

# the HERALD Entertainment

## Chalk up another Die Hard fan



By DIAHANN NADEAU  
Herald Special  
Missing Moonlighting? Wondering how Bruce Willis is wearing his hair nowadays? Dying to hear two people argue at once? Then Die Hard is for you. And surprisingly, for those of us who have a low tolerance for the mouthy Mr. Willis, Die Hard is still fun. Amazing, don't you think?

Willis plays John McClane, a New York cop who has come to LA to be with his family for Christmas. His wife Holly (Bonnie Bedelia) works for a large corporation celebrating Christmas with a party in their new and unfinished skyscraper. John arrives and he and Holly start arguing together and at the same time. (I was looking for Maddie Hayes at that point.) A band of terrorists/robbers enters the building and seals off the party-goers, keeping 30 people hostage. McClane manages to escape without being seen and starts the game of knocking off the villains one by one, using their weapons and radio to his advantage.

The terrorists are a group of 12 (or more) men who are very well trained, precise, and utterly ruthless. Most of them are German, including the leader, Hans Gruber (Alan Rickman). They have taken over the building to rob the vault of \$640 million in securities. They probably spent a couple of million on weapons; their arms are so sophisticated that the LAPD and the FBI are hopelessly outgunned. Naturally it is left to John McClane to defeat these Euro-thugs and release the hostages. Can he do it? Don't be silly; LA is America, where one man equipped with a handgun can outsmart, outmaneuver, and outrun a dozen armed-to-the-teeth Europeans. We know the score.

The movie is good because it is basically tongue-in-cheek; there's a lot of humor and quite a few laughs. McClane may be taking on the bad guys alone, but we know that it's a ridiculous plot and only in the movies could this sort of thing happen. In fact, McClane refers to himself as Roy, after his hero, Roy Rogers.

Another heavy-handed satire involves the authorities, local and federal. The LAPD's deputy chief is too stupid to be believed, and the FBI are all idiots named Johnson. The media is depicted as even

dumber than the police, putting them on par with my Alredale! Fortunately the terrorists are a little smarter; though not smart enough, of course.

I'm sure John McClane was written with Willis in mind. The role seems tailor-made for him. And he does it well, managing to keep his irritating mannerisms down to a minimum. Bonnie Bedelia is his wife Holly Gennaro; I realized after a few seconds that I disliked her voice and wasn't too keen on her face. Considering how I viewed the two stars, it's astonishing that I liked the film.

I thought the terrorists were great, however. Alan Rickman was wonderfully cool and collected as the leading terrorist. At one point it looked like McClane had him and I was actually afraid he would be killed. Rickman's sidekick is Alexander Gouzenov, ballet star turned marksman. With thieves like this who needs good guys?

This is an enjoyable film, violent at times, but mostly just fun. The action is good and the direction is tight and Willis isn't too aggravating. What more can we ask for?



BRUCE WILLIS plays John McClane, a cop who tries to save his estranged wife from terrorists in "Die Hard."

## TV takes on that wholesome look

These days, when a child wanders into the room where his parents are watching TV, some parents turn the TV off, because of the program content.

Susan Douglas Rubes wants you to consider an alternative.

Rubes is the president of Family Channel, a pay-TV service being launched Sept. 1. She feels there is a market in Canada for family entertainment - where the only surprises viewers get are pleasant ones.

In a Toronto telephone interview, Rubes stressed the Family Channel wants to provide "entertainment people can laugh at or cry with... but is not going to offend."

This is not going to be a Yuppie



Bob Spence  
Thomson News Service

sex. They want to have fun... they don't want to see the hard stuff."

Sixty per cent of the Family Channel's programs come from the Disney Channel in the US (movies, cartoons, etc.). Another 25 per cent are Canadian.

The Family Channel (about \$9.95 per month, less 11 part of a pay-TV package) will concentrate on movies - which make up about 45 per cent of its programming.

Each weekday, there will be children's programs from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m., followed by a movie. Then, after children's programming from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., it's movie-time again. There will be more children's programming at 4 p.m. The evening programs are aimed at adult or family audiences.

All of the programs are suitable for people of all ages, said Rubes. There will be "nothing that will be of harm... morally to children."

As well as offering new programs, the Family Channel is recycling some old ones, such as the George Burns and Gracie Allen Show from the 1950s (weeknights at 11) and a series of Shirley Temple films.

Family Channel, an all-Canadian company owned by Allarcom Pay TV Ltd. and Astral Bellevue Communications Ltd., hopes to have 220,000 customers by the end of its first year, then continue to grow. Its break-even point is 300,000, said Rubes.

Bridges, a three-time Oscar nominee, is THE Bridges.

For the first time, father and son are appearing in the same movie, Tucker: The Man and His Dream. Jeff is the star, while Lloyd is one of a number of supporting actors.

Look out Britain, here come the Canadians.

Country and western recording artists Terry Carisse, Anita Perras and Tim Taylor, the Good Brothers, Gary Fjellgaard and Michelle Wright are on their way to Terry Old England.

They will be performing at a Canadian matinee at the International Country Music Festival in Peterborough, England, on Aug. 29.

