

# IN REVIEW FEATURE



Buena Vista Pictures

The latest offering from Robert Redford, who won an Academy Award for directing in 1980, is 'Quiz Show,' the story of the real-life 1950s scandal that started the nation and changed how Americans looked at their trusted icons.

## Fall film harvest offers adults challenging fare

NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are capsule reviews of movies recently reviewed by the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

### 'Quiz Show'

(Hollywood) Fact-based retelling of the late 1950s TV quiz show scandal in which contestants were fed answers beforehand until a disgruntled loser (John Turturro) spilled the beans to a congressional investigator (Rob Morrow) about the corrupt producer (David Paymer) and a much-admired winner (Ralph Fiennes), who reluctantly confessed to the betrayal of public trust while the network and sponsor escaped official blame. Producer-director Robert Redford dramatically captures the contrasting personalities involved and the manner in which basic ethical considerations got shoved aside in favor of personal and corporate greed. Moral questions regarding integrity and minimal rough language. The USCC classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The MPAA rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

### 'The River Wild'

(Universal) Taut outdoors thriller in which a former river guide (Meryl Streep) on a whitewater rafting vacation with her unathletic husband (David Strathairn) and young son (Joseph Mazzello) is forced to take two fugitives (Kevin Bacon and John C. Riley) down a deadly stretch of river, knowing the two will kill her and her family even if they survive the trip down the rapids. Director Curtis Hanson underplays the characterizations but maintains edgy suspense as the woman becomes increasingly resourceful in her efforts to save her loved ones. Frequent menace and brief shots of brutal violence. The USCC classification is A-III — adults. 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 Shawshank Redemption'

(Columbia) Gritty prison drama begins in 1946 and spans two decades that a quiet banker (Tim Robbins) wrongly convicted of murder spends inside a brutal and corruptly run penitentiary, where he has positive effects on the other prisoners, especially another lifer (Morgan Freeman), before his unexpected departure. Directed by Frank Darabont, the drama does not spare viewers the dehumanizing ugliness of life behind bars, but is notable for its portrayal of a

man who inspired hope in others while coping with the injustice done to him. Some graphic prison violence and suicides, crude sexual innuendo, brief nudity and much rough language. The USCC classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The MPAA rating is R — restricted.

### 'Trial by Jury'

(Warner Bros.) Derivative melodrama in which a mobster (Armand Assante) on trial for murder has a corrupt ex-cop (William Hurt) intimidate a juror (Joanne Whalley-Kilmer) by threatening the life of her child unless she votes to acquit him. As directed by Heywood Gould, the narrative steadily disintegrates into a cliché-ridden gangster movie as the frightened woman cooperates, then resorts to murder in order to guarantee her family's continued safety. Intermittent violence, some sexual innuendo and occasional rough language. The USCC classification is A-III — adults. The MPAA rating is R — restricted.



Buena Vista Pictures

Charlie Sheen (top) and Nastassja Kinski star in the action-drama 'Terminal Velocity.'

### 'Terminal Velocity'

(Hollywood) Routine action movie in which a skydiving instructor (Charlie Sheen) gets entangled with a beautiful, manipulative former KGB agent (Nastassja Kinski) in Arizona tracking a shipment of gold bullion while Russian criminals pursue her with lethal intent. Director Deran Sarafian's empty escapist fare features a nonsensical narrative embroidered with a gimmicky series of death-defying skydiving rescues. Intermittent nasty violence and an instance of rough language. The USCC classification is A-III — adults. The MPAA rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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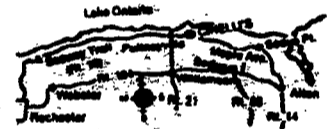
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