

# 'Awakenings' offers stirring performances

NEW YORK (CNS) — A doctor's determination to improve his chronically catatonic patients leads to an incredible chain of events in the fact-based "Awakenings" (Columbia).

In need of a job, the introverted Dr. Malcolm Sayer (Robin Williams), familiar only with labs and research, reluctantly accepts a position overseeing patients with profound neurological damage in a Bronx hospital in 1969. Many have been there for decades in trance-like states, and the staff assumes they are neither aware nor responsive.

Dr. Sayer, however, suspects they're alive inside, and with the help of nurse Eleanor Costello (Julie Kavner) starts to communicate by touching, reading, playing music and tossing them balls, which produces some response from these formerly living statues.

When he discovers his 16 patients' common link was having survived encephalitis in the '20s, he convinces the skeptical hospital administration to allow him to try the new drug L-Dopa on Leonard (Robert De Niro), who has been catatonic for 30 years.

Leonard's elderly, devoted mother (Ruth Nelson) gives approval and the results are miraculous — Leonard "wakes up" and joyously embraces her. His recovery is so astounding that Dr. Sayer is able to raise funds to expand the expensive drug treatment to all the others. Soon the now lively patients are dancing, going on day trips and zestfully demanding more independence.

Just as Leonard begins cultivating a girlfriend at the hospital (Penelope Ann Miller) the unthinkable happens. He starts

steadily regressing, a personal tragedy for Leonard, holding dire implications for his fellow patients.

A fine ensemble cast makes each patient an individual to delight in as he or she emerges from the fog and displays long-repressed personalities.

De Niro as usual does a remarkable job conveying the withdrawn, then shyly animated man still innocent at age 50 and stunned by jets, hippies and rock 'n' roll. His character pointedly reminds us to appreciate the basic joys of life that we take for granted, and his bravery when he starts losing touch with reality is both inspiring and heart-rending.

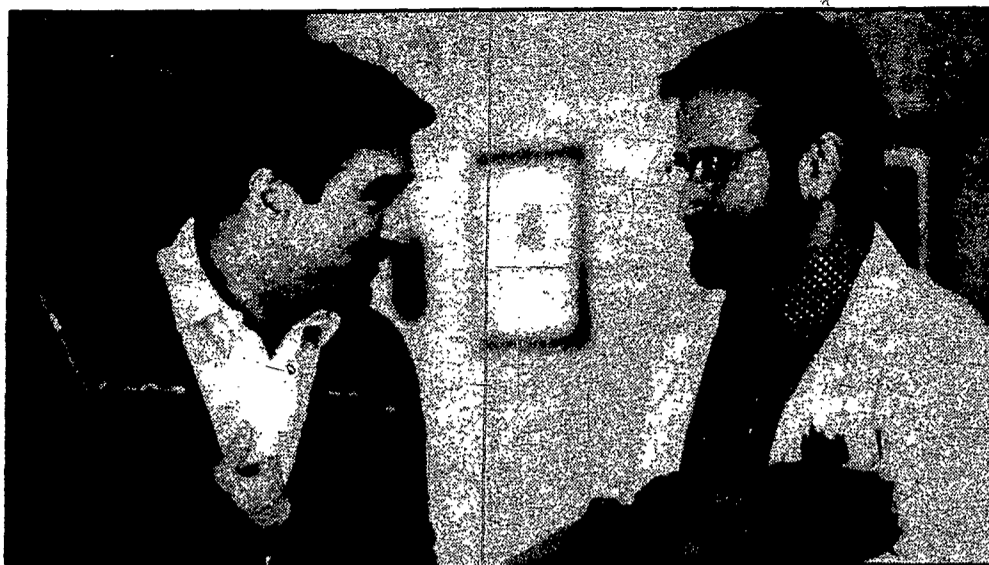
Williams as the bookish doctor also undergoes a subtle transformation. In his work with these patients he rediscovers his own humanity, long cut off by his preference for research to shield him from relating to people.

Like "Rain Man," this is a serious film without a pat happy ending that hopefully will also find the mass audience it deserves.

