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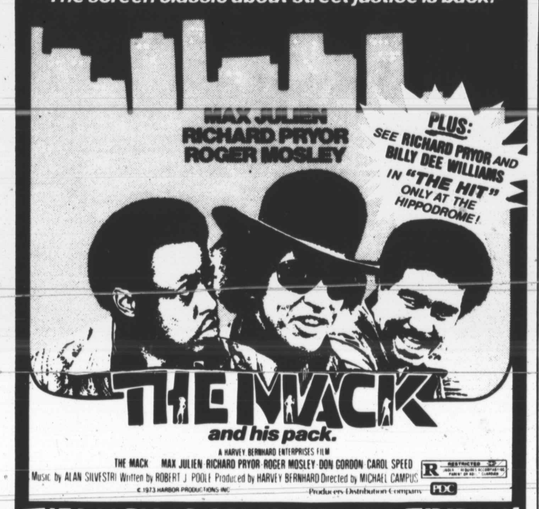

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Movie review

'Mr. Mom'

By Arthur J. Johnson

"Mr. Mom," the new Twentieth Century Fox comedy, is sure to be a huge hit judging from the amount of laughter it caused at its preview screening recently.

Michael Keaton stars as a laid-off automobile industry executive who finds himself in the role of house-husband when his wife (Teri Garr who played Dusin Hoffman's confused girlfriend in "Tootsie") is forced to find work as an advertising executive to make her family's ends meet and abandons her housewife role.

Keaton's misadventures as he tries to tackle laundry, cooking, shopping, housecleaning and the care and feeding of two toddlers and an infant are the stuff of which this comedy is made.

If the plot sounds familiar so far it is because we've seen it all before in television situation comedies (the film is even produced by prolific TV producer Aaron ("Mod Squad") Spelling where the husband practically destroys the home in the process of trying to do simple household tasks and use "hardware" such as the vacuum cleaner and the washing machine.

Predictably present also are the required cute-as-a-button kids who speak as if they have the wit and wisdom of thirty-year-olds.

Also, predictably, the wife becomes a smashing success in the business world, but at the expense of her home life which deteriorates as her corporate success increases. But despite the fact that the role reversal is completely predictable as is everything else that occurs in "Mr. Mom," it is a crowd pleaser — audiences simply love it.

Another surprising fact about the apparent success of "Mr. Mom" is that it succeeds as a comedy without the usual profanity, nudity and crude sexual humor that characterize most popular comedies in the 80s such as "Porky's" and other teenage sex comedies that have flourished at the box office recently. You can actually take children to this movie without embarrassment and they will understand and enjoy the antics of the father and children coping with the sudden absence of mother in the home.

The fact that "Mr. Mom" fills this obvious void of films that the entire family can see and enjoy will contribute to its almost assured success. Most films today are geared toward a teenage audience, and if "Mr. Mom" succeeds it will encourage Hollywood to make more films for adults and children.

The stars, Mr. Keaton and Miss Garr, aren't the most charismatic stars around (they are no Burt Reynolds and Goldie Hawn) and both are usually found in supporting roles in films for which they are probably better suited.

The bright spot in the acting department is Ann Jillian as the sexy and oh-so-helpful neighbor who has designs on Keaton. Miss Jillian, who first gained national attention on Broadway in "Sugar Babies," then on TV in "It's A Living" and the biography of Mae West, trades in her platinum blonde locks for red here and proves herself a sexy comedienne no matter what her choice of hair-color.

Despite its shortcomings, "Mr. Mom" is a treat for those who remember when it was possible to take the whole family to the movies. Those days have returned with "Mr. Mom."

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A complete TV program guide for Baltimore/Washington

Friday-Thursday, September 2-9, 1983

WEEKDAY DAYTIME REGULARS

DAYTIME

MORNING

—6:30—
(9) 20 MINUTE WORKOUT (FRI)
(9) NBC NEWS AT SUNRISE (TUE-THU)
(4) NBC NEWS AT SUNRISE
(7) (9) NEWS
(9) CBS EARLY MORNING NEWS
(9) GILLIGAN'S ISLAND (HBO) MOVIE (FRI)
(HBO) THE ELECTRIC GRANDMOTHER (MON)
(HBO) DR. SEUSS ON THE LOOSE (WED)

