

Get in the party mood CBC examines French Revolution

AT THE MOVIES

By DIAHANN NADEAU
Herald Special

Remember those rock lyrics 'You got to fight / for your right / to party!' Well, they've made a movie around that philosophy. It's called *Weekend at Bernie's* and it brings '80s business amorality to a new low. Death shouldn't interfere with one's climb up the corporate ladder, and certainly not with the weekend. Besides, corpses have a way with the women.

Larry (Andrew McCarthy) and Richard (Jonathan Silverman) are two low-level employees at Trans-Allied Insurance who think they've hit the big time by discovering an embezzlement scheme. They report it to their cocaine sniffing boss, Bernie (Terry Kiser). He invites them to the Hamptons for the weekend to go over the evidence. They think they have it made. They are wrong.

Bernie is the embezzler and he intends to do away with the overzealous pair. However, his hit man decides that Bernie is the better target and sends someone out to kill him. Bernie is promptly dispatched, but somehow just doesn't look dead. The boys arrive and Larry, a selfless kind of guy, won't let them report the death because he wants to have a good time and meet women. Richard wants to make it with Gwen, a girl from work, and falls in with the plan. The boys try to leave the island

with Bernie but are too incompetent to manage it. They spend the weekend pretending he's alive. The hit man kills him several times over, losing his sanity along the way. Sound stupid? It is. This is one of the dumbest movies to come out of Hollywood in a while. Every second is predictable, every scene ridiculous. Despite the idiocy though, the movie is often hilarious.

The sight of Bernie having his toupee stapled to his head, water skiing into buoys, having sex with 'his woman' - 'the best ever,' she reports; it is all preposterous-yet funny.

This movie doesn't bear analysis or criticism - one must go in without expectations of intelligent life. The acting is unremarkable, except for Kiser's wonderful dead guy act, the plot is idiotic, the characters even more so. But go in with a partying attitude, a summer set of mind, and there are quite a few laughs to be had. Just don't think about what you're laughing at.

Entertainment

Bob Spence
Thomson News Service

Thousands gather to protest... anger and confusion reign... the world watches, not fully understanding what is happening.

It is not China in 1989, but France in 1789.

Two centuries before the Chinese government used brute force to choke off student protests, French leaders tried to deal with mass protests. They failed. The French Revolution ultimately affected much of the world.

Patrick Watson looks back at the bloody revolt in a CBC-TV special on July 14, the 200th anniversary of the start of the revolution.

While the grisly guillotine is the most common symbol of the French Revolution, Watson offers another - a loaf of bread. He explores one of the reasons for the widespread unrest: the threat of food shortages after serious crop failures.

Reflections on the French Revolution airs at 8 p.m.

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A drama based on the French Revolution is one of the major mini-series CTV has slated for the 1989-90 TV season.

Among the stars of the eight-hour, \$51-million Canada/France co-production, *The French Revolution*, are Klaus Maria Brandauer, Jane Seymour, Christopher Lee and Peter Ustinov.

The Canadian Country Music Association is asking Canadians to pick the top 10 all-time country songs.

The Country Music News publication and country radio stations are conducting the polling.

The top 10 songs will be featured in two medleys at the 1989 Country Music Awards in Ottawa. CTV is televising the Sept. 9 show. Three Canadian country stars, Ronnie Prophet, Carroll Baker and Tracey Brown, will be the co-hosts.

The names of the nominees for 1989 Country Music Awards will be announced in early August.

A special series on CBC Radio offers a blunt look at the environmental legacy we are leaving our children.

It's a Matter of Survival, a five-part series on the global environment, opens July 16 with a nightmarish look at a world 50 years into the future - the type of world Earth may become.

David Suzuki (The Nature of Things) is the host for the series, which airs during the final hour each week of the current affairs program Sunday Morning.

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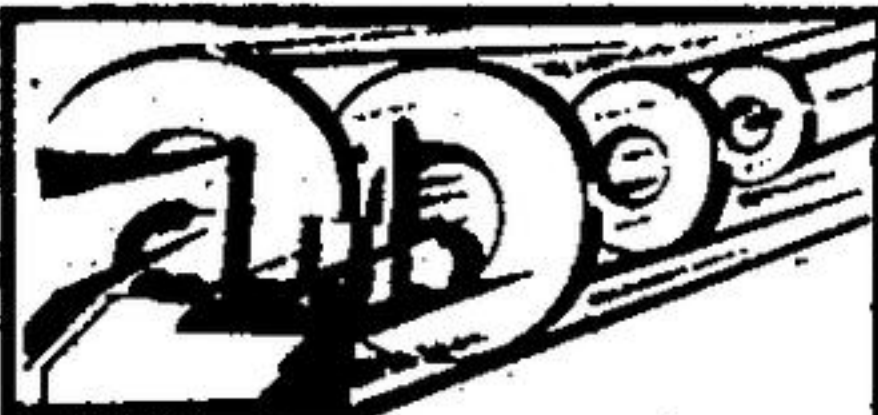
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