

# Here's a Punchline you won't forget

## the HERALD Entertainment

### Take in another culture

By DIAMANN NADEAU  
Herald Special  
Punchline is a movie about a trendy subject: stand-up comedy. How trendy is stand-up comedy? Rolling Stone magazine just featured comedians on their cover along with several articles on the comedy scene. Entertainment Tonight did a segment on comics last week. There seem to be about a billion

shows on television featuring stand-up comedians. Even the CBC has jumped on the bandwagon. So Punchline is a very hot film. However, beyond being trendy, it is good. To me, that was both a surprise and a relief. Oh me, of little faith. Tom Hanks plays Steven Gold, a failed medical student come stand-up comic who is on the verge of his big break. He is also on the verge of

#### AT THE MOVIES

his first breakdown. Sally Field is Lilah Krystick, a housewife with comedic ambitions who books up with Gold. He teaches her a lot about being funny, thank God, because Lilah really needed lessons. However, as Lilah's star rises, Steven sinks deeper into his emotional quagmire. The descent is painful to watch, but Hanks manages it well. It's embarrassing to see someone fall apart on stage, but the drama is balanced by many funny moments and good jokes.

Steven is not a very nice guy; off-stage he's pretty much a jerk. His life is falling apart, he has no place to live, no money, a massive chip on his shoulder and he lays all this at Lilah's feet in a misguided offer of love. That he fancies himself in love with Lilah is a good indication of just how sick he is. (Remember, this is Sally Field we're talking about.)

Lilah faces the never-ending dilemma of the modern wife and mother - how to manage a life outside the house without being dumped on by the family. At times it's touch-and-go whether she'll make it through the battle, especially with Steven's unrealistic expectations. John Goodman (Roseanne) plays her bewildered husband John, an insurance salesman who just doesn't

understand her obsession - he doesn't think she's funny. Punchline is about these two comics, but it also offers insights into the stand-up comedy world. Here audiences can be mean, cruel, and heartless. However, when the routine works, it's a tremendous thrill for the performer, an addictive high that can be as dangerous as drugs. As Steve Martin put it, comedy is not pretty.

Hanks is very impressive as Steven Gold. This is the first time that Hanks plays a jerk, a guy you just don't like. He plays him as if he has always been Steven Gold: abrasive, cocky, and arrogant. Gone is the sweet charmer of Big.

Sally Field. What can I say about Sally Field? No Sally, I really don't like you. I have never liked you, and your last Oscar speech just about made me sick. However, this is a Sally Field performance I can live with. This is amazing, as I dislike her face, her voice, her height, everything about her. (Perhaps Sally inspired Rand; Newman's "Short People...")

John Goodman is terrific as Lilah's put-upon husband, a large bear with a soft heart. Steven Gold can't begin to compete with John Krystick; being thin isn't everything.

Punchline is a good movie, with a lot of laughs as well as insights into the dark world behind the applause and successes. Make no mistake - comedy is not a funny business.



SALLY FIELD is a housewife and Tom Hanks is a failed med student. Both are aspiring stand-up comics who befriend each other in "Punchline."

Imagine being able to absorb the culture of a foreign country for a whole year without ever having to leave home.

That's exactly what the ASSE Student Exchange Program offers local families who want to host an outstanding teenager from abroad. Having a European or Australian youngster become part of the family for an academic year gives everyone in the house the opportunity to learn more about themselves and the world they live in.

ASSE teenagers are outstanding students from Europe, Australia, and all points inbetween. They're motivated 15 to 18-year-olds who want to become part of a Canadian household, which means they pitch in on everything from chores to family discussions. They're also enthusiastic about sharing the culture and customs of their own homeland. And, although most ASSE kids are fluent in English, they love to help teach their own language to their Canadian family. And what better way to learn?

Host families also gain a new perspective on their own way of life. Parents, and kids alike come to appreciate lots of things they've probably taken for granted. Like all the

TV channels they have to choose from, plus all the great things to buy in our consumer wonderland.

The ASSE exchange program only lasts 10 months, but host families discover the special relationships they build go on forever. "It was like having another son. A son, plus a whole new family we get to visit when we go to France." (Mary Smith, Sudbury, Ontario). "From our one ASSE exchange student, we got a whole new family overseas." (Kim Kirkby, Abbotsford, BC).

And it's reassuring to know that the ASSE program is affiliated with the most esteemed government education departments in the world: The National Swedish and Finnish Departments of Education. The Canadian Provincial Ministries of Education and the Australian and New Zealand Departments of Education have approved the ASSE program, and the United States Information Agency has officially designated ASSE as an exchange visitor program.

