

FILM REVIEW

STAR INTERVIEWS

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MICKEY ROURKE
THERESA RUSSELL

AND

TOM SELLECK
STILL THE SHY GUY

WIN!

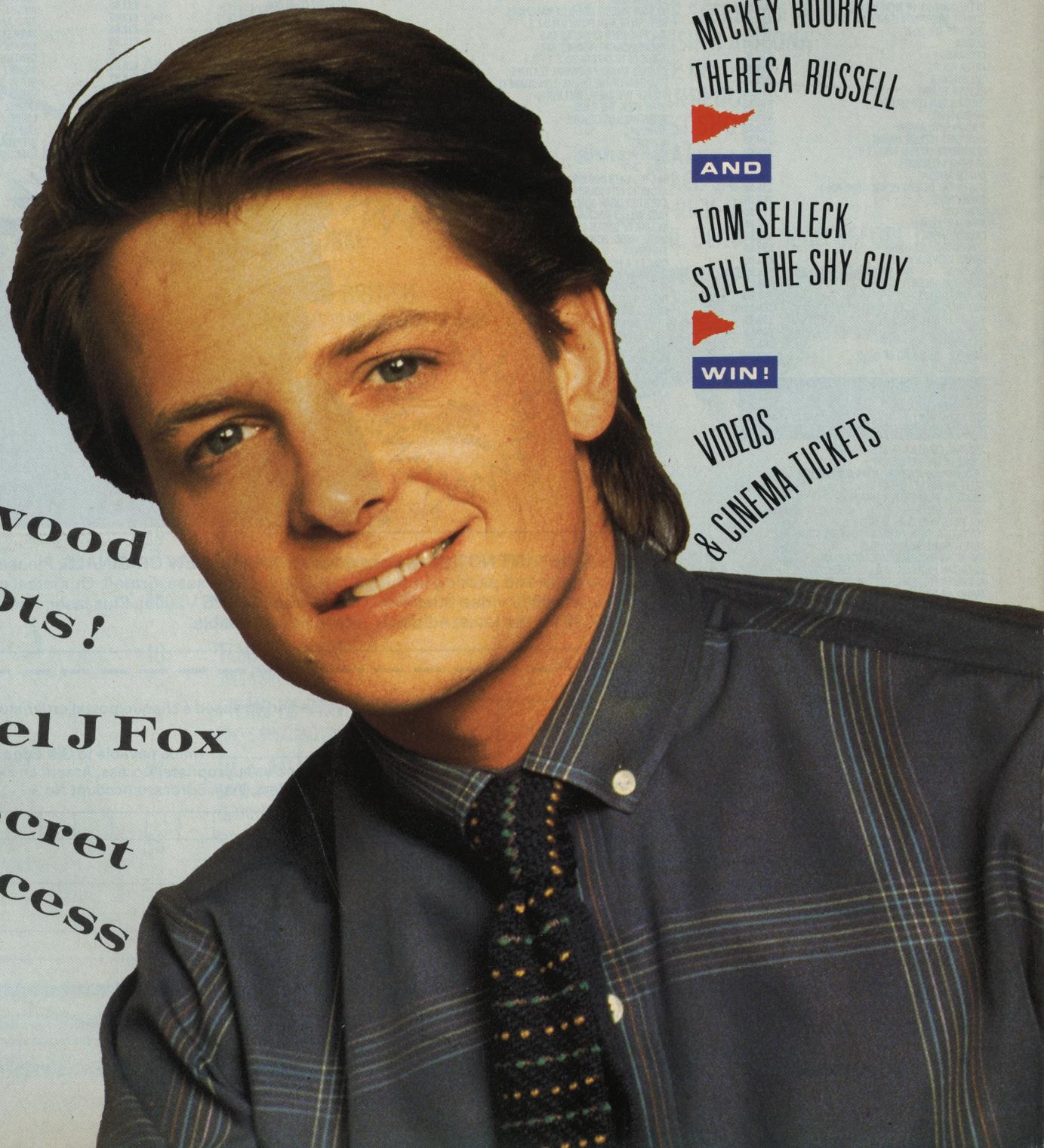
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R · E · V · I · E · W · S

EVIL DEAD II: DEAD BEFORE DAWN

Certificate: 18 Running time: 85 mins.

Cast: **Bruce Campbell** (Ash); **Sarah Berry** (Annie); **Dan Hicks** (Jake); **Kassie Wesley** (Bobby Joe); **Theodore Raimi** (Possessed Henrietta); **Denise Bixler** (Linda); Richard Domeier (Ed); **John Peaks** (Professor Raymond Knoby); **Lou Hancock** (Hanrietta)
 Director: **Sam Raimi**; Screenplay: **Sam Raimi, Scott Siegel**; Producer: **Robert G Tapert**; Executive producers: **Irvin Shapiro, Alex de Benedetti**; Co-producer: **Bruce Campbell**; Director of photography: **Peter Deming**; Director of night exterior photography: **Eugene Shugleit**; Art directors: **Philip Duffin, Randy Bennett**; Editor: **Kay Davis**; Special make-up: **Mark Shostrum**; Music: **Joseph Lo Duca**; Distributors: **Palace Pictures**

Ash and Linda end up in the isolated cabin in the woods that was the scene of the grisly horrors of the Evil Dead and are soon plunged into a nightmare of supernatural terror unleashed by an incantation from the Book of the Dead.

The slender story dreamed up by director Sam Raimi and Scott Siegel simply serves as a boisterous vehicle for the deployment of some of the most enjoyably gross and eye-popping special effects I

have ever seen. And I really *do* mean eye-popping. At one stage in the grisly proceedings an eyeball is forcibly ejected from its socket and hurtles at high speed across the room – to be swallowed whole by unfortunate Sarah Berry!