Because of minimal rough language, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

## 'The Russia House'

Spying just isn't the same game in "The Russia House" (MGM) since "glasnost" came to the Soviet Union. A secret military manuscript, passed on by a beautiful Russian woman, Katya (Michelle Pfeiffer), is



Columbia Pictures Industries  
At left, Leonard Lowe (Robert De Niro), lost for 30 years in a sleep-like state in which he was unable to speak or move, is brought back into the world by Dr. Malcolm Sayer (Robin Williams) during the drama "Awakenings."

intercepted by British intelligence before it can reach its intended London publisher, Barley Blair (Sean Connery).

As it contains vital information about Soviet nuclear capability, the British and CIA spooks together press Barley into service to contact Katya and discover the authenticity of the manuscript and the identity of its author.

The reluctant novice spy is wired and meets Katya in Red Square, learning that the author is a top scientist (Klaus Maria Brandauer) who years before was Katya's first lover.

As the spy masters frantically speculate on the manuscript's implications in light of the Cold War's demise, Barley falls in love with the gentle Katya. The author meets with Barley, passing along further information, and Barley is pushed to meet him once more with a list of questions whose answers will give the West the permanent upper hand.

But by now Barley has an agenda of his own and the politics of his country, the

United States and the Soviet Union are of little moment.

John le Carre's best-selling novel is given a colorless translation in director Fred Schepisi's talky film.

Too much time is spent in the spy centers of London and Washington with Roy Scheider and James Fox trying too hard to outguess each other and their common enemy turned ally, Russia.

Little dramatic tension or sense of urgency can be found in the characters' predicament. The enemy is always uncertain, unseen and unmet. Katya seems in little danger and her feelings for Barley seem muted at most. Pragmatism in the glasnost era moves her more than passion — "Complaining is our new human right, but it doesn't make more shoes," she wryly observes.

Due to mild sexual innuendo and occasional rough language, the USCC classification is A-III — adults. The MPAA rating is R — restricted.

## Dining Around the Diocese

**Avon Inn**  
55 East Main Street  
Avon, NY 14414  
(minutes off 390, exit 10)  
(716) 226-8181

The Avon Inn welcomes all to join us during these winter months and enjoy the warmth and comfort brought forth in this beautiful Greek Revival Mansion.

Enjoy dinner entrees such as Beef Wellington, Coquilles St. Jacques, Veal Serano, Duckling, Chicken and Shrimp Oscar, and Slow Roasted Prime Rib.

On Friday's, try our Fish Fry. Broiled or Fried, it comes with choice of soup, potato, cole slaw and selections from our bread basket.

Compliment your dinner with a bottle of wine from our newly expanded list or one of our 50 imported and domestic beers served from our tavern.

To finish out the evening, take advantage of our \$65.00 Get-Away Package: Includes a guest room for two, a \$25.00 certificate towards dinner, and a bottle of champagne in your room.

Make plans to experience the timeless elegance of the historic Avon Inn today.

**Big Apple Cafe**  
682 Park Avenue  
271-1039

A European cafe atmosphere greets you at the Big Apple Cafe, a comfortable fun place to dine. Located in the chic Park Avenue area, the Big Apple offers foods that are prepared fresh daily. Open menu all day. For Lent try one of the delicious Friday Seafood Specials. Enjoy the romantic candlelit surroundings this Valentine's Day. On Sundays, stop by after mass for a sumptuous brunch from omelettes to french toast. Hours: 11a.m. to 11p.m. weekdays, Friday and Saturday from 11a.m. to midnight, Sunday 11a.m. to 9p.m.

**Bosdyk's Restaurant & Lounge**  
430 Spencerport Rd.  
(corner of Longpond)  
716-247-7690

Open 7 days a week for lunch and dinner, we offer a relaxing, comfortable atmosphere and reasonable prices. Whether you choose from our complete menu, or from one of our daily lunch or dinner specials, we're sure to please your palette. Our party room is available for gatherings of up to 60 people.

