

the HERALD

Entertainment

Cleese at his chaotic best
in A Fish Called Wanda

AT THE MOVIES

By DIAHANN NADEAU

Herald Special

Monty Python fans take heart; Cleese is back and he's better than ever. Cleese wrote the script for A Fish Called Wanda and it has all the hallmarks of some of the best Python skills. Finally someone is doing philosopher jokes again - it's been too long since we met Mr. and Mrs. Jean-Paul Sartre on the beach.

Jamie Lee Curtis is Wanda, a very sexy, very treacherous young woman who is part of a massive heist scheme. The movie opens with the bank robbery and it's fast action, split second timing. The audience doesn't quite know what to expect after this but it all becomes clear. Wanda's older lover, a repulsive little man called George, is the leader; he has hired Otto (Kevin Kline), a weapons expert whom he believes to be Wanda's brother, to aid him in the robbery. The team also includes Ken (Michael Palin), a stuttering individual with a passion for animals and fish (including a fish called Wanda). The robbery is successful but then the treachery begins.

Otto reports George to the police. George is arrested and hires Archie Leach (Cleese) to defend him in court. Wanda plays up to Archie so she can find out where double-crossing George has hidden the money. (Actually, Wanda plays up to a lot of men in this film). That's the plot.

There is a marvelous running gag with Ken trying to murder a little old lady, while Otto spends the movie trying to prevent Wanda from sleeping with anyone else, especially Archie. Otto is a thug with a difference, he reads philosophy - he doesn't understand it but he reads it. Wanda is aroused by foreign languages and Otto speaks Italian to her: "Osso buco, parmigiana, mozzarella... yes, Otto has memorized all the Italian menus he has ever read. The movie is witty as well as funny and Otto is certainly one of the most hilarious bad guys I've ever seen.

The real surprise in this movie is Cleese himself though, who ever would have pegged Cleese as a

romantic lead? Cleese is marvelous as Archie, an ignored spouse with a bratty daughter and a bored wife. When Wanda makes her move Archie becomes an impetuous, wild, romantic hero. The love scenes between Cleese and Curtis are terrific. There is a real chemistry there; it's amazing to see Cleese in this new light.

The whole cast is delightful. Jamie Lee Curtis is tremendously sexy and clever. Kevin Kline shows a surprising ability to do broad comedy; his Otto is a masterpiece of stupidity and animal cunning. Palin is hilarious in his pursuit of a little old lady who has an astonishing ability to survive. (Otto has bet him a pound he can't kill the woman). Cleese is wonderful - funny, romantic, vulnerable and amazed. You have to see this movie if you are a Cleese fan; it is his best performance yet.

I enjoyed this movie tremendously; but I am an old Python fan. If you aren't a Python aficionado you may not like this. However, I think that most of the jokes are mainstream and not too obscure. I thought this was the funniest movie I've seen this year.



John Cleese

Belleville man wins draw

The raffle held in conjunction with the summer art exhibition at the Halton Hills Cultural Centre has been won by a Belleville man.

Gordon Payne of Palmer Road in Belleville is the lucky winner of a framed wood engraving, entitled "Monarch II" by artist Barbara Howard. The draw was made Saturday afternoon at the Georgetown Public Library, the final day of the

Barbara Howard summer exhibition in the adjacent gallery. The collection of Impressionist paintings, drawings and wood engravings hung in the local gallery for six weeks, attracting many admirers of the Toronto artist since the opening in late June.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Halton Hills Libraries, any proceeds from the raffle go to assist the libraries in Acton and Georgetown.

19th Century wedding
staged at Pioneer Village

One of the most important social events in the life of a 19th century rural village - a wedding - will be re-enacted at Black Creek Pioneer Village on Sunday, Aug. 21, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

In many ways, the event will be characteristic of weddings in 19th century Ontario. The groom will be a middle-aged widower with children, while his bride will be much younger. They will be married in an authentic Methodist service, followed by a luncheon, which will feature grace, toasts, speeches, and perhaps music and dance.

Visitors from the 20th century are welcome to view the ceremony and the luncheon along with the costumed 19th century wedding party, choir, and guests. An interpreter will be on hand to explain the wedding customs as they are re-enacted.

Following the luncheon, the bride and groom will retire to their new home, where they will be subjected to another prevalent 19th century custom - the chivaree. Some village ruffians will gather outside the home to serenade the couple with "music" made with the aid of horns, pots and pans, and other noisemakers.

All of the wedding activities are free with admission to Black Creek

Pioneer Village. The Village is open daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and is located at Jane Street and Steeles Avenue, in northwest Metro Toronto. For more information, call (416) 736-1733.

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Doo-wop makes a triumphant return

The doo-woppers are back! You remember the doo-wop sound which generated a number of hits in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

Doo-wop is making a comeback with the release of albums combining old favourites with new productions.

The Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock 'n' Roll describes doo-wop as "a form of rhythm-and-blues-based harmony vocalizing, using nonsense syllables (such as a repeated doo-wop) for rhythm and intricate har-

monic arrangements... the ornate vocal arrangements were based in a cappella vocalizing; their musical accompaniment was often muted and softly swinging."

Rolling Stone may have to update this reference, changing words such as "were" and "was" to "are" and "is" if the renewed interest in this type of music leads to a real revival.

Some of the people who helped launch the doo-wop sound 30 years ago will be performing in Toronto on Aug. 17.

This fall is a good time
to kick that nasty habit

Fall is a great time to kick-the-habit! The weather is just right for replacing those coffee breaks and after meal cigarettes with a brisk walk. Fall air will soon smell the way it did when you were a child. Deep breaths of the crisp air will take away many quitters' cravings.