If you want to give your family a foreign accent for a year and even a lifetime, contact ASSE's local representative, Martha Lewis at (416) 877-1026, evenings.

## Hello Dolly hits the stage in a week

By NANCY McNEIL  
Herald Special

The magic of Hello Dolly hits the Georgetown stage in just one week's time. For months the cast, production team and orchestra of Globe Productions have been working diligently to prepare Hello Dolly for its debut. If you enjoy lively and amusing musicals then Hello Dolly offers a wonderful and fun-filled evening of entertainment.

You can ensure you're there when the curtain opens on Hello Dolly by obtaining your tickets at Royal LePage Realty, 170 Guelph Street, Georgetown. Evening performances are on Nov. 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26, 30 and Dec. 1, 2, and 3 and matinees will be staged on Nov. 20 and 27 all at the John Elliott Theatre, 9 Church Street, Georgetown. If you require further information call 877-4323.

Dolly Levis and Horace Vandergelder are the leading characters in the amusing story of Hello Dolly. Portraying these roles with enthusiasm and talent are Sandra Greig and Vic Dunleavy, a most colorful couple. Together this terrific twosome has created humorous, witty and imaginative characters who will surely delight the whole audience.

Sandra Greig, better known as Sandy, plays the illustrious Dolly. Born in Ottawa but raised in Georgetown, Sandy completed high

school, then commenced a career as a flight attendant. During this time she met and married Horay and they have just recently celebrated their 25th anniversary. Sandy states her husband is very good at encouraging all her theatre endeavors. They have two children, Whitney and Devon, and reside in the Terra Cotta area.

Sandy says music has always been a very important part of her life. She enjoys all types of music but she particularly likes the show tunes. In order to enhance her appreciation of music, Sandy has taken voice lessons for a number of years. Sandy was one of the original members of Globe in the 1960s and was quick to rejoin the club when they reorganized in the early 1980s. Sandy also holds memberships with the Brampton Musical Society and Mississauga City Center Opera. She has played leading roles in numerous musical productions, including Mame, South Pacific, Brigadoon, Anything Goes, Dick Whittington, The King and I, and Camelot. She has also participated in the chorus of Lil Abner, Finian's Rainbow, and My Fair Lady. Her talents go beyond the stage as she also enjoys working in the make-up and costume departments. In addition, Sandy is the Vice-President of Globe for the '88-89 term.

Sandy says she likes Globe because she's with people who share

her love of music. She further explains that with each production she learns something new about theatre from the variety of people who get involved. Sandy expects her involvement with Globe will be ongoing, and that's good news for the group.

The leading role of Dolly is very exciting for Sandy. She describes Dolly as an 1890s business woman with definite busybody tendencies. Dolly is a schemer who humorously manipulates the lives of others to suit her own needs, including conniving to arrange her own marriage to Horace.

Vic Dunleavy portrays the overbearing Horace Vandergelder, the object of Dolly's attention. Vic was born and raised in Toronto but moved to Georgetown 20 years ago with his wife, Barb (also in the show), and two children, Vicki and Dan. Vic is employed as a firefighter with the City of Toronto.

Vic says he's always enjoyed singing around the house, with rock 'n roll being his favorite. He had never considered singing outside the home let alone on stage. Then about four years ago he saw a poster asking for men to try out for Globe's Mame. Interested in what it would entail, and with encouragement from his wife, he joined Globe. He describes his first experience on stage as exciting and a big thrill. From that point on Vic was hooked

on musical theatre. He went on to play many character parts in shows such as Lil Abner, Brigadoon and Kiss Me Kate. Vic also appeared in Globe's Stay Tuned and in the Easter play, Seven Last Words.

Vic explains that being involved with Globe has led to many new friendships. He states the group turns hard work of the production into an enjoyable experience. Vic is pleased to be able to share his fascination of music with others. He states it's a great hobby and encourages others to try it.

Playing the part of Horace is a challenge, says Vic. He describes Horace as a loud, domineering, half-millionaire tightwad who tries to control the lives of those around him. However, he soon loses control of everything when Dolly Levi walks into his life. Vic feels he possesses some of Horace's personality traits and so he's having fun with the character. Vic says it's a real pleasure to be playing opposite Sandra Greig, who coincidentally was the leading lady in his first musical show.

With Sandy's professionalism and Vic's entertaining nature the audience is in for a treat. Add wonderful music and terrific acting and Hello Dolly promises to be a rollicking and fun musical the whole family will enjoy!