**David's Table**  
5988 Rt. 96 & 332  
(near Finger Lakes Race Track)  
924-2050

Conveniently located between Victor and Canandaigua, David's Table offers fine steak and seafood dishes as well as a Friday Fish Fry for \$6.95. Try the sensational Sunday Buffet Brunch. Also available for catering, private parties, showers, and small wedding receptions. Valentine's Day specials available. Hours: Tues. - Sat., 5 - 9:30pm; Sun 12 - 6pm; Sun. Brunch, 10:30am - 2pm; Lunch, Mon. - Fri., 11:30am - 2pm. **Bring this ad and receive \$1.00 off a Fish Fry.**

**Mr. Dominic's at the Lake**  
4699 Lake Avenue  
(716) 865-4630

If you're planning lunch or dinner out, take a drive to Mr. Dominic's at the Lake. Noted for their fine Italian cuisine, they offer delicious appetizers, wonderful soups, 11 veal dishes, vegetarian, chicken and fish specialties, and homemade pasta. Early bird dinner specials are served Sunday-Friday. Also offered is a 10% senior discount. Delivery is available for your luncheon group of ten or more. Lunch hours from 11a.m.-1p.m., Tuesday-Friday. Dinner hours Monday-Friday 4:00-9:30p.m., Saturday 5:00 - 10:00p.m., Sunday 3:00 - 9:00p.m.

**Brook House West Italian/American Cuisine at Deerfield Country Club**  
Clarkson-Parma T.L. Rd. (off Rt. 104W) (716) 392-9770

Beginning February 13th, on Ash Wednesday, we're featuring broiled haddock and fish fry dinners every Wednesday and Friday through Friday, March 29th. Dinners served Wed., Thurs., & Fri. 4:30-9:00; Sundays 2:00-7:00. Stop out after mass for a home-cooked Italian dinner.

The Greece Paint Players and Brook House West at Deerfield are pleased to announce their winter dinner theatre production of "COCKTAILS WITH MIMP", a slapstick, and very funny comedy by Mary Chase. Show dates are February 8-9-15-16-22-23. For reservations please call today.

Pay a visit to Red Fedele at the Brook House West, and receive the same special treatment you have become accustomed to at the original Brook House on Ridge Road West.

**Irondequoit Town Lounge**  
705 Titus Avenue  
(716) 342-3465

**Webster Town Lounge**  
10 May Street  
(716) 872-3710

Serving lunches 11:30-3p.m. daily except Sunday. Featuring an Early Bird Special every night but Friday. Fish Frys every Friday. Our party room can accommodate up to 60 people for your next gathering. Clip out this ad and receive \$5.00 off two dinners (not valid on dinners under \$8.00 or Early Bird Specials), offer good Sunday thru Thursday, during the month of February. Please present ad when ordering.

**Jeremiah's**  
1104 Monroe Avenue  
(near Culver Rd.)  
461-1313

Rochester's Premier Location for a fish fry for 13 years offers a delicious array of Lenten possibilities! Try the broiled fresh haddock prepared in a wine, butter and garlic sauce. Or sample the deep fried sea scallops, hand breaded and deep fried to perfection! After Mass, enjoy our Sunday Brunch that offers eggs benedict, steak and eggs, etc. Serving Brunch, 11:30-2:30, Lunch, M-F, 11:30-2:30, Dinner, M-F, 5-10. Visa/MC accepted. Reservations suggested.

**Cannon's**  
1551 Mt. Hope Ave.  
(1 minute north of W. Henrietta Rd. exit off Rte. 390)  
(716) 461-1026

A Rochester favorite for 23 years, featuring a diverse menu including seafood, steaks, chops, veal, and Italian dishes. Dinners served Sunday, 4:30pm - 11:00pm; Monday - Thursday, 4:30 - midnight; Friday and Saturday, 4:30pm - 1:00am. Bar opens daily at 4:00pm.

**OLYMPIA Family Restaurant**  
570 Stone Rd. at Dewey Ave.  
(near St. Charles) 663-3071

**Family Restaurant & Lounge**  
2380 Lyell Ave. at Howard Rd.  
(near St. Theodores) 429-6231

Open 7 days a week serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, we offer homestyle cooking and full-take-out service. Dinner specials served daily. Choose from Prime Rib, Steak, Seafood, Veal, Fresh Roast Turkey or Pork, or try one of our many Greek Specialties. Homemade soups made fresh daily. Our Lenten Specialties include: Fresh Haddock, (Beer Battered, Breaded or Broiled) Greek Style Baked Fish, Sea Scallops, Broiled White Fish, and all are SERVED EVERYDAY. Our party room accommodates up to 80 people for any occasion. Clip out this ad and receive 10% OFF your guest check during the month of February. (Not valid on Fridays or with other specials).

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