

# Entertainment

## Video Views

### 'Bonfire' flickers in parts

By DIAHANN NADEAU  
Herald Special

**The Bonfire of the Vanities**  
There were a lot of critical reviews of this movie when it first opened in theatres. After watching it on video I found myself wondering 'what's the problem?' My friend and I laughed heartily and both enjoyed it tremendously. Bonfire features a gem of a performance by Melanie Griffith, a caustic sense of humor, and a satisfying conclusion. So why all the fuss?

Perhaps the main reason lies in the way the film is adapted from the novel. Tom Hanks is notably miscast as Sherman McCoy, a yuppie stockbroker who fancies himself Master of the Universe. Hanks as Master of the Universe? The guy is just far too vulnerable - he's far too appealing. One should be wanting his downfall, not rooting for him. It's not that Hanks is bad, not at all; it's just that he isn't the real Mc-

Coy. Another less than perfect casting is Bruce Willis as the cynical drunken journalist, Peter Fallow. In the book he is British, which gives him a different perspective and makes him a different character. Willis is fine in the role; however, it probably should not have gone to him at all. This is just Hollywood's way of selling a movie - name the stars, not choose actors.

Morgan Freeman plays the judge in the picture, a role that was originally written as a white judge in a very controversial racial trial. This is supposed to make the case more palatable, not so easily open to charges of racism. Freeman is good, although his last speech about going home and being decent does not fit the tone of the book or movie. Because of these miscastings the sting is gone from the movie, the edge has

been dulled. These are probably the most glaring flaws. On the other hand, Melanie Griffith is brilliant as Maria Ruskin, McCoy's oversexed and underprincipled mistress. Her Southern accent is believable and her fractured grammar hilarious. (She says of a Russian ballet dancer "he's defective.") This is a gem of a performance. Kim Cattrall is good as Sherman's annoying wife, and Saul Rubinek, Alan King, John Hancock are all sterling supporting actors. Although uncredited, it certainly looked like F. Murray Abraham played devious District Attorney Weiss.

If you loved the book you may hate the movie. But if you're not a stickler for authenticity, or you haven't read the book, then you should enjoy *The Bonfire of the Vanities*. Especially if you're a fan of director Brian de Palma.

## Warner Music opens vaults for old Doors' tunes

Warner Music is singing along with the Doors.

With so much interest - spawned by Oliver Stone's movie - in the Doors these days, Warner is peddling as many old Doors' tunes as it can.

Both the soundtrack from the movie and the Best of the Doors album are among Warner Canada's Top 10 sellers. And soon, there will be a third collection available - *In Concert* - which has more than two hours of digitally remastered music that had been recorded live in concert.

*In Concert* features material used on three albums - *Absolutely Live*, *Alive She Cried* and *Live at the Hollywood Bowl* - that are no longer listed in catalogues.

Songs include *House Announcer*, *Who Do You Love* and *You Make Me Real*.

*In Concert* is being released in May, under the Elektra label.

Highlights of the 19th annual Canadian Stage Band Festival will air May 5 on CTV.

Each year, Musicfest Canada attracts thousands of young Canadian musicians - from universities, colleges and secondary and elementary schools.

The one-hour special, taped at the 1990 Musicfest in Winnipeg, highlights some of the top bands

and choirs.

It airs at 5 p.m. (ET).

CBC Stereo, over the four Sundays in May, offers a look back at the career of reggae king Bob Marley.

This series, which airs on The Entertainers (2:25 p.m., 2:55 p.m. in Newfoundland), includes a look at the man and at the singer. Marley died May 11, 1981 of lung cancer and a brain tumor. He was only 36.

*Unholy Orders*, a one-hour documentary based on the controversial best-seller of the same name, looks at the abuse children suffered at a Newfoundland orphanage.

The documentary, produced by NTV, airs as a special edition of CTV's W5 on May 5.

*Big Business*, the 1988 movie that left parents wondering whether the baby they had brought home from the hospital really was a chip off the old block, arrives on Canadian TV in early May.