#### Tis the Season

Evelyn Gable and Lena Thompson were in a jolly spirit Nov. 5 as they decorated a small Christmas tree for the bazaar at the Knox

Presbyterian Church. Organizers sold the goods were good for the annual craft sale. (Herald photo)

## New challenge for nurses

Calling all nurses! Explore nursing opportunities at Ontario's largest psychiatric hospital. Meet the Queen Street Mental Health Centre Nursing Department staff at an Open House, Thursday, Nov.

10, noon to 6 p.m. All RNs, RNAs and students are invited. Come and explore your opportunities in psychiatric nursing - one of the most exciting fields today. Call 535-8501 Ext. 125 for more information.

## Wouk's saga continues on television

After investing four years and millions of dollars in the project, the producers of War and Remembrance are ready to unveil about half of their TV mini-series.

It will take at least 30 hours of tele-drama to capture the essence of Herman Wouk's novel (which continues the saga he started in The Winds of War).

The first 18 hours of this mini-series will be telecast later this month. The balance of the production - estimated at another 12 hours, though it may be more - is scheduled to be telecast in 1989. Filming has been completed but work is still being done on the second part of this epic mini-series.

The mini-series, with a budget of more than \$100 million, is the largest single entertainment production in TV history, says a spokesman for CTV, which has the Canadian rights.



In War and Remembrance, you can follow the characters introduced by Wouk in The Winds of War through the turmoil and triumph of the Second World War.

Wouk brings history to life through the eyes of his very human characters; emotional intensity is blended with historical fact.

Robert Mitchum reprises his role as Victor 'Pug' Henry, whose family has been scattered to the far reaches of the world - a world threatened by

Adolf Hitler. Other stars include Jane Seymour, Sir John Gielgud, Polly Bergen, Victoria Tennant and Ralph Bellamy.

Part of the story unfolds in the Auschwitz death camp. The producers of War and Remembrance negotiated with the Polish government for two years before receiving permission to use the former Nazi camp for "on location" filming.

The first 18 hours of War and Remembrance will be shown in seven parts over an 11-day period on CTV, starting Nov. 13.

You can start 1989 off with a heavy dose of Shakespeare if you can handle seven plays in about 48 hours.

The seven histories in The Bard's War of the Roses cycle - Richard II; Henry IV, Part One; Henry IV, Part Two; Henry V; Henry VI, House of Lancaster; Henry VI, House of

York; and Richard III - are all being staged at The Old Vic in Toronto by the English Shakespeare Company.

The limited engagement, from Jan. 26 through March 11, includes a special marathon weekend that starts Feb. 24. All seven plays will be performed between Friday evening and Sunday evening.

Geoff Edwards feels it's time for an in-depth, all-Canadian pop music show.

Edwards is the host of CBC Radio's new Coast to Coast show - two hours of Canadian music each Saturday night.

"It's timing," said Edwards. "At this time, there is far more Canadian talent available and far more bands releasing material than ever before. We'll spotlight all this music made in Canada, from the big labels to the small."

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## Timescape presented this Saturday

The Kensington Youth Theatre Ensemble of St. Stephens (KYTES) will present a special performance this Saturday at St. Andrew's Church, Mountainview Road South in Georgetown.

The performance is being sponsored by the Drug Abuse Committee of Georgetown.

KYTES is a Toronto-based, job-readiness training program that targets unemployable youth and street kids. Trainees develop work and life skills through writing and producing their own theatrical performances.

The presentation Saturday is entitled Timescape, and shows how

people have handled struggles and stress through time.

Limited tickets are available free of charge through the Acton Social Services and Information Centre, 853-3310; the Drug Abuse Committee, 877-0915; and Youth Employment Services in Georgetown, 877-6979.

## Society hosts symposium

The symposium, "Recent Research in Lupus," will be held on Sunday, Nov. 13, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in All Saints Anglican Church Parish Hall, corner of King and Queen Streets, Hamilton.

Dr. Judah Denburg, immunologist, will moderate a panel of summer students who received Lupus Society of Hamilton research awards.

Each student will give a report on their projects after which there will be a panel discussion involving their supervisors. The doctors involved are Dr. Judah Denburg, immunologist; Dr. John Kelton, immunohematologist; Dr. Ken Rosenthal, viral immunologist; and Dr.

Brian T. Steeler, pediatrician, all from McMaster Medical Centre. A question and answer period will follow.

Everyone is welcome to attend this special meeting. Admission is free and refreshments are provided.

For more information telephone 527-2252, 388-3925 or 336-5145.

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