

Entertainment Outlook



ASK DICK KLEINER

Which actor played Opie?

By Dick Kleiner

Q. What is the name of the actor who played the part of Opie on "The Andy Griffith Show"? Then, he starred in "Happy Days" as the Cun-

ningham teen-ager. — M.T., Fairfax, Ala.

A. As Opie, he was known as Ronny Howard. Then when he grew a bit, he called himself Ron Howard when he played Richie Cunningham. Now that he's a top movie director, he's still

Ron Howard. But don't be surprised if he becomes Ronald Howard one of these days, in celebration of maturity.

Q. Please settle a dispute we are having here. My friend says that Dorothy Lamour was born in Lawrence, Mass., and I say he is wrong. — A.M.V., Methuen, Mass.

A. I say you're right, he's wrong. Dotty was born on Dec. 10, 1914, in New Orleans.

Q. I would like to know the name of the movie in which Dick Powell played a drug agent. The movie took you around the world ending in New York when they dumped all the garbage into the ocean. — L.S., Mountoursville, Pa.

A. That movie was called "To the Ends of the Earth." It was made in 1948, with Powell and Signe Hasso starring.

Q. I was wondering if the lady who played Glinda, the Good Witch, in "The Wizard of Oz," was also in "Topper." What is her name and is she dead? — D.L.D., Rigby, Idaho.

A. Yes, Billie Burke, who appeared in hundreds of movies, was one of the stars in both "Topper" and "The Wizard of Oz." She also was once Mrs. Flo Ziegfeld. She died in 1970.

Q. We watched James Arness in "Gunsmoke" for years and recently in the movie "Red River." I was wondering if he is still living? Does he have a family? — Mrs. W.L.L., Nac-

ogdoches, Texas.

A. Yes, James Arness, who is the father of two sons and a daughter, is still living.

Q. My daughter and I would like to know if Chuck Woolery of "The Love Connection" and Jeff McGregor of "The All New Dating Game" were in any way related. They seem to have similar characteristics, such as looks, personality and sense of humor. — J. and C., Lowell, Mass.

A. Their characteristics may appear similar, but their family trees are different. No relation.

Q. I've tried for many months to get an answer to my question. Hope you can help. Who is the beautiful lady who plays Felicia Galante on "Another World"? Can you tell me something about her? — D.C., Coleman, Texas.

A. That's a Los Angeles woman named Linda Dano, who, when she isn't acting, is a fashion consultant. When she isn't fashion consulting, she runs an antique furniture store in Connecticut. But she is a busy actress, too — she was previously on "As the World Turns" and "One Life To Live."

FILMETER

By Robert DiMatteo

In Movie Theaters

COCKTAIL (R) Hangover time. Everything about this movie is misconceived, including the basic premise that bartenders and boozing are the absolute height of macho cool. Tell that to the growing ranks of under-30s in AA.

Tom Cruise stars as a fresh-faced, money-hungry hunk who becomes the best young bartender in Manhattan — all under the tutelage of brawny, male-chauvinist-pig drink-pourer Bryan Brown.

Eventually, Cruise takes off for Jamaica, where he flips for sweet, artistic Elizabeth Shue. Brown shows up, too, behaving in increasingly self-destructive fashion, though he's newly wed to a blonde millionairess who cavorts like Pocahontas of the beach.

Cruise's libido gets the better of him one night, and he sleeps with a brittle, well-beeled older woman. Shue finds out and heads back to New York, where it turns out that she's really the daughter of an Upper East Side moneybags. Cruise tracks her down, only to find out that she's — fill in the blank — pregnant!

It should tell you something about this movie that never once is the option of abortion mentioned as a solution to Shue's pregnancy. The picture is a manipulative mix of '60s and '70s permissiveness, '50s sappy moralism and '80s yuppie acquisitiveness. Toward the end, the shallow conflicts

grow so overheated that the movie turns into an inadvertent comedy. **GRADE: ★**

A FISH CALLED WANDA (R) The ingredients of this determinedly wild London-set comedy are so promising that it's all the more disappointing when the movie fails to come together. For every successful bit, there are many more sort-of-funny and trying-too-hard-to-be-funny moments.

Monty Python's John Cleese wrote and stars in the film, playing a priggish barrister hired to defend a member of a gang of jewel thieves. Double-crossing gang member Wanda (Jamie Lee Curtis) sets to seducing Cleese, in the hopes of finding out where her behind-bars partner has hidden the stolen jewels.

Among the other duplicitous thieves are fellow Python member Michael Palin, whose stuttering schtick is borderline offensive. Kevin Kline plays the Nietzsche-quoting numskull of the gang, giving one of those flamboyant, stagey performances that always get overpraised.

If this off-the-wall heist caper reminds you as much of a '50s Ealing Studios comedy, like "The Lavender Hill Mob," as it does of a Python flick, you should know that it was directed by 78-year-old "Lavender Hill" director Charles Crichton. Crichton's once-subtle touch is now often clumsy, but even he can't ruin one pitch-black running gag involving various thwarted attempts to murder an old woman. **GRADE: ★★**



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