

# Entertainment Outlook

## Prince Willie has to face painful truths

Gosh, you just have to feel your heart go out to Prince William, the eldest son of Charles and Di.

The poor little tyke is just five years old, and already he's headed for a life of shattering disillusionment.

It was reported in the papers recently that the little prince caused something of a stir at a birthday party by flinging food about and refusing to pick up after himself. When the attendant adults protested, he screamed: "When I'm king, I'm going to send my knights round to kill you."



Weir's View

By Ian Weir

The kid, you must admit, shows spunk. Just five years old, and already he's laying plans to have his babysitters executed for treason.

But tragically, the little charmer just doesn't seem to understand the principles of constitutional monarchy. And you just have to hope that the reality of

his situation, when it finally dawns, is not psychologically crippling.

Granted, all of us have to face up to painful truths as we pass through childhood. Childhood is a time of making grandiose plans which can never be realized.

In fact, thinking back on it, there is just one of my childhood chums who actually made his glorious dreams come true.

He's the one who proclaimed proudly, in Grade 7: "By the time I'm 30, I'll either be a millionaire or I'll be in jail."

And he did it. In fact, he did even better than he'd planned. He made it to jail before he was 25.

But the rest of us have to come to grips with the fact that we are never going to succeed as brilliantly as we'd once hoped. That's just life.

Still, imagine how much harder it must be for a little boy who is assured that he will grow up to be king — and hasn't yet realized that he's going to be crowned about 300 years too late to have any fun.

You can just picture the little guy, his eyes shining with anticipatory delight as his favorite nursery story reaches its splendid conclusion. "And then the king ordered that they all be taken to the Tower to have their heads chopped off."

Presumably, people have been filling the kid's head with tales of the great exploits of his forebears such as Henry II, who dispatched four knights to chop the Archbishop of Canterbury into bite-sized chunks with the memorable lament, "Will no one rid me of this turbulent priest?"

It's possible, perhaps, that little William will begin to realize — bit by bit — that being king is no longer all it's cracked up to be.

This truth may have begun to glimmer the day he expressed a desire to be rid of his turbulent nanny, and absolutely no one reached for an axe.

The truth may start to come into clearer focus when he's old enough to make an objective comparison between his own father and, say, Wicked King John.

He will ask himself: "Is my father the sort of man who dispatches the Sheriff of Nottingham to murder Robin Hood?" And the truth will come home to him: "No, my father is a vegetarian who falls off polo ponies."

Still, one fears there will come a day when Prince Charles will have to take his son aside and explain the awful reality to him.

"Son? I think it's time we discussed this little list of yours — the little list of people you want your knights to kill when you're king."

"Oh, it isn't a little list, Daddy. It's a very long list. And I've just added Auntie Anne to it. She trod on my turtle."

"Son . . . the plain fact is that your knights aren't going to kill anybody. Because you're not going to have any knights."

"What do you mean, I'm not

going to have any knights? If I don't have any knights, what am I going to do to the people I don't like?"

"Well, basically, you're going to wave at them."

"Wave at them?"

"Yes, it's, um, a special sort of wave, used only by members of the family. Essentially, you hold your arm up half-heartedly, and make a

funny little swivelling motion with your wrist."

"No, no. I'm not going to do any waving. I'm just going to issue laws and decrees."

"Actually, you won't be issuing any of those, either. You won't be issuing anything at all. Maybe the odd denial when one of the tabloids claims that you're desperately in love with a go-go dancer . . ."

"No! I won't believe it! I'm going to be a real and proper king! I'm going to send out tax collectors, and I'm going to rule with an iron hand, and I'm going to strike fear into the hearts of my people!"

"Steady, son. Steady. Diana? Come quick. The poor child's having hysterical delusions. He thinks he's Margaret Thatcher."

### Face in the Crowd



### Canadian theatre and music

William H. Nault, Publisher, *The World Book Encyclopedia* (NC) — The arts have flourished in Canada during this century, especially since the end of the second World War.

Canada's best-known theatrical event is the Stratford Festival, held annually in Stratford, Ont., from June to November. According to *World Book*, famous performers appear in the plays of William Shakespeare and other noted dramatists.



### Learning begins at home

Summer drama festivals also include the Shaw Festival in Ontario and the Festival Lennoxville in Quebec. The leading theatre organization in French-speaking Canada is Le Théâtre du Nouveau Monde in Montreal.

Canada's most outstanding orchestras include the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, the National Arts Centre Orchestra, and the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. Solo performers who have gained fame include the late pianist Glenn Gould and singers Maureen Forrester, Lois Marshall, Louis Quilico and Jon Vickers. Folksingers Gordon Lightfoot, Joni Mitchell, Anne Murray, and Buffy Sainte-Marie have achieved stardom in popular music. For a free copy of the *World Book* "History of Canada" article, write to World Book Reprints, Station 99, Merchandise Mart Plaza, Chicago, IL 60654.

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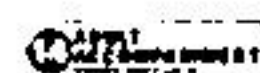
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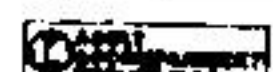
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