

Arts & Entertainment

G.I. Jane falls prey to Hollywood conventions

You've really got to hand it to Demi Moore.

Although some of her recent films have been neither financial nor artistic successes, she's not afraid to go out on a limb or do whatever it takes to make her characters as believable as possible.

For the universally-panned *Striptease*, she underwent cosmetic surgery and learned how to thrust and gyrate like a pro for her role as a single mother who works as an exotic dancer. In *The Scarlet Letter*, she went medieval to play glamour-less harlot Hester Prynne.

For *G.I. Jane*, she shaves her head and builds such a buff bod that even tough-guy hubby Bruce Willis would be envious.

Like those other films, however, her personal sacrifices and willingness to live the part are all for naught.

In *G.I. Jane*, Moore plays Navy operations officer Jordan O'Neil, a smart, ambitious and frustrated lieutenant who's restricted to desk duty because of the corps' reluctance to allow women into combat.

She finally gets an opportunity to break through the glass ceiling when she's recruited to be the first female SEAL, the Navy's elite combat battalion.

Unbeknownst to O'Neil, the opportunity is more than simply an attempt to bring equality to the SEAL program; it's actually being used to make political points.

A U.S. senator (Anne Bancroft) wants to be known as the woman who helped make the corps co-ed, while a couple of chauvinistic navy officers are anxious to see her fail and make a point that women aren't fit to be soldiers.

Much of the film's action takes the form of a navy training film. O'Neil is put through the paces and forced to participate in the same grueling exercises as her male counterparts. Naturally, she also has to overcome the resentment of her commanding officer and fellow recruits — how deeply symbolic, the war for equality continues off the battle field.

That kind of tired cliché is indicative of the flaws that plague the film.

Directed by Ridley Scott, *G.I. Jane* is a vapid Easter egg of a film; it's visually pleasing, but empty. Like most of his recent



Screen Scene
 Stuart Green

films (*White Squall*, *Black Rain*, 1492: *The Conquest of Paradise*), Scott has

created a big, glossy, noisy film that epitomizes style over substance.

When the action is out in the fields, the film is well-photographed, albeit tiresome. But when the story turns to the characters, it's just plain silly.

The situations are over dramatized, the dialogue over scripted and the acting overblown.

Moore's performance is more notable for the personal, off-screen sacrifices she had to endure during the filming than her on-screen work which is weak, to say the least.

G.I. Jane may have started with noble ambitions, but it falls prey to Hollywood convention early and often.

Mimic also disappointing

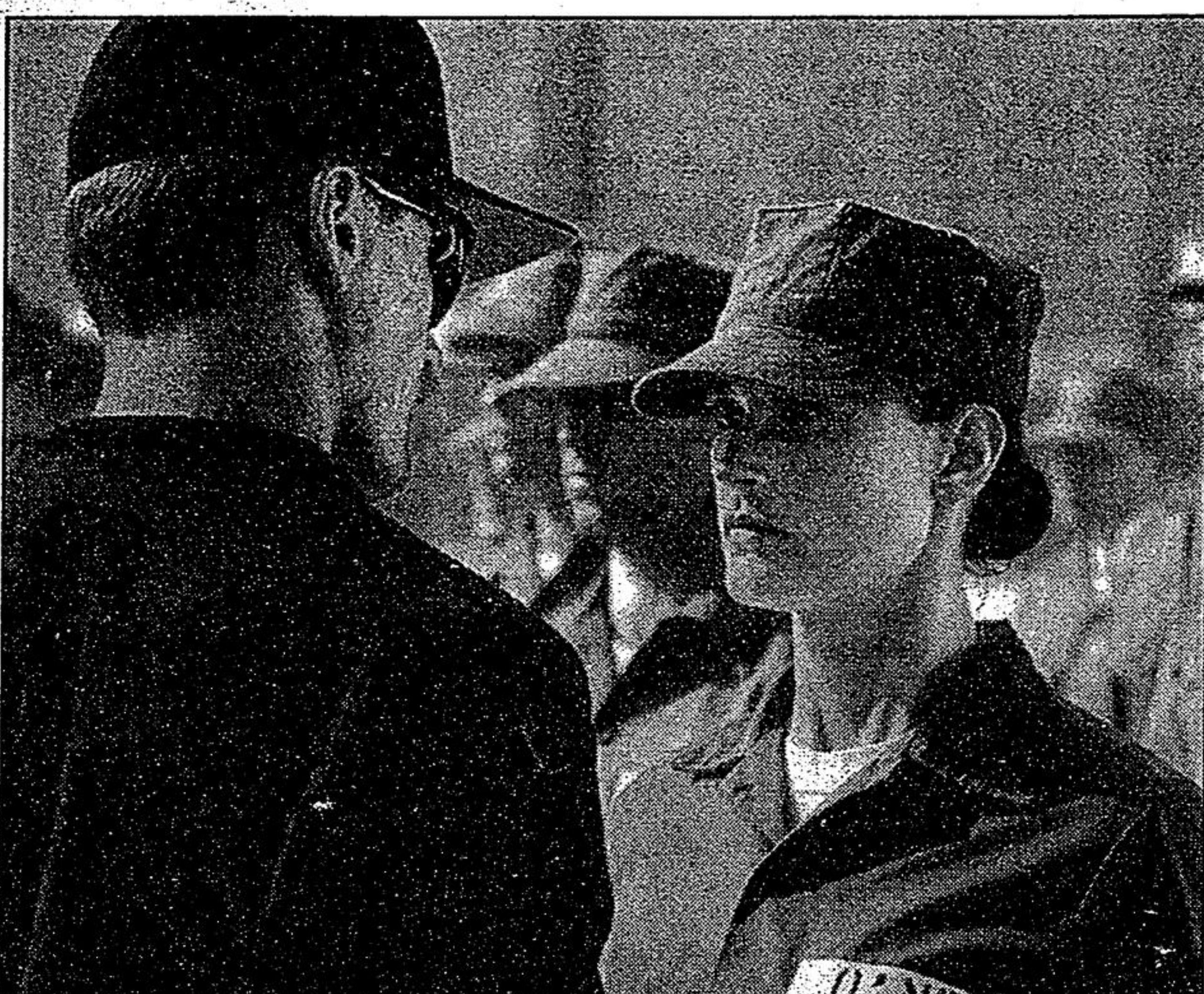
A similar fate befalls *Mimic*, the latest entry in this summer's busy science fiction/horror sweepstakes.