—6:45—
(9) A.M. WEATHER

—7:00—
(9) TODAY (TUE-FRI)
(4) TODAY
(5) BUGS BUNNY AND FRIENDS (TUE-FRI)
(7) (9) GOOD MORNING AMERICA
(7) (9) MORNING NEWS
(29) POPEYE AND PALS
(9) THREE STOOGES
(9) UNDERSTANDING HUMAN BEHAVIOR (FRI)
(29) MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY (MON, WED)
(9) IT'S EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS (TUE, THU)
(HBO) DOLLY PARTON MEETS THE KIDS (WED)

—7:30—
(5) GREAT SPACE COASTER (TUE-FRI)
(29) BUGS BUNNY AND FRIENDS
(29) LILIAS, YOGA AND YOU (TUE-THU)
(9) LITTLE RASCALS
(9) SESAME STREET (R)
(HBO) DR. SEUSS ON THE LOOSE (MON)
(HBO) MOVIE (TUE)
(HBO) FRAGGLE ROCK (WED)

—8:00—
(4) (5) JERRY LEWIS TELETHON (CONT'D) (MON)
(5) POPEYE AND FRIENDS (TUE-FRI)
(29) WOODY WOODPECKER
(29) LILIAS, YOGA AND YOU (MON, FRI)
(29) MACNEIL / LEHRER NEWSHOUR (TUE-THU)
(9) THE FLINTSTONES
(HBO) FRAGGLE ROCK (FRI)
(HBO) MOVIE (MON, WED, THU)

—8:30—
(5) TOM AND JERRY (TUE-FRI)
(29) LITTLE RASCALS
(29) MACNEIL / LEHRER REPORT (FRI)
(29) MACNEIL / LEHRER NEWSHOUR (MON, TUE)
(9) GREAT SPACE COASTER
(9) MISTER ROGERS (R)
(HBO) INSIDE THE NFL (FRI)

—9:00—
(9) DONAHUE (TUE-FRI)
(4) TIC TAC DOUGH
(5) INCREDIBLE HULK (FRI)
(5) I LOVE LUCY (TUE-THU)
(7) 20 MINUTE WORKOUT
(9) DONAHUE
(9) YOU ASKED FOR IT
(9) PEOPLE ARE TALKING
(9) W.O.W.!
(29) SESAME STREET (R)
(9) UNTAMED WORLD
(9) THE PARTRIDGE FAMILY
(9) TOMORROW'S FAMILIES, TOMORROW'S FRIENDS
(HBO) LITTLE RIVER BAND IN AUSTRALIA (TUE)

—9:30—
(4) THE FACTS OF LIFE (R)
(5) LEAVE IT TO BEAVER (TUE-THU)
(7) RICHARD SIMMONS
(9) TATTLETALES
(29) ROMPER ROOM
(9) DICK CAVETT
(9) LUCY SHOW
(9) TEACHING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS (MON, FRI)
(9) EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING (TUE-THU)

—10:00—
(9) DIFF'RENT STROKES (R) (TUE-FRI)
(9) (5) JERRY LEWIS TELETHON (CONT'D) (MON)
(4) DIFF'RENT STROKES (R)
(5) SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN (FRI)
(5) ANDY GRIFFITH (TUE-THU)
(7) FAMILY FEUD
(7) MORNING BREAK
(9) THE NEW $25,000 PYRAMID
(9) HOUR MAGAZINE
(29) (9) 700 CLUB
(29) SESAME STREET (R)
(9) ELECTRIC COMPANY (R)
(9) TEACHING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS (MON-WED, FRI)
(9) TEACHING STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS (THU)
(HBO) MOVIE

—10:30—
(9) LAVERNE & SHIRLEY & COMPANY (TUE-FRI)
(4) SALE OF THE CENTURY
(5) BEWITCHED (THU)
(7) EDGE OF NIGHT
(9) CHILD'S PLAY
(9) POLKA DOT DOOR
(9) EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

—11:00—
(9) WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TUE-FRI)
(4) WHEEL OF FORTUNE
(5) I LOVE LUCY (FRI)
(5) MEDICAL CENTER (TUE-THU)
(7) (9) TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT (R)
(7) (9) THE PRICE IS RIGHT
(29) (9) MISTER ROGERS (R)
(9) GED

