

the HERALD

Entertainment

Murphy's latest flick a royal pleasure

AT THE MOVIES

By Diahann Nadeau
Herald Special

There are people who like Eddie Murphy movies and those who do not.

I don't like his movies; Beverly Hills Cop II finished me. That said, Coming to America isn't too bad at all, which is high praise from me at this point.

Pity poor Prince Akeem: he's 21 and has never yet tied his own shoes (King: 'I tied my own shoes once, it is an overrated experience), never goes to the washroom on his own, never had a bath alone. His bride has been chosen for him, a beauty with all the personality of a coat hanger. He doesn't want to marry her, but his parents reassure him about arranged marriages. Queen: 'I was so nervous when I met your father that I was nauseous, but it went away after a while and now I love him'. King: 'See, it's a fine line between love and nausea'. Akeem is not reassured.

Akeem sets off for America with his trusted friend and servant Semi. Together they go to Queens, in NYC: a more hellish place is hard to imagine (all right, the Bronx). Playing poor, they find jobs in a fast food restaurant and learn to do princely things - take out the garbage, wash windows, mop floors - eventually graduating to making fries.

Akeem loses his heart to Lisa,

whose father owns the restaurant. Her dad is about the best example of more money than taste that I have ever seen. His palatial house is painfully decorated, full of tacky kitsch and hideous furniture; he tells Akeem that in 20 or 30 years he too, can have a house like this. 'Ah!', says Akeem.

Coming to America is your basic fairy tale plot. Prince disguised as pauper searches for his Princess amid the masses. Parents oppose, then relent. All end up fabulously wealthy.

Eddie Murphy is credited with the story line - gee Eddie, it took a lot of imagination to come up with this one.

The best thing about the movie is that it gives a group of black actors a chance to work. There are painfully few roles for blacks in the movies, and this film has a large cast. Madge Sinclair and James Earl Jones are the royal parents; Jones has a few delightful lines. Arsenio Hall is Semi, John Amos is Lisa's father, Shari Headley is Lisa. Murphy is of course Akeem.

The movie is funny, although extremely hokey and tiresomely predictable. It has some prime bimbo-watching which no doubt gives it another appeal. I am disappointed that Murphy, who once seemed a comic genius, has set his sights so low. I'm sure he could do better, if only he didn't do so well from doing so little.



Arsenio Hall stars as Eddie Murphy's confidante in the comedy Coming To America. Hall and Murphy get a chance to display their wide range of talents, which makes for an enjoyable movie.

Going for the big one

Anglers of all ages will have the opportunity to win prizes during Fish Fun, a fishing derby on Sunday Aug. 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Glen Haffy Forest and Wildlife Area, near Mono Mills.

Prizes will be awarded for the largest and smallest catches of the day in a number of age groups. Everyone catching a fish and getting it measured will receive a button.

Glen Haffy features two ponds stocked regularly with rainbow trout - they will be freshly stocked for this event. Bait is offered for purchase and picnic sites are available.

Anglers between the ages of 18 and 64, except the physically disabled,

must have sport fishing licences. Licences are available at most sporting goods stores and at Glen Haffy. Area is located on Airport road, just south of Highway 9 and Mono Mills. For more information, call 416-661-6600.

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King of the Olympics Brundage weathered adversity for games

Avery Brundage had a basic creed: The spirit of the Olympics must transcend political action and ideology.

Trying to live up to that creed kept Brundage involved in controversy after controversy during his 24 years as president of the U.S. Olympic Committee and his subsequent two decades as president of the International Olympic Committee.

King of the Olympics, an ambitious, four-part TV mini-series that airs in August, is based on the life of the man who tried to keep the Olympic flame out of the hands of politicians and other opportunists.

Of course, Brundage followed his own ideology. Professionals (a four-letter word Brundage did not belong in the Olympics. Canadian professional hockey players were not welcome, but full-time Soviet athletes, appointed as amateurs, were.

Brundage, who competed in the pentathlon in the 1912 Stockholm Games (he collapsed on the track while striving to keep up with Jim Thorpe), learned a bitter lesson about sports and international affairs a few years later.

He had trained hard for the 1916



Entertainment By BOB SPENCE Thomson News Service

Olympics, but the Games were cancelled because of the First World War.

From 1929, when he became president of the U.S. Olympic Committee, to shortly before his death in 1974, he was one of the most powerful men in amateur sports.

As president of the U.S. Olympic Committee, Brundage was at the centre of a major controversy in the mid-1930s. The 1936 Summer Games were scheduled for Berlin, but a number of countries decided not to enter teams because of Hitler's racist (anti-Jewish) policies.