If you would like to give up smoking this fall, the Lung Association - Halton Region would like to help. They can provide literature on Smoking and Quitting, and they are offering their annual Milton "Cold Turkey" clinic beginning at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 12 at the Milton District Hospital, for five consecutive evenings.

Cold Turkey's tremendous success (a 1983 study contacted 1,000 Cold Turkey participants and found that 60 per cent had been successful in quitting) is attributed to excellent speakers, films and group discussions. Many quitters also find it helpful to have somewhere to go after dinner each night.

There is a \$10 registration fee for this program, which is subsidized through the public's generous support of the Christmas Seal Campaign.

If you would like more information or to register for the Cold Turkey Clinic, please phone the Lung Association at 632-8499. Registration is limited.

Air Force reunion
planned at Dunnville

For the past 42 years Royal Canadian Air Force personnel who were stationed at No. 6 S.F.T.S. during the war have gathered in Dunnville to celebrate their station reunion. This year marks their 43rd get together which will take place Sept. 9, 10 and 11.

The weekend begins with a Lake Erie Perch Dinner at the Royal Canadian Legion on Friday evening followed by a reception at the River-view Motel hosted by His Worship Mayor Frank Marshall.

The Clare Thunder Mug Golf Tournament will take place at the Dunnville Golf and Country Club on Saturday morning and a visit to the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum at Mt. Hope has been arranged for the non-golfer.

A commemorative plaque will be unveiled at the Guard House at Old No. 6 and the Annual Parade, Harvard Fly-Past, Memorial Service and Annual Banquet will be held Saturday afternoon and evening. The weekend closes Sunday morn-

ing with an outdoor breakfast of 'Flappers and Bangers' at the River-view Motel.

All wartime personnel, all ranks and all trades are invited to attend. If not on the mailing list please contact Frank Scholfield, Adjutant-General, 646 Alder St. West, Dunnville, Ont. N1A 1S5, or phone (416) 774-5480.

Open auditions

Peel Panto Players is now in its 15th season and this year's production is "Mother Goose". Auditions are being held for cast and chorus, and all parts are open to anyone 18 years or older.

Dates are September 6 and 7 at 8 p.m. at 54 Bramstele Road, Unit 24. (Located in the same complex that Jake's Boatouse, at the back of these units). For more information please contact: Alfie at 828-2315 or Paul at 453-7463.

Bargain hunters' paradise

The Chinguacousy Curling Arena will become a bargain-hunter's paradise on the weekend of Aug. 26-28 when Chinguacousy Park hosts the Brampton Board of Trade Manufacturer's Garage Sale.

Manufacturers and distributors of kitchen wares; personal appliances; perfume; wheelbarrows; patio furniture; jewellery; windows and doors; kitchen appliances; lawn mowers and snow blowers; garden sheds; ceiling fans; and more; will slash prices and sell off ends of lines. All product is new, and warranties will apply.

This is an excellent opportunity to pick up some really incredible bargains, have some fun, and do some early Christmas shopping!

Dates and times are: Friday, Aug. 26 - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, Aug. 27 - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, Aug. 28 - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Admission is \$2 per person; Seniors \$1; children under 16 accompanied by an adult are admitted free.

Chinguacousy Curling Arena is located in the Chinguacousy Park at Highway 7 and Bramalea Road.

CORRECTION

FOR POPPY'S AD WHICH APPEARED IN THE AUGUST 13th EDITION OF "OUTLOOK"

Ad Read:
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Entertainment
By BOB SPENCE
Thomson News Service

Dick Fox's Doo-Wop Extravaganza at Roy Thomson Hall features The Teenagers (Why Do Fools Fall in Love), The Harptones and The Hearts (Long Lonely Nights), Don and Juan (What's Your Name), Johnnie and Joe (Over the Mountain, Across the Sea), Lenny Coco and the Chimes (Once In A While) and The Teenchords (I'm So Happy).

Now that more than half of all Canadian home have VCRs, companies are expanding their horizons to include the pedestrian market.

Sony of Canada Ltd. has announced its GV-Video Walkman, a portable TV-VCR, will be available in the fall.

The hand-held unit - five inches wide, eight inches high, with a depth of 2 1/4 inches - includes a three-inch color LCD screen, a one-day/one-event timer and a built-in TV tuner.

The 2 1/4 pound unit operates on AC or DC current or batteries.

There was the Toronto Symphony, performing in Our Lady of Victory Igloo Church.

Music in the Midnight Sun, follows the symphony on a journey to the far north.

As well as offering musical highlights, the TV production captures the social interaction between symphony musicians and native drummers, fiddlers and dancers.

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Music in the Midnight Sun is part of Adrienne Clarkson's Summer Festival series.

South Pacific is being moved quite a few land and sea miles to the northeast.

The two-year tour of the classical musical South Pacific is restarting in Thunder Bay after a brief break.

By the time this tour ends next March, it will be the second-largest grossing theatrical tour in history (behind Cats).

When all the admission dollars are counted, the final take is expected to reach \$23 million.

There are four more Canadian stops on this North American tour after Thunder Bay (Aug. 20, 21), Edmonton (Aug. 23-28), Calgary (Sept. 6, 7) and Hamilton, (Oct. 3).

Two of the four headliners are Canadian - Tony and Grammy award-winner Robert Goulet, who grew up in Toronto and Edmonton, and Don Goodspeed, a Nova Scotia native. Rebecca Andrew and Paul Keith are the other stars of this revival of the Pulitzer Prize-winning Rogers and Hammerstein classic.

The musical based on James A. Michener's novel, Tales of the South Pacific, features such songs as Some Enchanted Evening.

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-David Aron, NEWSWEEK
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