Mira Sorvino stars as entomologist Susan Tyler, the head of a scientific team that develops a new breed of super bug which is used to stop a deadly plague.

Three years after the plague ends, though, strange things start happening in New York's underground. The super bugs, which were genetically engineered to die off in three months, are believed to be responsible.

Mimic starts out as a very promising fantasy thriller with Sorvino heading up a pretty solid cast that includes F. Murray Abraham and Charles S. Dutton. But things fall apart about 30 minutes in when the action moves to New York's underground (actually a Toronto sound stage). There, the film turns into a routine monster movie.

Apart from some good special effects and a couple of genuine thrills, *Mimic* is very disappointing.



FIRST FEMALE SEAL: Demi Moore stars as the first woman allowed to train as a highly covert Navy SEAL in Ridley Scott's new film, *G.I. Jane*. (Top) Viggo Mortensen plays a naval intelligence officer who gives Lt. Jordan O'Neil (Moore) a hard time during training. (Right) a mud-covered Moore perseveres against near-impossible odds to succeed in the most honoured fighting force in America.



Town Crier has new 'pitcher package' on Tuesdays and Thursdays

THE TOWN CRIER RESTAURANT & PUB

Open for real English breakfast seven days a week. Introducing the new "pitcher package" on Tuesdays and Thursdays. 60-oz. pitcher of beer with either wings or nachos for \$13.50. Come sample our brand new lunch and dinner specials prepared by George the Chef. Live entertainment every Friday night. Located at 6298 Main St., please call 642-6937 for details.

FOOTLOOSE NITE CLUB

Slo-pitch Sundays: the best of classic rock featuring "Dr. Wobbly Pops" live Flashback Mondays: D.J. Scratch spins the best R&B, Hip Hop, Old Skool, Reggae. Turnabout Tuesdays: Eric Norris teaches beginner country line dancing 7-11 to 11 p.m. Whirlwind Wednesdays: D.J.'s Brandon and

Adrian spin all alternative new and retro. Thursdays: Norris teaches intermediate to advanced country line and partner dances, 7:30-9:30. All request country dance 9:30 to 11 p.m. All request new country, dance and rock 11 p.m.-2 a.m. Funbar Fridays: D.J. Griz spins all request hits and classics. The Bomb Saturdays: D.J. Gerbs and special guests spin the best R&B, Hip Hop, Old Skool, Reggae. All ages every week. Over 16 a must. Call 294-9728 for more details.

FULLERTON'S

Tonight Trivia returns with new host Bill McKee, from 7-9 p.m. Highway 61 follows, cranking out the tunes from 9 p.m. to 1:30. Friday and Saturday brings back Grant Fullerton, followed by the popular Celebrity Jam on Sunday night from 6 to 10. Located at 6211 Main St. Please call 642-

5360 for details.

SGT. PEPPERS PUB & GRILL

Wednesday it's Margarita & Pizza night. On Sunday nights bring your voice, instrument and friends to Jam Night and Industry Night, starting at 6 p.m. Located at 5694 Hwy. 7, Markham. Call 471-9876.

JAKES ON MAIN PUB AND GRILLE

Monday night it's 2 for 1 wings. Tuesday get 1-lb. burgers for \$6.95. All the sports on 20 TVs. Great specials for sports teams. Located at 202 Main St., Unionville. Please call 470-6955.

HERITAGE ARMS

Live music is back on Thursday and Saturdays in September. Half-price wings on Mondays and Tuesdays. There are 24 draft beers on tap and an outdoor patio. The



upstairs bar is available for private parties. Please call 294-1300.

HOBBY HORSE ARMS

Please call 852-6126 for details. **FRIENDS ON MAIN PUB & GRILL** Enjoy some of the finest foods while jamming with Grainne on Tuesdays and Fridays. Tonight they will be hosting the Gypsygrass band. Anyone interested in performing, anytime, please call 472-8423. Located at 76 Main St.

To promote your event in Spotlight, fax the details to (905) 294-1538, mail to 9 Heritage Rd., Markham, L3P 1M3, or e-mail to econsun@litarca.