It is certainly gruesome. Raimi fills his film with wicked humour so that it emerges more as very black comedy than as an out-and-out shocker. Not that there are not plenty of well-contrived shocks. But the hideous events that take place on a traditionally stormy night in the isolated cabin in the woods first seen in *Evil Dead* are horrible rather than horrifying. *Evil Dead II* is destined to become a camp classic for audiences who enjoy having their funny-bones tickled as well as having the hairs raised on the back of their necks.

If the movie has a moral, it is "don't play around with strange tape recorders". Bruce Campbell's girlfriend Denise Bexler does and the incantation that emerges from the machine unleashes the unpleasant forces of the Evil Dead with predictably disastrous results. Bixler is the first to go (although she does reappear later as a severed head who proves her sincere attachment to Campbell – even after death – by sinking her teeth into his hand and steadfastly refusing to let go).

The undoubtedly nasty set-pieces – and they come almost non-stop – are skilfully spiced by Raimi with splendid jokes to lighten his gore-and-guts opera. "Who's laughing now?", enquires Campbell as he

cuts off his hand. When he trapped the amputated organ under a bucket to confine its depradations, he places a load of books on top to keep the receptacle in place. And which book has pride of place? You guessed it – *A Farewell To Arms*. A stuffed deer's head on the wall comes to life to snigger at the suffering humans and offer them redundant advice on how to deal with their predicament.

Raimi maintains such a fast pace that you have no time to consider the basic lunacy of the plot. He simply carries you along with his wild welter of Tom and Jerry style violence and a dazzling display of extraordinary effects. Full marks go, in particular, to Mark Shostrum, designer and creator of the highly inventive make-up and to the rushing point-of-view camerawork of Eugene Sugleit and Peter Deming who drag you right into the centre of the action whether or not you want to be taken there.

While performances necessarily take a back seat to the amazing visual excesses on offer, the players rise adequately to the occasion and Campbell more than adequately. His resourceful hero is the kind of man to make 007 and Rambo resemble shrinking violets by comparison. Laughs come as readily as shudders and where most sequels fail to match the impact of their predecessors, in this case the second excels the first, modestly described in the end credits as "the ultimate experience in gruelling terror".

ALAN FRANK

F · I · L · M · C · R · O · S · S · W · O · R · D

You can win two double guest tickets for one of the two leading circuits – Cannon or Odeon – excluding the West End of London and those where advance booking applies. The prizes will be awarded to the first 18 all-correct entries opened on 26th June. The answers will appear in our August issue and winners' names in September.

ANSWERS TO APRIL CROSSWORD

ACROSS: 7. Aileen. 8. Kinski. 10. La Motta. 11. Lloyd. 12. Nana. 13. Alien. 17. Nicol. 18. Toto. 22. Lange.

DOWN: 1. Darling. 2. Fleming. 3. Bette. 4. Nielson. 5. Ascot. 6. Gilda. 9. Paul Hogan. 14. Liberty. 15. Love Bug.

16. Forster. 19. Close. 20. Angel. 21. Edgar.

WINNERS OF MARCH CROSSWORD

2 double guest tickets go to:

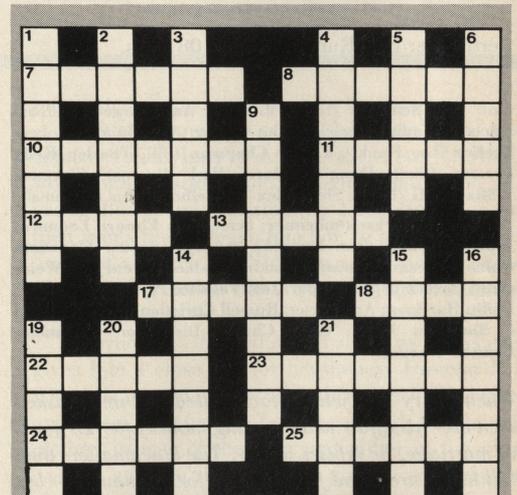
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ACROSS

- A Jeff Goldblum film. (3,3)
- A Bo Derek film. (6)
- He (surname) had title role in *Finnian's Rainbow*. (7)
- Famous literary character recalled in *Dreamchild*. (5)
- Film in which Julie Andrews portrayed Gertrude Lawrence. (4)
- Actor (first name) in both *Poltergeist* films. (5)
- A popular Anthony Quinn title role. (5)
- John Savage-Treat Williams musical. (4)
- Actor (first name) in *War Zone* and *Percy*. (5)
- Actor (surname) in *Legal Eagles* and *Out of Africa*. (7)
- A Lauren Bacall-James Garner film. (3,3)
- A Robin Williams title role. (6)

DOWN

- Surname of composer featured in *The Great Waltz*. (7)
- Fiction's Rupert of – has been played by Douglas Fairbanks Jr (1937) and James Mason (1952). (7)
- First name of star of *Roustabout* and *Blue Hawaii*. (5)
- Actor (surname) in *Ghostbusters* and *Little Shop of Horrors*. (7)
- A Woody Allen title role. (5)
- Word in title of film for which Paul Newman won an Oscar. (5)
- Meryl Streep-Jack Nicholson film. (9)
- C. Thomas Howell title role. (4,3)
- Word in title of film starring Harrison Ford and Lesley-Anne Down. (7)
- Actor (surname) in *Jagged Edge* and *Starman*. (7)
- Word in title of a Mikhail Baryshnikov-Gregory Hines film. (5)
- Word in title of an Alan Alda-Michael Caine film. (5)
- Nickel precedes it for a Ryan O'Neal – Burt Reynolds film. (5)



Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss) _____

Address _____

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