'Somewhere In Time'... ...romantic, emotional

"Somewhere In Time" is the story of a young man who falls in love with the photograph of a beautiful woman and travels back in time to find her.

Christopher Reeve, who excites a legion of admirers as "Superman," stars as Richard Collier, the playwright whose only obstacle to romance is time itself.

Beautiful Jane Seymour is Elise McKenna, the stunning actress whose haunting features draw him back to 1912. The unimpeachable Christopher Plummer plays William Fawcett Robinson, the theatrical impresario who thinks he owns her, body and soul.

"It's a return to pure romanticism," says Jeannot Szwarc, the French-born director who took over the reins of "Jaws 2" and brought it in to spectacular box office results.

"This is an emotional film; it's very old fashioned," Jeannot continues with acute Gallic emphasis. "It's about idealistic love, which I think is the way it should be."

"Somewhere In Time" marks the producing debut of 33-year-old Stephen Deutsch, formerly senior vice-president of Rastar Films, which has underwritten the project with Universal Pictures. In 1975, when Deutsch first read Richard Matheson's novel, "Bad Time Return," he knew he would someday see it as a movie, and always hoped he'd be the one to make it happen.

Christopher Reeve as Richard Collier

Jane Seymour as Elise McKenna

THE STORY

In the seven years since his college triumphs, Richard Collier (Christopher Reeve) has run out of gas.

As a playwright, he's been produced with continued success, but he's up against a writer's block and can't seem to hurtle it. His personal life is a shambles. His agent is bugging him about impossible deadlines, Collier leaves his cushy Chicago penthouse and heads north along Lake Shore Drive, out of the city, in search of something . . . more.

Richard is drawn to the area of his old collegiate stomping grounds. He checks into the venerable old Grand Hotel (itself), a magnificent neo-classical structure. Anxious for the splendid dining room to open, he wanders aimlessly through the deserted lobby and into the hotel's "Hall of History," where he is inexplicably attracted to the photograph of an extraordinarily beautiful young woman, taken in 1912.

In the process of learning who she is, Richard realizes that he actually met this woman once, under the most baffling of circumstances. She had signaled him out of a crowd of well-wishers after the production of one of his student plays. It was 1972. She had pressed an antique timepiece into his hands and whispered, cryptically, "Come back to me."

As those words had so confounded him then, now the vision of Elise McKenna (Jane Seymour) overwhelms Collier's every sensation. He tries to learn everything about her—that she was a sophisticated actress of light comedy until 1912, when she retired from the public and presented herself only on stage, professionally, one of the era's most brilliant (ingénionnes) that she was an independent woman who never married but allowed herself to be dominated by a Svengali-like manager, the formidable William Fawcett Robinson (Christopher Plummer).

Evidence convinces Richard that he has met Elise McKenna not once, but twice—the first time back in 1912.

Although this is already too much to fathom, Collier knows he must delve even further to find an answer to this mysterious, seemingly impossible situation. Richard wills himself beyond reason into the past, into the elegant yesterday of the Grand Hotel and Elise McKenna.

Here, midway through "Somewhere In Time," the story begins anew ... the wooing ... the winning ... the one true love ...

Romantic? Unabashedly. Fantastic? No doubt about it. Yet, Richard Matheson, a successful author and screenwriter for the past 25 years, imagined that the storyline he divined as "Bid Time Return" might be the answer to what happened to Maude Adams, the illustrious turn-of-the-century actress whose picture at the Virginia City Opera House had mesmerized him from the moment he laid eyes on it.

Christopher Reeve is terrific in his first film outing since "Superman" and he is a fine actor and a first-rate and exciting romantic lead handling drama and comedy with equal skill.

Jane Seymour is lovely and mesmerizing enough to justify Reeves' grand romantic obsession with her.

The film reminds one of the great Hollywood romantic classics of the 1940s . . . "Portrait of Jennie" and "The Ghost and Mrs. Muir."

