

Entertainment

Trooping out Beverly Hills

By DIAHANN NADEAU
Herald Special

For once the best moments of this movie were not in the commercials. I'm not saying that Troop Beverly Hills is a good film by any means; I'm just stating that it's not quite as bad as I expected. However, my expectations were stunningly low.

Shelley Long plays the predictably spoiled, shopping-mad wife who decides to enrich her empty life by leading a troop of Wilderness Girls. The Beverly Hills troop has long been the laughing stock of the Southern California division. Betty Thomas (Hill Street Blues) is the snarly, nasty division leader determined to expel Shelley and her eight girls. She sticks stooge Mary Gross in as a spy to take pictures and expose the ineptitude. The story follows Thomas' efforts to sabotage Long's plans. Pretty complex plot, no?

This is another of those movies where I sit and wonder why these people can't find better things to spend their money on. Don't producers, directors, and actors read these scripts before they film them? Doesn't someone point out that this is just plain stupid and incredibly irrelevant? Let's face it - who cares at all about Rodeo Drive and Giorgio's? Not the huge majority of us who don't live in Beverly Hills. However, we're not the ones financing this picture.

There were more costume changes in this movie than Liberace's act. Scary thought. I haven't seen so many ugly and tasteless clothes assembled in one movie in a while. I hate to think what the wardrobe costs was.

There is more to Troop Beverly Hills than clothes. Heck, poor old Phyllis Neffler (Long) is going through a divorce from hubby Freddie (Craig T. Nelson), who finds her empty and thinks she lives to spend money (what in-

AT THE MOVIES

sight). Phyllis manages to bond with her daughter and the other girls in the troop. She gives them self-esteem and they give her a cause to involve herself in, a reason to be proud of herself. Gosh, this film is full of wonderful values.

For some reason Long spends the whole movie in red hair. It hardly looks natural. (Not that her blonde locks looked natural either). However, Long wasn't as hard to put up with as I thought she would be. That is a compliment, I guess. Betty Thomas must have had fun playing the one-dimensional villain. Mary Gross is typecast as the timid underling, Annie Herman. Stephanie Beacham (Dynasty) is fun. Craig T. Nelson doesn't have to do much at all. The little girls are all as cute as money can make them.

Let's face it - Troop Beverly Hills is a silly, stupid, and pointless film. It is undoubtedly one of the worst out right now. However, for some reason I can't explain, I didn't really hate it. I just can't recommend it at all, unless you're a major Long fan. Or a Wilderness Girl. Or maybe a closet Beverly Hills shopper. Oh, I nearly forgot to mention that Pia Zadora and Robin Leach make cameo appearances. I guess that's reason enough to see it, n'est-ce pas?

National tap dancers come to town

By LOIS FRASER
Herald Special

The National Tap Dance Company is coming to Halton Hills! After performing at the St. Lawrence Centre, Roy Thomson Hall, The Metropolitan Opera House in N.Y. and the Ontario Place Forum, they can add the John Elliott Theatre to their list of performance locations. This group is hot and the Arts Alive Committee is very fortunate to have the opportunity to present them to Halton Hills as part of a week long cultural celebration called Arts Alive. There will be two shows on Saturday, May 6. The first at 2 p.m. is a family show called Oliver Buttons is a Sissy and the second show at 8 p.m. is Fascinating Rhythm which is appropriate for all age groups.

Ten years ago the National Tap Dance Company commissioned Marek Norman to compose an original musical score for Oliver Buttons is a Sissy. The show opened in Toronto at the St. Lawrence Centre in 1981 and has been playing to packed houses of youngsters and their parents ever since. In 1984 it was performed at the International Children's Festival at Harbourfront. Audiences never seem to tire of Oliver's adventures and the show sells out wherever it is performed.

Choreographer William Orlovski has done a fine job in presenting Tomie de Paola's simple and affecting children's book and there are enough adult references (to MGM films, Broadway musicals, bad opera

ful he will really be ready for the upcoming talent show when it arrives.

To find out how Oliver makes out, join us Saturday, May 6 at 2 p.m. for Oliver Buttons is a Sissy. All seats are \$4 and tickets are available at Royal LePage Real Estate, 170 Guelph Street or at the Halton Hills Library in Georgetown.

Arts Alive '89

singers and insincere showbiz) to keep parents more than amused.

The story itself is considered by Orlovski and others to be a dancer's story - but it also serves to touch lightly on the other issues, such as tolerance and the value of a fantasy life. Oliver Buttons is a small boy who fits most people's definition of a sissy rather well. He picks flowers, he dresses up, he plays with dolls and skips rope with the girls.

Right from the first dance, in which Oliver Buttons joins in a catchy trio for skipping ropes, Orlovski has a sure grasp of where the show is going.

As Oliver awkwardly practises - with his feet making a beeline to escape from his legs and his ankles deciding they'd rather fold up and go away - it seems doubt-



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