. It was "The Group" (1966), based on Mary McCarthy's novel.

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