Arthur Miller here for gala opening

By Ida Peters

Arthur Miller, one of America's most distinguished playwrights, whose plays are being performed all over Maryland by college and other little theatres was in town Tuesday for press interviews.

What may have been one of the largest press contingents, TV, radio, and print press from all over the State of Maryland and from D.C. . . . even the Voice of America, attended the press breakfast.

He opened the press conference with the statement, "I'm here, you're here and No!, I will not give a synopsis of my play. I'm here to slake your appetite but to whet it."

"The American Clock" is about the Great Depression . . . about people and their capacity to survive, relate to their country and to each other," Miller said. He laughingly said the play has no dancing girls but does involve music.

Arthur Miller

Miller says he believes that the Civil War and the Great Depression were two events that affected everybody and practically "nobody in this country escaped." While the play is not autobiographical, he lived thru the Depression of the 1930s and his play has some of the amusing effects, some hilarious and some tragic.

In 1949, Miller's "Death of a Saleman" was given the Pulitzer Prize and the Drama Critics Circle Award. "The Crucible" won a Tony Award four years later. "A View from the Bridge," "A Memory Of Two Mondays," "The Price," "After The Fall," "Incident At Vichy," a novel, stories and essays are among his other works.

His screenplays include "The Misfits" and one based on Ernie Pyles's reports, "The Story Of GI Joe."

A new musical, "Up From Paradise," with composer Stanley Silverman is scheduled for Broadway. Two books of reportage, "In Russia," and "Chinese Encounters," the latter published this year, were accompanied by photographs by his wife, the famous Inge Morath.

Last season's hit of the London Theatre was the National Theatre production of "Death Of A Salesman." The Beijing People's Theatre is presently discussing a production of "All My Sons" the first in China of an American play.

The Viking Press, this fall, will mark the three millionth copy sold of "Death Of A Salesman" and will publish Volume II of "The Collected Works of Arthur Miller."

Tuesday, Oct. 14 at 7:30 p.m., the Morris A. Mechanic Theatre celebrates its fifth anniversary and theatregoers that evening will be treated to a gala celebration: klieg lights will be installed at the theatre entrance in Hopkins Plaza and patrons will be welcomed with a red carpet. The audience, including Baltimore Mayor William Donald Schaefer and special invited guests will come in formal attire.

On display in the theatre gallery will be a specially mounted exhibition tracing the development of Baltimore's legitimate theatre. After the curtain comes down the entire audience will be treated to a champagne reception in the lobby.

Party for Stephanie

Bill Lane in Hollywood

Stephanie . . . "Sweet Sensation"

STEPHANIE Mills was the star of her own reception the other night at 20th Century Fox Studios, the night before she opened her show gig with Teddy Pendergrass here at the Greek Theatre. At the Greek Stephanie may have been second on the bill, but at the Fox she was Number One. The place was jammed, not just with local deejays and other radio and TV people, plus some press functionaries, but also with hosts of friends of Stephanie and her spouse, Jeff Daniels, of Shalamar. The food was plentiful and so was the booze, and they all boogied until almost dawn, giving the 20th lot more action than it had seen since Barbara Streisand filmed "Hello, Dolly" there. Whatever.

AHMAD Jamal melted the cockles of the feet of many music lovers during his stay at Concerts by The Sea here. It was a signal kickoff for Jamal's brand new album just coming out at Motown. . . D'Urville Martin headed up a smash toasting to Paula Cooke, new in TV circles here, at the Candy Store . . . . The Commodores saw their booking for October 10 into the sports Arena here shifted the new dates of October 11 and 12, at the Pauley Pavilion at UCLA. But Oct. 10, however, is significant for it's the night for Aretha Franklin to appear as a special musical guest on the TV comedy show, "Fridays," on ABC-TV.

