

Michigan Every Day By Patrick Sullivan and Carole Eberly

Oct. 3, 1980
“*Somewhere in Time*” opens

Christopher Reeve played a contemporary young playwright. Jane Seymour starred as a great American Theater star of 1912. Reeve’s character sees a photo of the beautiful young starlet, wills himself back in time, and the stars fall in love. Vincent Canby reviewed the film in the *New York Times*, saying the movie did “for time travel what the Hindenburg did for dirigibles.”

The film may have been campy and, for some viewers, unintentionally comedic, but it was special for Michigan residents. It wasn’t merely shot in the state; it was filmed at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island. Canby gave a better review to the location: “The film’s principal setting is Mackinac Island, Mich., and its Grand Hotel, which is one of the last, great 19th-century American resorts still in tip-top shape. The hotel and Mackinac are spectacularly lovely, but fail to give substance to this ephemeral endeavor.” Despite the lackluster reviews that greeted the film’s release on Oct. 3, 1980, the movie would go on to become a cult classic and spawn a fan club of devoted followers, some of whom believe *Somewhere in Time* ranks among the best films ever made. On the west side of the island, there is a monument dedicating the spot where a famous line from the film, “Is it you?” was uttered by Reeve. An extra on the film, Jo Addie, runs a website devoted to articles about *Somewhere in Time*, memorabilia from the film, and thousands of pages of anecdotes about the movie. Beginning in 1990, fans of the film have been able to attend a *Somewhere in Time* weekend at the Grand Hotel each October. The Mackinac Island State Park Commission began renting the *Somewhere in Time* gazebo on the island for weddings beginning in 2006. For \$500, a couple can get married in the actual gazebo seen in the film.