

Entertainment Outlook

Pee-wee didn't strike up the band

By Dick Kleiner

Q. I have a bet going so I hope you can help. My grandma said that Pee-wee Herman used to be a band leader.

ASK DICK KLEINER



DICK KLEINER

but I said no, he wasn't. Could you please settle this? — T.L., Grand Rapids, Mich.

A. Tell Granny she's mixing up her Hermans. It was Woody who was the band leader. Pee-wee is — whatever it is he is.

Q. Could you please settle a bet that has been singled, doubled and tripled? A co-worker and I have a dispute over whether or not the same actor played Captain Kirk's son in "Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan" and "Star Trek III: Who was he? Did he also play Johnny Slash in "Square Pegs"? I say his name is Merritt Buttrick. — P.A.S., Trenton, N.J.



Pee-wee Herman Darnell Williams

A. You're right. And since the bet has been tripled, you're right, you're right, you're right. Buttrick is, indeed his name and he did play all three of those parts.

Q. After an "All My Children" episode last summer, during the credits it said, "In Memory of Jo Henderson 1934-1988." What character did this person play? Also, why was the character of Jesse Hubbard eliminated? — G.E., Nassau, Bahamas.

A. Jo Henderson was not a regular, but had a recurring role as Wilma Marlowe, the mother of Natalie Hunter Cortland. She was killed in an automobile accident in Arizona on Aug. 6. Darnell Williams, the actor who played Hubbard, decided not to renew

his contract, and he and his wife moved to California. The show felt he was so closely identified with the role he could not be replaced, so eliminated his character.

Q. I have two questions about Adriano Zmed, who plays Romano on "T.J. Hooker." Does he have a first name on the show, or is it just Romano? And how old is he? — J.F.W., Yoncalla, Or.

A. He is Vince Romano. Zmed was 34 last March.

Q. In one of your columns, you gave the name of the man who played Frank Miller opposite Gary Cooper in "High Noon" as Ian MacDonald. That is correct, but his real name was Ulva Pippy. Like Gary Cooper, he was from Helena, Mont. I know because Ian MacDonald, or Ulva Pippy, was my brother. — M.P.O., Laurel, Md.

A. Thanks for that amplification.

Q. There is a Shirley Temple movie, but I don't remember the name. In it, Shirley climbs a mountain where unborn children are waiting for a ship to take them to be born. What's the name of that picture, and is it out on cassette? — M.M., Danielsville, Ga.

A. That is the '40 film, "The Blue Bird," and it is on VCR.

Q. Please settle a \$25 bet. My friend claims Julie Newmar played

Catwoman on "Batman." Did she play Catwoman? — A.D., Bellaire, Texas.

A. Yes, she was one of three who meowed their way through that role. The others were Lee Meriwether and Eartha Kitt.

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(Send your questions to: Ask Dick Kleiner, c/o Newspaper Enterprise Association, 200 Park Ave., New York, N.Y. 10166. Due to the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided.)

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Home
Post Scripts

By Glenda Hughes, Sales Rep. **873-0300**

With the month of February here, and Valentine's Day next week, I've had a little time to think about hearts, flowers and love. Our homes certainly are the main source of love, with our hearts sending out messages, on a daily basis, through our kids, and how we live, about love.

It takes no time at all for a real estate agent to walk through a home and get a feeling of what kind of atmosphere runs through that house. So much can be felt by the decor, the little touches, the pictures on the walls, sometimes even the reading material left around. We become very tuned into homes in minutes, in this job. Our homes speak volumes about our lives - even though there is not a diary in sight.

This weekend, if your home is on the market, you might consider making a little effort to emphasize the love in your home in keeping with the theme of the month of February. How about a couple of balloons in red and white placed in strategic places in the house. Perhaps a red tablecloth with Valentine paper napkins on the table; maybe some heart shaped cookies on the counter - it's all pretty simple stuff, but it can spell out love in a different way for prospective purchasers inspecting your home. Nothing sells a home better than a good feeling about what goes on inside the framework! I know it takes a little effort, maybe a trip to the specialty store - probably about a half hour of your time to give your home a little extra lift and a smile - but it might create a sale - and that has got to be worth the effort. (Speaking from one who knows!)