TO PUT together his newest Columbia alubm, "Touch of Silk," guitarist Eric Gayle went to New Orleans and into Allen Toussaint's recording studios. He took with him ace musicians Grover Washington Jr., Idris Muhammad, Arthur Blythe and Charlie Earland to round out the Gayle sound. Toussaint produced the album, and does keyboarding on it. Call it swamp funk, or whatever, it's some real good music. Especially on Carol Connors' "With You I'm Born Again" and Charlie Parker's "Au Privave."

LZON HUFF has a real groovy, stomp - down, barrelhouse tune in his new album, "Here to Create Music," which he just turned out with the help of Stevie Wonder. It's a stomper called "I Ain't Jivin', I'm Jamin'." It's a real houserocker. Let's see Richard Tee top that one.

And speaking of Tee, he was really righteous on TV's "Midnight Special." Tee was also heavily instrumental in Paul Simon's "One - Trick Pony" production which hit on TV in special national markets recently prior to its general release this month. The music for "One - Trick Pony," available on Warner Records, stars Paul Simon, Richard Tee, Steve Gadd, Eric Gale and Ralph MacDonald, all of whom are already high popular for providing music in all those "Stuff" albums.

Teachers Night at Museum

The Baltimore Museum of Art will offer an evening of special programs and workshops, Oct. 23, 7-10 p.m., focusing on how teachers, student teachers, curriculum specialists and school administrators might use the Museum's resources most successfully and creatively.

Mini-tours, workshops, films and an informal reception are among the evening's offerings.

Sister Joanne Ryan, Associate Professor of Art at Caldwell College and specialist in interdisciplinary aesthetic education, will present a talk entitled "The Museum and The Educator."

In addition, three private workshops on using the museum creatively in the school curriculum will be offered. Workshop leaders are Kelly Coleson, Education Specialist at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden; Peter Pipim, Education Technician at the Museum of African Art, and Malcolm Daniel, Education Assistant at The Baltimore Museum of Art.

Teachers are invited to attend with family and friends; however, enrollment in these free sessions is limited, so call 396-6320 for further information and reservations.

Free films

Admission to all film programs is free.

Two Sherlock Holmes thrillers, "The Hound Of the Baskervilles," starring Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce, and "Silver Blaze," with Christopher Plummer as Holmes and Thorsy Walters as Watson, will be screened at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 12, at the Central Library, 400 Cathedral St.

Using still photographs and filmed sequences to re-create the social and political climate of the Harlem renaissance of the 1920s, "From These Roots," with commentary by Brock Peters and music by Eubie Blake, will be screened at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 15, at the Waverly branch, 2263 W. North Ave.

One of the most "supernatural" of all the Star Trek episodes, "Cat's Paw," will be screened at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 15, at the Light Street branch, 1251 Light St.

A Hitchcock classic about an American journalist who tries to track down a European spy ring, "Foreign Correspondent" will be screened at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 15, at the Canton center, 1030 S. Ellwood Ave.

Laurel and Hardy, this time as maestros salesmen, and up at a resort in the Alps in "Swiss Miss," to be screened at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 15, at the Pelts Point center, 404 S. Ann St.

An angel is sent to earth to convince a man (James Stewart) that life is worth living in the comedy-drama "It's a Wonderful Life," to be screened at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 15, at the Hamilton branch, 5910 Harford Rd.

"Go Ask Alice," the true story of a teen-age girl caught in the vicious web of drug addiction, will be screened at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 16, at the Waverly branch, 400 E. 33d St.

An edited version of the silent German film classic, "Dracula," along with "The Chimp," starring Laurel and Hardy, will be screened at 4 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 16, at the Forest Park Center, 3646 Washington Blvd.

"Uberfall," a German avant-garde film using inventive cinematic devices to heighten tension and suspense, and "The Man With the Movie Camera," an experimental Soviet documentary, will be screened at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 16, at the Central Library, 400 Cathedral St. Piano accompaniment will be provided by silent film specialist Dick Price.

