

The Movie Library

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5 DAY RENTAL SPECIALS

NEW!
RELEASES

OCTOBER: Meet the Robinsons • Mr. Brooks • License to Wed • Sideman 3

NOVEMBER: Oceans 13 • Ratatouille • Sicko • Shrek the Third

- MAINSTREAM •
- INDEPENDENT •
- FOREIGN • ADULT •
- ALTERNATIVE •

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Westside Center

6480 Mirabel Road, Forestville

887-9230

Cinema Chatter

By Joan Garverick

Robert Benton has given us some fine movies over the years, **Kramer vs. Kramer**, **Places in the Heart** and **Nobody's Fool**. His latest movie **Feast of Love** is just that. It is a banquet of love in that it tells a collection of love stories young love, mature love, desperate love and even a gay love story. Morgan Freeman stars as a man with a heavy grief on his shoulders. The ever great Jane Alexander is his wife tiptoeing around their emotions. Greg Kinnear is Morgan's friend who has a coffee shop in their home town of Portland Oregon, and he has much love woes. This is a heartwarming movie filled with the whole range of emotions from unbridled joy to heartbreaking grief and all the emotions in between. It displays beautifully how brave one must be to embark upon a loving and all the things needed to keep a love alive.

My video pick is a small film **Shadowboxer** starring Helen Mirren and Cuba Gooding Jr. They are paid assassins and longtime companions. When a gangster pays them to kill his wife there are complications with the hit and they take the wife with them rather than kill her. This is a different kind of thriller with many surprises. This small strange tale is completely enhanced by Helen and Cuba's acting qualities. If you like either of these actors you will enjoy the film. P.S. Macy Gray has a small but very interesting cameo that is bound to delight her fans.

My documentary pick this month is Noam Chomsky **Rebel without a Pause**. Noam Chomsky is a brilliant political analyst and in this documentary he discusses the real issues facing America today that our fourth estate (the press) has failed to inform this country about. Media manipulation and our rush to war after Sept 11th. He discusses how he gathers his information and manages to uncover the true motivations of our government and the corporate controlled media in this country.



There are fascinating interviews with his wife, activist and critics. It is wonderful to know there is someone out there fighting the odds for real liberty and justice for all.

Michael Clayton is a lawyer for an international firm. This is serious corporate business with cases that last 4-6 years. George Clooney plays Michael Clayton he is not the lawyer that goes to the courtroom, he is the man sent to the scene of deep doo doo to clean up the mess.

This movie moves at a dizzying pace, the beginning jumps among 6 different situations that are going to converge by the end of the film. All the while a crazy narrative thrumming along like a drum beat. This is a major character driven drama and the characters are smart, crazy, sinister, kind, open books and wrapped tight.

Tom Wilkinson plays a lawyer who has slipped either over the edge or into the sunlight depending on your point of view. His performance is quite amazing and I believe Oscar worthy. If you like George Clooney you'll be quite pleased because he's in almost every scene. This movie is filmed, told and paced in an entirely unique fashion. Stimulating and thought provoking, it works for me.

Happy Viewing

Ask EcoGirl

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Seeing Through Green Eyes: Remodeling Green on the Cheap

Dear EcoGirl: I want to know about green remodeling that isn't for millionaires.

Signed, Strapped in Santa Rosa

Dear Strapped: Luckily, green doesn't have to cost more.

Sometimes it can seem that it does, as the consumer-oriented media too often equates green with buying green products, which can be more expensive. And, yes, if you're going to buy a new product, look for an ecological one. (Avoid hype by asking what exactly makes the product green.)

But if your goal is to be earth-friendly and lessen your impact on the planet, and especially if you want to save money, first consider how to avoid buying a new product at all. Instead, follow the eco-mantra — "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle." Then, what you do to be green can also lower your costs!

Because, while new eco-products are helpful, we won't stop our harm to the earth if we keep consuming at our current rate, even if all the products are labeled "green."

So ask yourself, "What's my goal with this project? Can I use what I have, just in a different way? Can I repair, refurbish, or repaint to refresh the look and match my new design? Is there an opportunity here for creative expression?" I did this recently with an old porch table, repainting it in an artistic way that delights me every time I see it.

If you do decide to buy an item, look first at other people's discards. This saves you money, avoids the eco-impacts of producing and shipping new products, and reduces waste in our overflowing landfills. You can also often find unique pieces that bring style into your home — while meeting interesting people along the way!

Here are some great local places to find "previously owned" remodeling goodies.

- **Recycletown** (795-3660). Located at the dump (between Rohnert Park and Petaluma), Recycletown has doors, windows, tiles, chairs, lamps, gardening pots, bikes, exercise equipment, household items, and more, all at great prices. Go at least once to have a sense of what's there.

I recently got a great chair there for \$5. It didn't look like much, but I saw good lines and knew that some (non-toxic)

stain and a new seat cloth would make it look amazing, which it does. It would've cost me a lot more at an antique store to get something with its great classic design! Plus, it's fun seeing what a little creativity can do. (I hung a small framed picture of the chair's original condition next to it, just for fun.)

- **ReStore** (568-3228). In Santa Rosa, Habitat for Humanity's ReStore offers surplus and salvaged building materials at significant discounts. Profits support their affordable housing work.

- **SonoMax** <www.SonoMax.org>. Few folks know about this great resource, where businesses offer free and cheap items in order to avoid disposal fees. Recent listings include windows, window coverings, red bricks, carpet, drywall, sinks, doors, insulation, appliances, red lava rock, paint, redwood, and compost.

- **Public websites.** Look for items and garage sales at <www.waccobb.net>, <www.craigslist.com>, and <www.pressdemocrat.com>. Or post a request and see what emerges from someone's attic!

- **Newspaper classifieds and thrift stores** (see the Yellow Pages).

For more places to explore, plus information about recycling your own discards, see your phone book's Recycling Guide (in the Yellow Pages under "R"). Look by category, for instance under Building Materials.

You can also get more green building information and local resources at <www.BuildItGreen.Org>. This site has a wonderful page outlining what qualities you might look for in a green product. (Look under "About Green Building" for "What Makes a Green Product?")

So, yes, the good news is that being cheap can actually be good for the planet — when you look at your project through green eyes!

Ask EcoGirl is written by Patricia Dines, Author of The Organic Guide to Sonoma, Napa, & Mendocino Counties, and Editor and Lead Writer for The Next STEP newsletter.

Email your questions about going green to <EcoGirl@AskEcoGirl.info> for possible inclusion in future columns. You can view previous columns at <www.AskEcoGirl.info>. Also contact EcoGirl for information about carrying this syndicated column in your periodical.

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