SENT TEAM Some Americans wanted the U.S. to boycott the Games; Brundage insisted the U.S. had to send a team.

He went to Berlin to meet with Hitler and secured written

assurances that Jews would be allowed to compete, but the controversy grew when two Jews were dropped from the American team and replaced by non-Jews. Brundage was branded an anti-Semite by some Americans.

Jesse Owens, a black American, made a mockery of Hitler's "superior race" theory by winning four gold medals at the Berlin Games.)

Brundage who became president of the IOC in 1952, presided over the Olympic movement during some turbulent times; he fought to keep the Olympics "above" the day-to-day crises in the world.

He did not always succeed. The IOC, under pressure from a number of countries, expelled South Africa from the Olympic movement in 1968 because of its apartheid policies.

The last Games Brundage presided over - the 1972 Games in Munich - were rocked by gunfire and explosions and marred by tragedy. Terrorists seized, then killed 11 members of the Israeli team.

The 85-year-old Brundage slowly walked into the Olympic Stadium and proclaimed: The Games must go on.

King of the Olympics will be telecast on four consecutive Mondays by CTV, starting Aug. 8.

The closing concert of the ninth annual Edmonton Folk Festival will be broadcast live by CBC Stereo on Aug. 7.

The lineup includes John Prine, Figgys Duff and Cab Calloway - still going strong at the age of 80.

Vancouver native Cheryl Wilson, one of the stars of a new CTV situation-comedy - Learning The Ropes - wants to help other people learn the ropes.

She is working on a book, So You Want to be a Star, on the strange-but-true world of auditions. The book (she is a co-author) is based on a series of anecdotes from entertainment personalities.

Elton John put on a multi-colored fright wig, diamond-drop earrings and a glittering Bob Mackie creation, picked up an Australian symphony orchestra and set out to turn Down Under into Standing Up - as in applauding.

The rock superstar joined forces with the Melbourne Symphony for a 27-day Australian tour.

The final concert - in a packed Sydney Entertainment Centre - was taped for television. And CBC-TV is about to unveil it. The 90-minute special, Elton John Live in Australia, will be telecast Aug. 3.

Adventure in art for kids

Peel's summer "Art for Kids" program is, so far, a big success.

Program instructor Paulette Murphy says it's proving to be an instructional and entertaining activity as well as a great opportunity for the kids to make new friends.

"The kids love it when you praise their work," says Murphy. "It's beautiful to see this big grin spread across their face."

Ms. Murphy is a professional artist and a 14-year resident of Brampton. When she decided to go back to school, she says she was torn between wanting to study early childhood education and fine art.

"I'm glad I chose art because the 'Art for Kids' program allows me to work with both of these interests."

"Art for Kids" classes, sponsored each summer by the Region of Peel Art Gallery, part of the Peel Heritage Complex, will run through August.

Daily two-hour sessions introduce young artists, aged 6-12, to painting, drawing, printmaking and sculpting. They are able to experiment with a variety of materials to create their own works of art.

Tours of the Gallery's exhibition and the Heritage Complex are also available.

Half-day classes are offered in two-week sessions. Children, ages 6-9, meet from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Children, ages 10-12 meet from 1 to 3 p.m. Enrollment is limited and is on a first-come, first-served basis. Payment is required two weeks in advance of the course starting date.

Sessions are scheduled as follows: August 1-12: Artventure. August 15-26: Printmaking and Sculpture.

Each session costs \$55 per child for non-members, and \$50 per child for members and families registering more than one child. Supplies will be provided. All classes are held at the Peel Heritage Complex, 9 Wellington Street East, Brampton. However, some classes are held outside, weather permitting.

For further details on "Art for Kids" registration, and information, please contact Joanne Bishop, Heritage Programs Assistant, at 451-9896, Tuesday to Saturday, between 12 noon and 4:30 p.m.

Agri-crews continuing work on local farming operations

The Agricrew program, a joint venture of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Ministry of Skills Development is well under way in this, its 11th year of operation. The Agricrews, which provide local farms, nurseries and orchards with extra help during busy times are beginning the last half of the nine-week program which ends on Aug. 19.

To date, the crews have serviced 20 different farmers or growers and are booked solid until the program comes to a close in August. There are however, a limited number of positions available for students as crew members on a fill-in basis to replace members who are sick or

unavailable for work on a given day.

For more information on the Agricrew program itself, or on possible part time employment for the remainder of the summer, contact Gordon Ackroyd at 451-5474 or 878-2314.

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