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WEEKEND MISER

Serving Nostalgia at Nitehawk Cinema and IFC Center

By RACHEL LEE HARRIS

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The Nitehawk Cinema in Williamsburg tries to mix nostalgia (even silent films) and food to provide entertainment for moviegoers.

If you watched last Sunday's Academy Awards show, you'd know that going to the movies means different things to different people. For Reese Witherspoon, growing up, it was a family outing; for Brad Pitt, it was an escape from reality. For Matthew Viragh, owner of the Nitehawk Cinema, which opened in the Williamsburg neighborhood of Brooklyn last June, it's nostalgia. "First-run films are our bread and butter," Mr. Viragh said on the phone from the theater, "but now that we have our sea legs, we've started shifting our focus to retro films." The Nitehawk recently started a brunch series and a midnight-movie program of old films.

"I think our first brunch film was 'Breakfast Club,' which is very obvious and expected and was probably playing on seven different television channels at the same time we were playing it, but both screenings sold out," Mr. Viragh said. "I think we're striking a chord with people."

March is "Crazy for Swayze" month, a series of Patrick Swayze films.

"It's a little tongue-in-cheek and kind of ridiculous to have a whole month of Swayze films," Mr. Viragh said, "but at the same time, people have really responded to it."

"And," John Woods, one of the cinema's directors, added, "if you take Swayze out of the equation, you've still got a strong lineup: 'Red Dawn' was written by John Milius, who also wrote 'Apocalypse Now.' 'Road House' is an ultimate midnight movie. 'Outsiders' is Francis Ford Coppola. 'Point Break' is Kathryn Bigelow, who did 'The Hurt Locker'; and 'Dirty Dancing' is a cultural touchstone."

Arrive 30 minutes before the show to order entrees or snacks, like the curry popcorn, served at your seat. The cafe also offers items inspired by the films. During "[A Dangerous Method](#)," for example, you can order Jung's Beaten Biscuits and a Freudian Slip cocktail.

Mr. Viragh and Mr. Woods acknowledged that some films were meant to be mocked, so certain midnight screenings will feature the Raspberry Brothers, a comedy team, with live commentary. "They're a great cheap date," Mr. Viragh said.

If you ask the Miser, the Nitehawk's silent films, shown about twice a month with an original score played by a live band, are as romantic a love letter to the art of filmmaking as you could write. "[The Black Pirate](#)," starring Douglas Fairbanks, who provided inspiration for Jean Dujardin's Oscar-winning performance in "[The Artist](#)," plays on March 11 and 13.

No matter what your relationships, with people or films, "we've been happy to oblige," Mr. Viragh said. (\$9 to \$11; special features more; 136 Metropolitan Avenue, between Berry and Wythe Streets, Williamsburg; 718-384-3980, nitehawkcinema.com.)