

# Spring films generate discussion, boredom



**Reel to Reel**  
By Stephen Brown  
Staff Writer

Two new movies promise to add some sizzle to one of the most lackluster movie seasons. "Ruby," a complex political drama, promises to examine the mystery Americans have been talking about since the release of its not-so-distant predecessor, "JFK." Psycho-thriller "Basic Instinct" tries to shock its audience with some of the most explicit sex scenes to hit mainstream Hollywood. Both films succeed at generating discussion in the movie-going community, but the word on these two high-profile releases is mixed. You may dislike these films as much as I did, or you may like them, but one thing is for certain: Don't believe the hype.

Talk about timing. As soon as I saw advertisements touting "Ruby" as the story of the man who killed the man who killed JFK, I began to wonder. Could it be that Oliver Stone had been planning a big-budget extravaganza about the presidential assassination, and other filmmakers wanted to jump on its coattails? At any rate, "Ruby" does not hold a candle to Stone's stirring vision of conspiracy. The makers of "Ruby" have taken a small part of a multi-layered historical event and further complicated the situation, instead of clarifying the mystery surrounding Lee Harvey Oswald's shooting. "Ruby" takes its viewer to nightclubs, to smoke-filled rooms, and to Cuba, but rarely to enlightenment or entertainment. Danny Aiello does a convincing job as Jack Ruby, a man torn between his convictions and the criminal world around him. Only in the film's final stretch

does the audience get a glimpse of emotion. The film's final moment of catharsis and revenge rings of "Taxi Driver." I only wish the rest of the film had intrigued me as much. "Basic Instinct" is a self-consciously shocking thriller from "Robocop" director Paul Verhoeven. Its highlight is a fresh performance from Sharon Stone as an ice pick-wielding femme fatale. Yes, the controversial sex scenes are showy, but sex scenes do not make a cinematic masterpiece. After all, sex between unsympathetic characters can never be erotic. Stilted dialogue and one-dimensional characters make this one of the most ill-planned and poorly executed mysteries to hit the screen. Lines like "She's evil ... and brilliant!" cry out for criticism. The cliché-ridden script offers few surprises, no developed characters and mediocre thrills. Protesters of the film's portray-

als of bisexual characters have a valid point: No movie characters deserve such shoddy development.

**Movie Review**  
**Basic Instinct: C-**  
starring:  
Michael Douglas  
Sharon Stone  
**Ruby: B-**  
starring:  
Danny Aiello  
Sherilyn Fenn



Tom Dalton, Angela Eckard and Jane Messmer (l to r).

## 'Reckless' comedy features hitmen, attempted murders

**From Staff Reports**  
The comic story of a modern woman dogged by misfortune will be staged April 16 to 18 and 22 to 26 at the Longstreet Theatre. "Reckless," performed by USC theater students, will begin at 8 p.m. on all dates except April 26, when there will be a 3 p.m. matinee. Written by Craig Lucas in 1983, "Reckless" begins as a cheery tale late one snowy Christmas Eve. Rachel, a contented wife and mother of two boys, recounts nostalgic memories of past holidays to her husband Tom. In the midst of her recollections, Tom announces that he has taken out a contract on her life. As the hitman bustles through the house downstairs, Tom urges Rachel to escape through the bedroom window. Rachel, clad only in her bathrobe and slippers, accepts a ride from a stranger named Lloyd and embarks on a long series of bizarre misadventures that includes a game show parody, poisoned champagne, assassination attempts,

embezzlement and exaggerated psychotherapists. "It's a madcap comedy with lots of twists and turns, but everything comes together at the end," Director Barrett Whitener, a USC graduate student, said. "People will laugh a lot. It's a very funny show." The leading roles are played by graduate theater students. They are Angela Eckard as Rachel; Tom Dalton as Lloyd; Jane Mesmer as Lloyd's wife Pooty; and Wanda Getsug as the six psychotherapists. Minor roles are played by other USC theater students. Costume designer is USC faculty member Nancy Underwood. Set designer is theater student Todd Stuart and the lighting designer is theater student Jim Hart. Tickets to the show are \$9 for the public; \$8 for USC faculty and staff, senior citizens and military personnel and \$5 for students. Tickets are available at the Longstreet Theatre box office at 777-2551 between noon and 5 p.m. For further information call 777-4288.

## Philharmonic Orchestra features guest artists "Holiday Celebration" in 1992-93

By GREG RICKABAUGH  
Carolinal Editor

Violins, pianos, and cellos are among the highlights of the 1992-93 season of the South Carolina Philharmonic and Chamber Orchestra. Executive Director Mark Huber said the upcoming season will be "one of the most interesting and exciting in the history of the South Carolina Philharmonic." The season includes six Philharmonic performances, four Chamber performances, a Palmetto Pops concert and a special "Holiday Celebration" concert.




Photo courtesy of Steven J. Sherman

Catherine Comet will be leading the Philharmonic during the upcoming season.

The Philharmonic also has invited such guest artists as cellist Carter Brey, violinist Ruben Gonzalez, pianists Ursula Oppens and Susan Starr and violinist Sarah Johnson to perform with the orchestra. Five Music Director candidates will conduct major works by Tchaikovsky, Stravinsky, Mahler, Dvorak and Shostakovich. The candidates were chosen through an international search, and one of the conductors will be chosen as the new music director of the South Carolina Philharmonic Orchestra.

Other events of the upcoming season include:  
● Resident Conductor Robert Kemsley will open the 1992-93 season with a concert featuring tenor Gary Burgess and the South Carolina Chamber Orchestra.  
● Conductor Larry Wyatt will lead the South Carolina Philharmonic Orchestra, The Columbia Choral Society and the South Carolina Philharmonic Chorus for a special "Holiday Celebration."  
● Artist advisor Catherine Comet will lead the Philharmonic concert of the season.

● The Palmetto Pops sends an "Invitation to the Dance" to Columbia area residents. America's favorite Pops conductor (and harmonica virtuoso) Richard Hayman, will lead the Palmetto Pops Orchestra in a caberet-style concert featuring the world's most popular dance music. The season starts Tuesday, Oct. 6 at 8 p.m. at the Keenan Theater. Subscriptions to the upcoming season series are now available. For subscription information and a brochure call the Philharmonic office at 771-7937.




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"CURRENT EVENTS & THE MEDIA"


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7:00 P.M.

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This program is paid for, in part, by Student Activity Fees.



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