

★ ★ ★

## Adventures in Babysitting

*Adventures* is a sunny-side-up version of *After Hours*, Martin Scorsese's black comedy about a night on the town that would bring anybody down. It has a teen-age heroine named Chris (Elisabeth Shue) who must venture from the suburbs into the big city to "rescue" a friend from a Greyhound bus station.

*Adventures* is light-hearted fun with brisk pacing from director Chris Columbus and an engaging performance from Shue.

Its highlight is when she and the kids stumble onto a stage in a blues club only to find musicians blocking their path and saying, "No one leaves without singing the blues." Chris belts out an impromptu number called "Babysitting Blues" but you'll be hard pressed to think of anything sad after this delightful little surprise.

By M.G.

★ ★ 1/2

## Dragnet

This is Dan Ackroyd's homage to the strait-laced television series of the same name and his performance as Joe Friday, the nephew of the TV character, is inspired. Even casual observers have noted that if they'd just sent Friday and his partner Pep Streebek (Tom Hanks) out on a normal day's rounds, *Dragnet* would have been a classic.

But Ackroyd, who co-wrote the script, felt compelled to throw in a ridiculous storyline about rene-

gade priests, ritual sacrifices and pagan cults. It's almost worth it just for the chance to hear Friday introduce "the virgin Connie Swail" but it destroys the movie.

It's much funnier to watch Friday deal with a cursing landlady or a lisping pornographer. He and Hanks continually rise above the plot to keep the film at a very funny level. If there's a sequel (and there will be), Ackroyd should listen to his own advice and give us just the facts.

*By M.G.*