Bette Midler and Lily Tomlin play double roles in this tale of mistaken identity. When two sets of identical twins are born in a small community, the hospital accidentally puts one child from each pair together. Years later, one mismatched, non-related pair runs a major conglomerate. When the other pair of "sisters" arrives in town, the two women are mistaken for their real sisters - the power brokers.

*Big Business* airs May 5 at 9 p.m. (ET).

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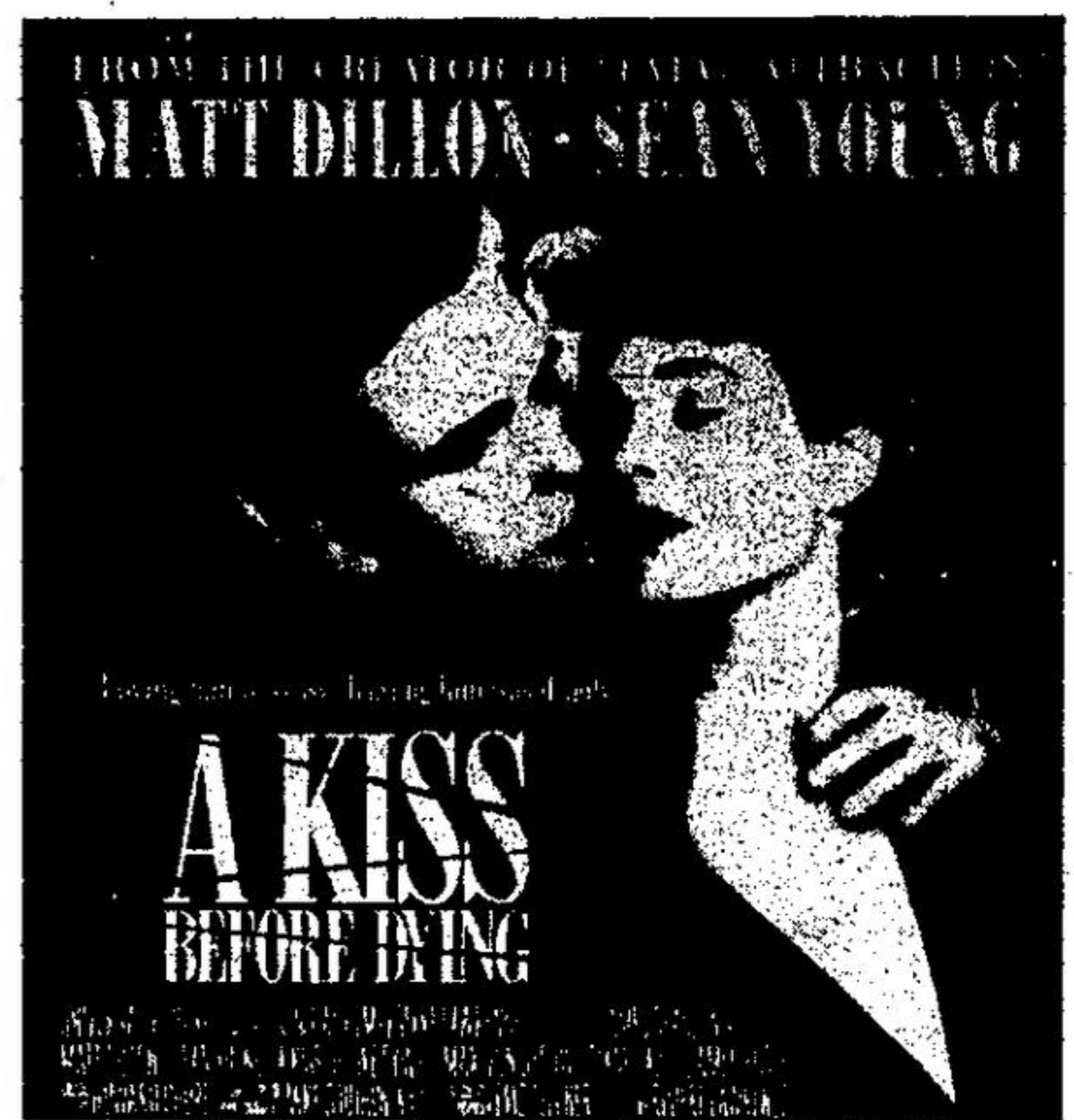
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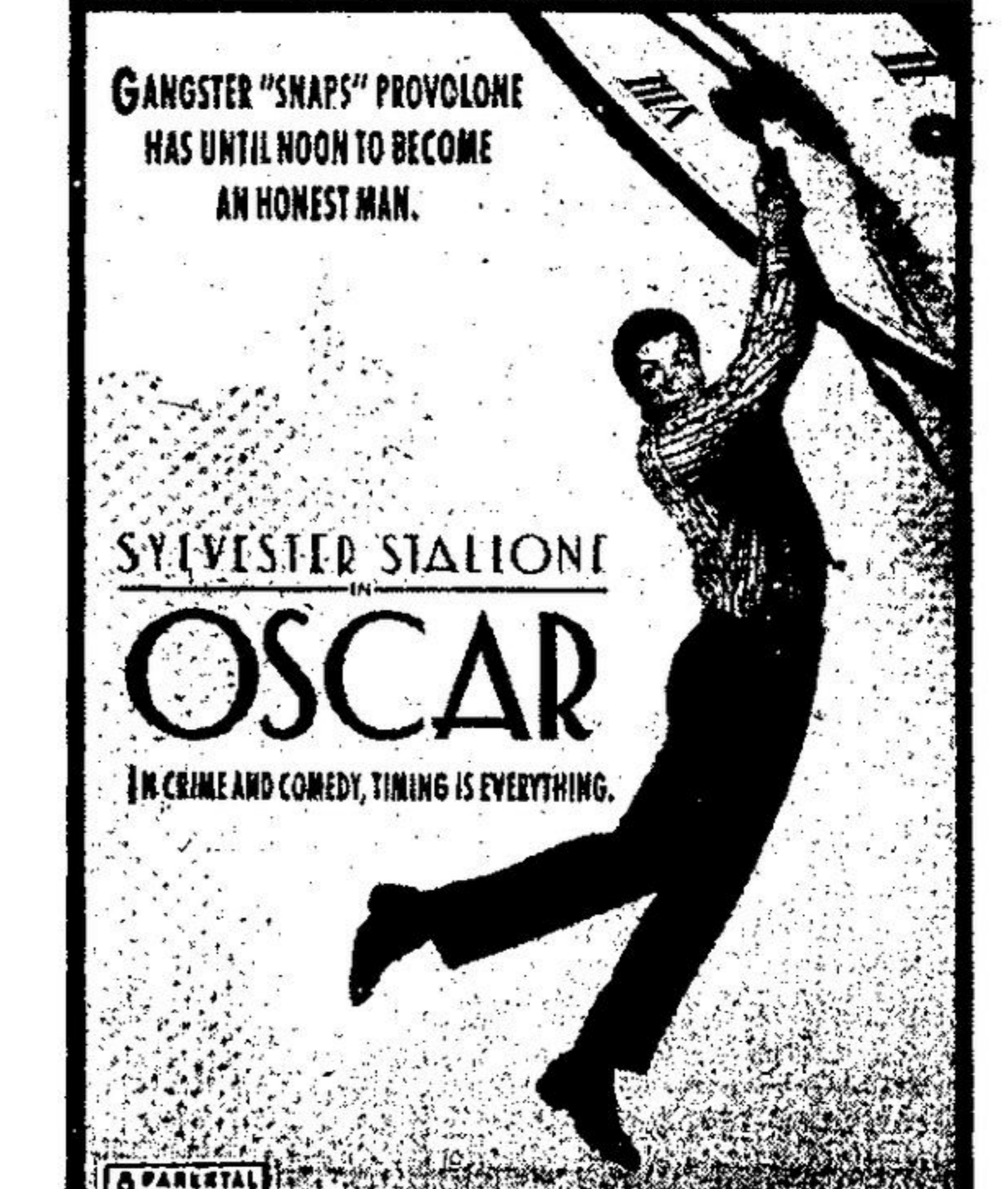
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