

# ◆◆◆◆◆ A Guide to Summer Cir

★ ★ ★ ½

## Full Metal Jacket

Our protagonist is yet another young intellectual (Matthew Modine) called to Vietnam. We follow Private Joker from boot camp through his service as a correspondent with *Stars and Stripes* and, finally, his engagement in the battle for Hue City.

The boot camp scenes are harshly funny vignettes filled with vigor and dark humor. The atypical role of the tough-talking sergeant is raised to comic perfection by actor Lee Ermey, who deserves a medal.

But this part of the movie is not the standard "boy into man" saga we've seen in *An Officer and a Gentleman* and countless other military movies. Kubrick shows how they depersonalize and mold men into efficient killers, sometimes a little too quickly.

The rest of the film takes place in a ragged shell of a city where soldiers battle it out with an unseen enemy trying to stay alive and not get lost.

Unlike the surrealism of *Apocalypse Now* or the passion of *Platoon*, *Full Metal Jacket* does not get emotionally involved with the soldiers. It maintains a cold, analytical perspective and no pronouncements are made. We simply observe.

Kubrick presents to us the racism, the prostitution of the Vietnamese, the adrenalin-pumping thrill of battle and the sometimes painful result. It is intelligent, fascinating and — best of all — improves with repeated viewing. *Full Metal Jacket* may not win our hearts, but it does win our minds.

By Michael Giltz

★ ★ ★ ½

## Roxanne

This is the funniest, friendliest movie of the summer and Steve Martin deserves all the credit. He produced it, wrote the script and



Rae Dawn Chong fends off an attacker in the mystery/

gave the central, captivating performance in this very romantic comedy.

The story is a modern retelling of *Cyrano De Bergerac*, the tale of a charming young fool with a very big nose. *Roxanne* is pure froth, with nary an ounce of tension, but who cares?

Martin is C.D., the fire chief of a small town who is in love with the title character, played by Daryl Hannah. Hannah isn't asked to do much more than look pretty and sigh, but she does it well.

The entire film belongs to Martin, who is dashing, witty and utterly winning. He bubbles and skips across the screen as smoothly as Fred Astaire. Martin walks funny, talks funny and, when he's off-screen and other characters are speaking, we're still smiling because we know that big nose of his is going to be coming around the corner at any minute.

I'll promise not to make any puns on "nose" if you promise to

go see this movie. Thank me later.

By M.G.

★ ★ ★

## Innerspace

"I think it's safe to rule out demonic possession," a doctor says dryly as his patient, played by Martin Short, desperately tries to cope with a mysterious voice inside his body.

Short plays Jack Putter, a hard-working assistant manager at Safeway and a timid hypochondriac. When a nearby laboratory experiment in miniaturization is disrupted by industrial enemies, Putter becomes the recipient of the unusual subject — astronaut Tuck Pendleton (Dennis Quaid).

Director Joe Dante's cartoon-like style is a bit annoying, but is powerfully overshadowed by excellent performances. Quaid generates enormous personality and makes his well-developed character even more likeable. Short