

Movies: Top 10 picks for '87 difficult to make

By Kathy Amen

1987 was a good year for cinema fans -- so good, in fact, that I had trouble limiting my best list to the customary 10. Really outstanding movies were rare last year, but there were a lot of witty, well made and entertaining ones:

Angel Heart. Scary, smart and stylish, this murder mystery with supernatural overtones is not for the squeamish, but great cinema for those who can handle it. Robert De Niro is a wonderful devil.

The Big Easy. Another murder mystery with the side story romantic instead of terrifying. Dennis Quaid and Ellen Barkin are the couple here who engage in one of the year's most erotic bedroom scenes.

Broadcast News. This romantic comedy also makes some not-so-funny comments on the public's preference for show-biz over substance in their newscasts. It features a terrific performance by William Hurt and similar good work from Holly Hunter and Albert Brooks.

Empire of the Sun. An epic, visually stunning coming-of-age tale set in China during the Japanese occupation of World War II. Newcomer Christian Bale is the star and he gives an amazing performance.

Fatal Attraction. This thriller isn't perfect, but it's well-made, exciting, original and features

excellent performances. Glenn Close is especially good in a role that has sparked more widespread comments, criticism and arguments than any in recent memory.

Innerspace. A warmly entertaining and perfectly paced science fantasy that leaves *Fantastic Voyage* in the starting blocks as far as movies about human innards are concerned. Dennis Quaid is in this one, too, but the star of the show is Martin Short.

No Way Out. This fast-moving political thriller has a nice little romance on the side as well. It features another quite steamy duo, this time Kevin Costner and Sean Young. Their prize scene is set in the back seat of a limo, though, instead of a bedroom.

Raising Arizona. This bizarre comedy is strangely affecting and hugely entertaining. Holly Hunter is here again; and Nicholas Cage's performance is wildly wacko, but perfect for this decidedly off-center look at an American family.

The Untouchables. A stylish-made fable rather than a gangster movie, it gives you plenty to think about between shoot-outs. Stars include two repeaters from other movies on my list: Kevin Cosnter for the good guys and Robert De Niro for the bad.

Wall Street. As slick as bad guy Michael Douglas's hairstyle, this parable of good and evil in the stock market has a plot that is too predictable. But it is well acted and entertaining.



Inside a Japanese detention center following their arrest, Basie (John Malkovich, left) gives young Jim Graham (Christian Bale) his first lesson in basic survival -- warding off starvation in *Empire of the Sun*, a drama set against the adult world of war as seen through the eyes of a boy. (Courtesy photo)



Jack Putter (Martin Short, left) congratulates the bride and groom, Lydia Maxwell (Meg Ryan) and Tuck Pendleton (Dennis Quaid) on the happy occasion of their wedding in the adventure-comedy *Innerspace*. (Courtesy photo)