—11:30—
(9) JOKER'S WILD (TUE-FRI)
(4) DREAM HOUSE
(5) TOM COTTLE: UP CLOSE (FRI)
(7) (9) LOVING
(29) INDEPENDENT NETWORK NEWS
(29) ELECTRIC COMPANY (R)
(9) HIGH FEATHER
(9) I LOVE LUCY (FRI)
(9) BEWITCHED (MON-THU)
(9) EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING
(HBO) MOVIE (FRI)

AFTERNOON

—12:00—
(9) NEWS (TUE-FRI)
(9) (5) JERRY LEWIS TELETHON (MON)
(4) (7) (9) (9) (9) NEWS
(5) PANORAMA (TUE-FRI)
(29) MOVIE
(29) HIGH FEATHER
(9) MACNEIL / LEHRER REPORT (FRI)
(9) MACNEIL / LEHRER NEWSHOUR (MON-THU)
(9) BIG VALLEY
(9) EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING (MON, WED-FRI)
(9) UP ON THE FARM (TUE)
(HBO) STOPWATCH: 30 MINUTES OF INVESTIGATIVE TICKING (MON)
(HBO) NEIL YOUNG IN CONCERT (TUE)
(HBO) LAURENCE OLIVIER AND JACKIE GLEASON AS MR. HALPERN AND MR. JOHNSON (WED)

—12:30—
(9) SEARCH FOR TOMORROW (TUE-FRI)
(4) SEARCH FOR TOMORROW
(7) (9) RYAN'S HOPE
(9) (9) THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS (TUE-FRI)
(7) (9) TENNIS (MON)
(29) DICK CAVETT
(29) OVER EASY (FRI)
(9) TEACHING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS
(HBO) MOVIE (MON)
(HBO) VIDEO JUKEBOX (THU)

—1:00—
(9) DAYS OF OUR LIVES (TUE-FRI)
(4) DAYS OF OUR LIVES
(5) MOVIE (TUE-FRI)
(7) (9) ALL MY CHILDREN
(29) SPECIAL (FRI)
(29) THE MAGIC OF DANCE (MON)
(29) MASTERPIECE THEATRE (TUE)
(29) FRING LINE (WED)
(29) NATURE OF THINGS (THU)
(9) EVENING EXCHANGE
(9) MOVIE
(9) TEACHING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS (MON, FRI)
(9) EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING (TUE-THU)
(HBO) TENNIS (TUE-FRI)

—1:30—
(7) (9) AS THE WORLD TURNS (TUE-FRI)
(9) ANOTHER LIFE
(9) TEACHING STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

—2:00—
(9) ANOTHER WORLD (TUE-FRI)
(9) (5) JERRY LEWIS TELETHON (CONT'D) (MON)
(4) ANOTHER WORLD
(7) (9) ONE LIFE TO LIVE
(29) EYE ON WASHINGTON
(29) MARK RUSSELL (FRI)
(29) GREAT CHEFS OF NEW ORLEANS (MON)
(29) MASTERPIECE THEATRE (TUE)
(29) (9) NOVA (WED)
(29) KENNEDY CENTER TONIGHT (THU)
(9) KUP'S SHOW (FRI)
(9) NATURE OF THINGS (MON)
(9) FRING LINE (TUE)
(9) COSMOS (WED)
(9) NOVA (THU)
(29) EVENING AT POPS (FRI)
(9) EVERYDAY COOKING WITH JACQUES PEPIN (MON)
(9) OLD HOUSEWORKS (TUE)
(9) THE BATTERED WOMAN (THU)

—2:30—
(5) INSIGHT (FRI)
(9) (9) CAPITOL (TUE-FRI)
(29) KID'S BREAK
(29) THE WRITER'S WORLD: E.L. DOCTOROW AND THE AMERICAN MYTH (FRI)
(29) THIS OLD HOUSE (MON)
(9) GOOD EARTH GARDEN (MON)
(9) WOODWRIGHT'S SHOP (TUE)
(HBO) MOVIE (MON)

—3:00—
(9) ALICE (TUE-FRI)
(4) FANTASY
(5) POPEYE AND FRIENDS (TUE-FRI)
(7) (9) GENERAL HOSPITAL
(9) (9) GUIDING LIGHT (TUE-FRI)
(29) THE MUPPETS
(29) ALL ABOUT TV (FRI)
(29) MAGIC OF DECORATIVE PAINTING (MON)
(29) OPEN MIND (TUE)
(29) VICTORY GARDEN (WED)
(29) WILD AMERICA (THU)
(9) VEGETABLE SOUP
(9) LEAVE IT TO BEAVER
(9) THE LAWMAKERS (FRI)
(9) QUILT FEVER (MON)
(9) NOVA (TUE)
(9) MARK RUSSELL (WED)
(9) UNDER SAIL (THU)