## GO-ing to the Ex?

GO Transit and the Canadian National Exhibition are teaming up again this year to offer discounted adult admission to the Ex.

With weekend and Labor Day CNE prices rising this year, GO's fare-and-admission bargain looks better than ever. Passengers can buy their adult CNE admission when they pay their GO fare (or show their monthly pass) and save 50 cents off the CNE gate price. That makes adult admission only \$5.50 on weekends and Labor Day instead of \$6, and only \$4.50 weekdays instead of \$5. GO will also sell seniors' and children's admissions at the regular price of \$2 on weekends and Labor Day, and \$1 on weekdays.

Passengers will not only save money, but by getting their CNE tickets in advance, will also avoid lining up at the CNE gates.

GO riders bound for the CNE can save even more with a GO group pass, which allows as many as five people to travel to the CNE for the cost of only two regularly-priced adult return fares (provided at least one but not more than two of the members of the group are 18 or older).

CNE tickets will be available starting Aug. 15 at all Lakeshore train

stations and bus terminals and most ticket agencies, as well as GO's Brampton bus terminal and Bramalea City Centre ticket outlets. The CNE runs from Aug. 17 through Labor Day, Sept. 5.

GO trains serve Exhibition station hourly all summer long on the Lakeshore line between Oakville and Pickering, where GO bus connections extend the service west to Hamilton and east to Gahawa. On the mornings of Saturday, Sept. 3 and Sunday, Sept. 4, service will be increased to 20-minute intervals. Special GO buses will operate out of Brampton and Bramalea to connect with Lakeshore GO trains at Port Credit throughout the fair.

Parking is free at all Lakeshore GO stations, and under GO's fare-integration program, passengers can get a free ride to the GO station on Pickering, Oakville, or Burlington Transit by showing a pre-purchased GO ticket or pass, or on Mississauga Transit by showing their fare integration monthly pass.

GO's CNE timetable contains full details of CNE service and can be picked up at GO stations. For further details, the public should call GO information at 653-0572. Phone lines are open 7 a.m. - 11 p.m. daily, and 8 a.m. - 11 p.m. Sundays.

## Enjoy the Indian summer

Indian Summer will arrive at the Crawford Lake Indian Village and Conservation Area on Steeles Avenue just east of Guelph Line precisely at 10 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 11 with a day-long festival of special entertainment and exhibits.

The Indian Summer Festival is being organized by the volunteers of the Halton Region Conservation Foundation, as part of the fundraising campaign to completely rebuild the pre-European Iroquois Village which stood near Crawford Lake 500 years ago, and to provide furnishings and exhibits for the Conservation Centre.

The Festival will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$5 per car, the normal admission price to this conservation area.

Entertainment during the day will include the Jim Sky Native Dancers in full costume, and outdoor concerts by the Burlington Teen Tour Band and the Playford Players, who perform medieval music on guitar and hammered dulcimer.

There will also be native arts and crafts on display, including mask-making. Staff from the Museum of

Indian Archaeology in London will also conduct special demonstrations.

Conservation Authority staff will co-ordinate activity areas through the village including native games and longhouse tours. Visitors will also be able to ride in wagons to the escarpment lookout area above the sheer cliffs of the Nassagaweya Canyon.

Visitors can buy corn roasted in the husk - as the Indians once cooked it - or boiled over an open fire in large cauldrons.

Crawford Lake can be reached easily by driving about three miles south from the Guelph Line exit of Highway 401, or about 10 miles above the Queen Elizabeth Way. It is located on Steeles Avenue at Guelph Line.

For more information about the Indian Summer Festival, call the community relations department of the Halton Region Conservation Authority at 536-1158, in Burlington.

## Exploring the environment

The Kortright Centre for Conservation offers a wide range of family activities on September weekends, from sampling natural honey to imitating the love call of a moose.

Every weekend during September, including Labor Day, from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., visitors can drop by Kortright's beekeeping house to talk to the beekeeper and taste fresh, natural honey.

On the same weekends, visitors can also learn how to help preserve our natural environment by recycling household waste, during Recycling: The Second Time Around, at 1 p.m.

Then, learn how to attract wildlife by imitating such sounds as animal distress calls and deer antlers rubbing against a tree, during Call of the Wild, at 2:30 p.m. This nature walk shows you how to greatly increase your chances of seeing wildlife up close.

On Sunday, Sept. 18, the Kortright Centre presents the Potpourri Workshop, at 2:30 p.m. Learn how to collect plants and prepare your own potpourri. The workshop is free with admission to Kortright, and materials are available for sale in the gift shop.

Also, on Sunday, Sept. 25, adven-

turous visitors can join the Humber Valley Hike, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. This guided hike explores the Humber River's natural and historical heritage.

The Kortright Centre is open daily, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is located minutes from Metro Toronto. Follow the signs: take Highway 400 to Mackenzie Drive (Canada's Wonderland) west three kilometres to Pine Valley Drive, then south one kilometre. For more information, call (416) 661-6600.

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These days, Lloyd's son, Jeff

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