Events for children

Tuesday, Oct. 14

Highlandtown Center: Films — "The Ugly Duckling," "That's All We Need" and "Mowgli's Brothers," 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 15

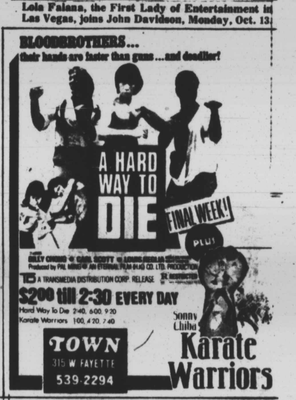
Waverly Branch: Films — "Andy and the Lion," "Ananse" and "Ananse the Spider," 10:30 a.m.

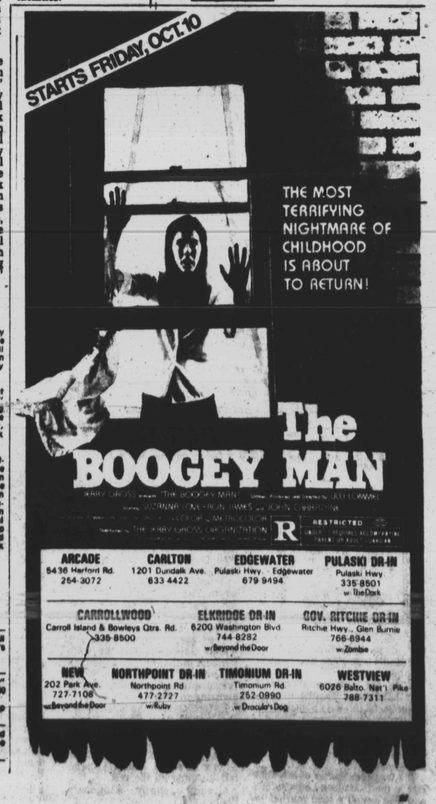
Walbrook Branch: Film — "Up in the Air," 1 p.m.

Broadway Branch: Films — "Philip and the White Colt" and Brothers Colt" and "A Lad in the Lamp," 2 p.m.

Pelts Point Center: Film — "Swiss Miss," 7 p.m.

Lola Falana, the First Lady of Entertainment in Las Vegas, joins John Davidson, Monday, Oct. 13.





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If you ask me...

By Betye Moss

The Sewells lived 86 years

"One of the most inspiring family reunions held in Baltimore recently was the one where the Rev. Walter H. Sewell honored his wife of fifty-six years, Mamie Allen Parker Sewell ("Mamie").

The Sewells, whose beautiful home daily their loving years, were served Alma M. Jackson, the first retired Methodist minister, the first pastor of Franklin Street in Churchton, Md., where he served for long 10 years of service. Their seven children, in-laws, 15 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren and family friends participated in the salute to Mamie Sewell. It was held last month at the Lebherz home of daughter and son-in-law, Margaret and Charles W. Wells. (She's the Social Security employee; he's the printer.)

The other Sewell children and in-laws present were: Mary Allen, the nurse; Walter, the postal employee and his wife, Antiqua; William, the A and P employee, and his wife, Sadie;

Also, Mabel Wright, the Social Security employee; Jessie Thomas, the government employee and her husband, Charles, and Margaret Sewell Bryant, the IRS employee, and his wife, Brenda.

The formal program featured prayer, song of thanksgiving and tributes, followed by buffet supper.

Particularly moving were the offerings by the grandchildren — Karen Wright, 12, and Russell Sewell, 14, performing a duet number of the hymn, "Ride Ride Ride Ride." Rhonda Alma Jackson, 17-year-old Charles Thomas, in presenting mementos to the Rev. and Mrs. Sewell.

A great grandchild, 10-month-old Kevin Wright, read an original poem, entitled "Roses Are Red." Kevin is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Melbourne, and Mrs. Wright, Mr. Lester Williams, Mr. Lester Williams, Mr. Lester Williams