—3:30—
(9) ALL IN THE FAMILY (FRI)
(9) WHAT'S HAPPENING!! (TUE-THU)
(5) THE FLINTSTONES (TUE-FRI)
(29) WOODY WOODPECKER
(29) AVA-1: THE 1982 AWARDS IN THE VISUAL ARTS (FRI)
(29) WOODWRIGHT'S SHOP (MON)
(29) OVER EASY (TUE, WED)
(29) THIS OLD HOUSE (THU)
(9) CARRASCOLENDAS
(9) THE FLINTSTONES
(9) CRITICS' PLACE (FRI)
(9) MARK RUSSELL (MON)
(9) MOTORWEEK (WED)
(9) IN PERSON (THU)

—4:00—
(9) LAVERNE & SHIRLEY & COMPANY (FRI)
(9) (5) JERRY LEWIS TELETHON (CONT'D) (MON)
(9) GOOD TIMES (TUE-THU)
(4) CHARLIE'S ANGELS
(5) TOM AND JERRY (TUE-FRI)
(7) MOVIE
(9) HOUR MAGAZINE (TUE-FRI)
(9) SANFORD AND SON (TUE-FRI)
(9) EDGE OF NIGHT
(29) (9) SUPERFRIENDS
(29) (9) SESAME STREET (R)
(9) CHAMPIONS: THE COMPETITIVE EDGE
(HBO) MOVIE (TUE, FRI)
(HBO) DOUGLAS MACARTHUR: THE DEFIANT GENERAL (WED)
(HBO) THE ELECTRIC GRANDMOTHER (THU)

—4:30—
(9) WHAT'S HAPPENING!! (FRI)
(9) WKRP IN CINCINNATI (TUE-THU)
(5) LEAVE IT TO BEAVER (TUE-FRI)
(9) THE JEFFERSONS (TUE-FRI)
(9) CHARLIE'S ANGELS
(29) (9) SCOOBY DOO
(9) UNTAMED WORLD
(HBO) THE ELECTRIC GRANDMOTHER (MON)
(HBO) FRAGGLE ROCK (WED)

—5:00—
(9) GOOD TIMES (FRI)
(5) ALL IN THE FAMILY (TUE-THU)
(4) PEOPLE'S COURT
(5) HAPPY DAYS AGAIN (TUE-FRI)
(7) NEWS (TUE-FRI)
(9) THE JEFFERSONS (FRI)
(9) M*A*S*H (TUE-THU)
(29) BUGS BUNNY AND FRIENDS
(29) (9) (9) MISTER ROGERS (R)
(9) GILLIGAN'S ISLAND (FRI)
(9) EIGHT IS ENOUGH (MON-THU)
(HBO) DOLLY PARTON MEETS THE KIDS (WED)
(HBO) CAVETT BEHIND THE SCENES WITH KENNY ROGERS (THU)

—5:30—
(9) (9) NEWS (TUE-FRI)
(4) (7) NEWS
(5) STAR TREK (TUE-FRI)
(9) THREE'S COMPANY
(29) GILLIGAN'S ISLAND
(29) (9) (9) ELECTRIC COMPANY (R)
(9) DARK SHADOWS (FRI)
(HBO) FRAGGLE ROCK (FRI)
(HBO) DR. SEUSS ON THE LOOSE (MON, WED)
(HBO) MOVIE (TUE, THU)

FRIDAY

SEPTEMBER 2, 1983

DAYTIME

SPECIALS

—2:00—
(29) MARK RUSSELL The bipartisan king of political satire lampoons, roasts and debunks politicos and bureaucrats.

—2:30—
(29) THE WRITER'S WORLD: E.L. DOCTOROW AND THE AMERICAN MYTH E.L. Doctorow's work is profiled, focusing primarily on the evolution of his writing career and his four novels.

—3:30—
(29) AVA-1: THE 1982 AWARDS IN THE VISUAL ARTS The first annual AVA program and the winning artists are featured in this documentary introduced by the late Arthur Godfrey.

