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on't spend a lot of time looking under your Christmas tree for a present from Warners this year. It won't be there.

That's not to say that they've forgotten you. It just means you're looking in the wrong spot. Try checking out a few local theatres during the festive season – and chances are, you'll find everything you want and a little bit more.

For instance, Tom Selleck is back and Warners has him, fresh from the magic of *Three Men and a Baby*. And with *Her Alibi* he's pulled another rabbit out of the hat.

The "baby" he's stuck with this time is the stunningly beautiful Paulina Porizkova, who jetted into mainstream critical acclaim with her debut in *Anna*.

Porizkova is accused of murder, but Selleck, cast as a mystery writer, decides she's innocent and ends up moving her in, bag and baggage, to support her fabricated cover.

Australian Bruce Beresford helms *Her Alibi*, embuing it with the same wit and grace he imparted to *Places in the Heart* and *Tender Mercies*.

For those in the market for controversy, *Street Smart*'s Morgan Freeman, fresh from his stint in *Clean and Sober*, once again foresees the stage of Broadway for the broad reach of celluloid. In *Lean On Me* he's teamed with director John G. Avildsen (with *Rocky* and both *Karate Kids* already to his credit) to tackle the moving story of Joe Clark, one of the most provocative teachers of the century.

As the principal of Eastside High School in Paterson, New Jersey, Clark took the down-and-out castaways which comprised the bulk of his student body and molded them into modern day winners.

Freeman doesn't have to carry this tough and touching tale on his own however, he gets able assists from *Benson*'s Robert Guillaume, *Moving*'s Beverly Todd and Lynne Thigpen, fresh from a Broadway triumph in *Fences*.

And we've saved the best for last – a veritable banquet of delights for film fans of every stripe.

Chinatown's Oscar winning writer-director Robert Towne has assembled a stellar cast to ensure that his *Tequila Sunrise* is laced with tension and goes right to the heart.

Mel Gibson and Kurt Russell tackle the story of two former highschool buddies reunited through the vagaries of life. Gibson's character has washed up as a drug dealer looking for a new life while Russell tackles the role of a tough cop facing an even tougher assignment – putting his

childhood friend behind bars.

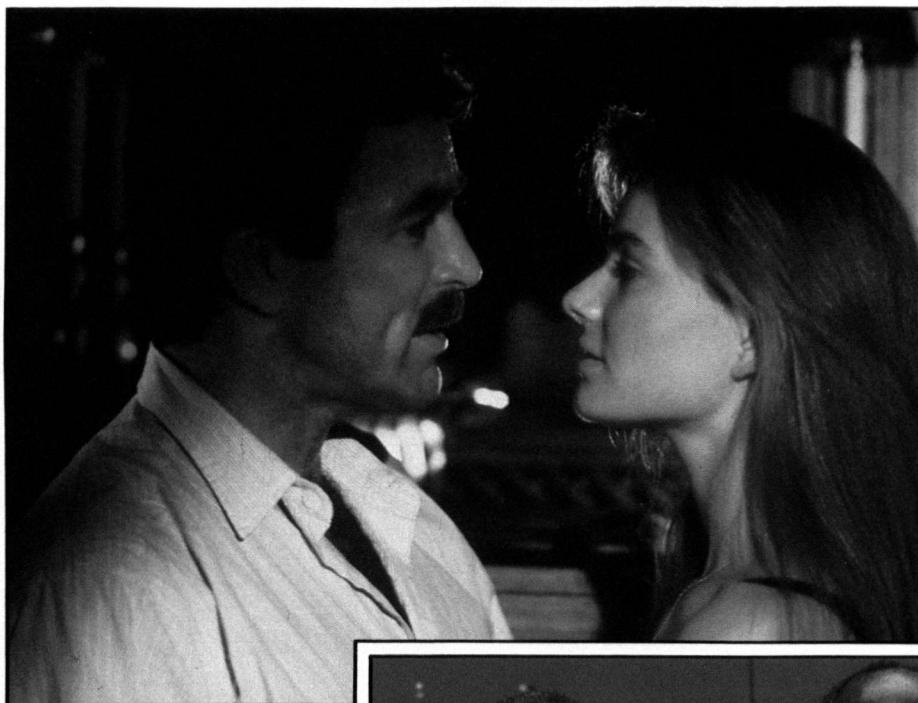
The only thing separating the two is the lovely Michelle Pfeiffer, who enjoyed a summer comedic triumph in *Married to the Mob*. She's determined not to become a pawn in the reluctant conflict between two men she holds dear.

Kiss of the Spider Woman's Raul Julia rounds out the cast in this stylish thriller.

— John Coulbourn



TEQUILA SUNRISE



HER ALIBI



LEAN ON ME

