

Watch your family pet

FILMETER



ROBERT DIMATTEO

PET SEMATARY (R) Music video director Mary Lambert's first movie was "Siesta," a bizarre cult item that turned out to be pretty awful — yet the kind of ornate, assured awfulness that only a very talented person could be responsible for. Her adaptation of Stephen King's novel proves that she indeed has talent. "Pet Sematary" is an evocative, quietly surreal horror movie. Lambert's skill is that she keeps us involved, even as we can see where the movie is heading.

King himself wrote the screenplay, which may be why this movie is one of the better ones made from a King novel. It's the tale of a young married couple who move to Maine with their two children. When the family cat and then one of the kids are in turn hit by trucks, the husband becomes intrigued by a legend that his neighbor (Fred Gwynne) has told him. Beyond the local pet cemetery lies another cemetery, a former Indian burial ground; according to legend, if you bury a person there, the person will come back to life — but not necessarily as before.

Warned to stay away, the husband can't help himself; he desperately wants his son back. And so the story becomes one of a man's overweening desire to control fate — a desire with disastrous consequences. Lambert keeps the movie atmospheric, with an element of the absurd (e.g. those trucks that keep roaring by). **GRADE: ★★★**
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Copperfield chases Phantom of the opera

Entertainment

Bob Spence
Thomson News Service

David Copperfield is chasing the phantom of the Opera.

Among the Canadian specials CTV plans to air in 1989-90 is The Secret of the Phantom of the Opera. The one-hour special, with Copperfield as host, explores the mystery of the fabled masked figure that haunts the Paris Opera House.

Other Canadian specials on tap include musical extravaganzas featuring Rita McNeil and David Foster.

In announcing many of the programs it will broadcast in the new TV season, CTV managed to "move" one event a number of miles to the east:

"Among the Canadian specials planned for the 1989-90 season are such annual favorites as Festival By The Sea, again on location in St. John's, Nfld..." The festival, however, is in St. John, N.B.

Speaking of the Festival By The Sea, organizers have put together a lineup of talent from across Canada.

Showcase of the Provinces, a daily 90-minute production, offers performers from different provinces each night. The 14-day festival, Aug. 6-19, also features a number of special productions, using performers from various provinces.

The Canada Day Show, Aug. 13, will be taped by the Atlantic Television Network for the CTV special.

Among headliners at this year's festival are Loreena McKennitt of

Toronto; The Great Western Orchestra, from Turner Valley, Alta., and New Brunswick's own Expresso S.V.P., from Moncton.

Coming all the way from the Yukon is Dizzy Grizzly, a folk-oriented trio offering traditional Appalachian and Celtic music.

Former Edmonton Oiler Dave Semenko, who was better known for his brawn than his brain, has some reservations about John Muckler, recently appointed as the Oilers' head coach.

In his book, Looking Out For Number One — to be published by Stoddart this fall — Semenko notes that Muckler, who, despite his title of co-coach, had been an assistant coach to general manager Glen (Slats) Sather, has an analytical mind but questions his ability to motivate players:

"I've always marvelled at the way John's mind works," said Semenko. "He thinks, eats and sleeps hockey. But, for some strange reason, we always came out flat when John was behind our bench. Glen would take off to go boar hunting in Italy or fishing for great white sharks in Australia and he'd leave the team to John. Sure enough, the team would do nothing until Slats came back in on his white horse to save the day."

Tony and Genie award-winning actor Jeremy Irons had to talk his wife, actress Sinead Cusack, into letting their son Samuel make his acting debut at the ripe old age of 10.

Samuel and his father teamed up to portray a nine-year-old boy and

his father struggling to keep their home out of the grasp of a land baron.

The co-production by The Disney Channel, PBS, Thames Television, Portobello Productions and the Children's Film and Television Foundation, is based on British author Roald Dahl's children's novel.

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