DAYTIME CHILDREN'S SHOWS

—8:00—
(HBO) FRAGGLE ROCK Wembley discovers a tunnel that, according to legend, swallows up Fraggles.

—11:30—
(9) HIGH FEATHER "Food Follies" Members of a senior citizens center help the children prepare for the camp show. (R)

—12:00—
(9) HIGH FEATHER "Food Follies" Members of a senior citizens center help the children prepare for the camp show. (R)

—6:30—
(HBO) FRAGGLE ROCK Wembley discovers a tunnel that, according to legend, swallows up Fraggles.

DAYTIME SPORTS

—8:30—
(HBO) INSIDE THE NFL This special pre-season show features a review of last season, an analysis of the AFC and the NFC, a look at the season ahead and a visit to the training camp of the champion Washington Redskins.

—1:00—
(HBO) TENNIS "U.S. Open" Live coverage of early round play (from the USTA National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadow, NY).

—4:00—
(9) CHAMPIONS: THE COMPETITIVE EDGE

DAYTIME MOVIES

—6:00—
(HBO) "Jekyll And Hyde... Together Again" (1982) Mark Blankfield, Bess Armstrong. A strait-laced scientist's accidental ingestion of a chemical turns him into a lascivious swinger. 'R'

—6:30—
(HBO) "The Mouse And His Child" (1978) Animated. A mechanical mouse and his son share charming adventures in pursuit of their dream of becoming self-winding. 'G'

—10:00—
(HBO) "Silence Of The North" (1981) Ellen Burstyn, Tom Skerritt. In 1919, a young woman's marriage to a trapper leads her to a life of hardship in the wilderness of northern Canada. 'PG'

—11:30—
(HBO) "Barbarosa" (1982) Willie Nelson, Gary Busey. A Texas outlaw grows to become a legend while constantly on the run from the authorities and his angry in-laws. 'PG'

—12:00—
(29) "The Scarlet Pimpernel" (1935) Leslie Howard, Merle Oberon. In disguise as a gentleman of the English Court, an underground hero rescues noblemen from the guillotine during the French Revolution.

—1:00—
(5) "One Touch Of Venus" (1960) Ava Gardner, Robert Walker. A window trimmer is surprised when the statue of Venus begins talking to him.
(9) "The Sharkfighters" (1956) Victor Mature, Karen Steele. Navy scientists attempt to perfect a repellent that will be effective for divers in warding off deadly sharks.

—4:00—
(7) "Super Seal" (No Date) Foster Brooks.
(HBO) "The Mouse And His Child" (1978) Animated. A mechanical mouse and his son share charming adventures in pursuit of their dream of becoming self-winding. 'G'

EVENING

—6:00—
(9) (4) (7) (9) (9) NEWS
(29) BUCK ROGERS
(29) (9) HIGH FEATHER "Food Follies" Members of a senior citizens center help the children prepare for the camp show. (R)
(9) CISCO KID
(9) GET SMART
(HBO) INSIDE THE NFL This special pre-season show features a review of last season, an analysis of the AFC and the NFC, a look at the season ahead and a visit to the training camp of the champion Washington Redskins.

—6:30—
(9) NBC NEWS
(5) ANDY GRIFFITH
(9) CBS NEWS
(29) (9) BUSINESS REPORT
(9) OVER EASY
(9) HOGAN'S HEROES

—7:00—
(9) ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT
(4) NBC NEWS
(5) THREE'S COMPANY
(7) (9) ABC NEWS
(9) CBS NEWS
(9) FAMILY FEUD
(29) WHITE SHADOW
(29) OVER EASY
(9) MACNEIL / LEHRER REPORT
(9) SATURDAY NIGHT
(9) STATE LINE

—7:30—
(9) TIC TAC DOUGH
(4) FAMILY FEUD
(5) M*A*S*H
(7) ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT
(9) SHA NA NA
(9) PEOPLE'S COURT
(9) EVENING MAGAZINE
(29) (9) MACNEIL / LEHRER REPORT
(9) EVENING EXCHANGE
(HBO) OVER HERE, MR. PRESIDENT This situation comedy takes a humorous look at the Washington press corps.

—8:00—
(9) BASEBALL PRE-GAME
(4) MOVIE "Gray Lady Down" (1978) Charlton Heston, David Carradine. A nuclear submarine carrying 41 men is rammed by a wayward freight-