Actually, I'm considering painting hearts on our shutters for this weekend and rolling out a red carpet on the driveway on our own home! (Just kidding folks!) No - it hasn't sold yet - yes, it has been a week - but I'm still holding onto my sanity by a thread - ask my hubby!

If home is where the heart is - I know there are lots of hearts out there looking for the right home this weekend - and I hope it is yours (well, maybe I hope it is ours too!)

Have a little fun this weekend - laugh and wear your heart on your sleeve as well as in your home. Someone out there is going to love what's inside!

Hurt is a hit in 'Accidental Tourist'

By Robert DiMatteo

In Movie Theaters

THE ACCIDENTAL TOURIST (PG) Some movies are fun to see, but they have no staying power. Far more peculiar is the movie that doesn't

FILMETER



ROBERT DIMATTEO

quite come together while you're watching it, but that grows in the memory afterward. Lawrence ("Body Heat") Kasdan's adaptation of the critically acclaimed Anne Tyler novel is such a muted, moving movie.

Tyler's gift in her fiction — her schtick, really — is for sustaining a mood of quirky pathos. Her characters inhabit a special universe that often overlaps our own. On the screen, this literary world inevitably comes across a bit studied and artificial.

The basic subject of "Accidental Tourist" — a travel writer's emotional withdrawal after his son is murdered — turns out to be a tough one to fully dramatize, too. What happens is that the writer's drab inertia sometimes becomes the movie's as well. And yet, thinking back on this film you may find yourself haunted.

William Hurt plays the depressed protagonist, whose travel books are designed for people who want to go abroad without relinquishing any of the comforts of home. It's quickly apparent that the writer has become just such a "tourist" in his own life.

Hurt's performance in the role is highly unusual — short on surface appeal, but graced by integrity and originality. And, in the very last shot of the picture, Hurt seals everything with a smile — his only smile in the whole movie.

As the writer's estranged wife, Kathleen Turner seems too glamorous, but her role is small and Turner's slightly haughty, actressy manner has its own fascination. Geena Davis fares better as the life-embracing oddball whom Hurt hires as a dog trainer, but who hangs around to charm — and train — him.

Some of the best moments in the whole movie belong to Amy Wright, who plays Hurt's spinsterish sister, and who incarnates Anne Tyler's eccentricities with an ease that some of the other actors are obviously striving for. **GRADE: ★★★**

TALK RADIO (R) New York performance artist Eric Bogosian stars in the movie version of his provocative play about a "shock jock" — one of those radio deejays who mouth off about everything and everyone.

Directed by Oliver Stone ("Wall Street," "Platoon"), the movie is a little heavy-handed (a typical Stone tendency), trying too hard to overcome the inherent static, stagey qualities of the material. Meanwhile, the real-life murder of Denver talk show host Alan Berg has been grafted onto the fictional characters of the play, providing an unnecessarily melodramatic finish.

See the film, though, for Bogosian's fascinatingly edgy performance in the lead, and for the script's insights into some of the darker exhibitionistic/voyeuristic currents in our society. **GRADE: ★★★**

New Home Video
BULL DURHAM (R) Orion, \$89.98.

One of the surprise hits of 1988 was this salty baseball romp-cum-romance. Kevin Costner gave his best (and sexiest) performance to date as an aging minor-league catcher who suddenly finds himself confronted with a callow new pitcher (Tim Robbins). To complicate matters, both guys are after the same woman — a hot-looking, intellectually challenging team follower played with terrific flair by Susan Sarandon.

Beautifully written and (mostly) well-directed by Ron Shelton, the film is chock-full of sports lore, locker room antics and after-hours bawdiness. But it's more than that, taking a sneaky pleasure in subverting our expectations.

Despite its jock predilections, Shelton's script is literary with a vengeance: When's the last time you heard an athlete in a movie mention that the novels of Susan Sontag are overrated? **GRADE: ★★★**

(Film grading: ★★★★★ — excellent
★★★★ — good, ★★ — fair, ★ — poor)

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