

# Casting adds chills to 'Bad Influence'

## FILMETER



**ROBERT DIMATTEO**

In Movie Theaters

**BAD INFLUENCE (R)** If you don't like thrillers that play with you — that take a tricky, highly charged premise and then work it (and you) into a frenzy — then you probably won't want to bother with Curtis Hanson's latest. If, on the other hand, you love

er who scandalized everybody with his off-screen (but on video) sexual hijinks. And James Spader, the equally soft-spoken actor who played his "sex, lies, and videotape" for the movies. Together, these two are an inspired pairing, with Lowe playing a character whose behavior is surprisingly close to what has become known as the "Rob Lowe video/sex scandal." In fact, for the literal-minded viewer, this thriller will probably reinforce the impression of Lowe as a sexual scamp.

Whatever its secondary effect, "Bad Influence" works on the most primal level — as a pleasurable perverse, enjoyably nasty thriller. Director Hanson is the guy who gave us the suggestive, if hokey, "The Bedroom Window" a few years ago. He also wrote the script for the 1978 sleeper

darker excesses of L.A. nightlife.

This is the kind of thriller that depends upon the buildup of suspense and surprise, so we won't spoil it by revealing the plot. Suffice it to say that the pieces of David Koepf's script fit together niftily, creating an eroticism-tinged puzzle of innocence in conflict with corruption. And wait till you see what Lowe does in the role of a seductive stinker: That narcissistic smile of Lowe's has never seemed so chilling. Fans of movies like "Dressed to Kill," "Dead Ringers" and "The Fourth Man," consider this review an alert. **GRADE: ★★★½**

### MOUNTAINS OF THE MOON (R)

Bob Rafelson, the man who once gave us the minor classic "Five Easy Pieces," hasn't been heard from much in recent years. (He directed the thriller "Black Widow" a few years ago.) So it's with some expectation that one comes to his new film — a big, picturesque movie about 19th century English explorers Sir Richard Burton (Patrick Bergin) and John Hanning Speke (Iain Glen), whose search for the source of the Nile ended in a feud that is still debated.

Rafelson is not the kind of filmmaker to do a straight epic: His sensibility is too offbeat. Indeed, the movie has strange currents running through it. There are traces of homoeroticism in the relationship between the two explorers, as well as an emphasis on odd (and sometimes brutal and disturbing) customs among the Africans that Burton and Speke come in contact with. According to the film, slavery didn't need white imperialists to introduce it: It already existed among some of the black tribes themselves. Along the way, there are also moments of simple horror (including a sequence when a bug crawls in Speke's ear while he sleeps). Yet it's the more basic movie-spectacular elements that work best — the wonderful African vistas, the animals and the natives' exotic costumes of feather, fur and bone.

Why isn't the film totally satisfying? This viewer's hunch is that Rafelson brought an innate ambivalence about Hollywood epics to the project, and that this ambivalence, when applied to the already complex saga of Burton and Speke, muddled the movie. But see it anyway. **GRADE: ★★★½**



ROB LOWE (left) plays an unpredictable drifter who befriends a bored market analyst, James Spader (right), in the thriller "Bad Influence."

to be creeped by the right movie, then hurry to see this noirish tale of personality transfer between a handsome, sociopathic drifter (Rob Lowe) and a somewhat stodgy, overworked yuppie (James Spader).

Contemplate the canny casting: Rob Lowe, the soft-spoken brat-pack-

"The Silent Partner," about the strange kinship between a psychopathic department store Santa Claus and a nebbishy bank teller. Here, taking a cue from Hitchcock's "Strangers on a Train," Hanson continues the psychic kinship theme, as the Lowe character introduces Spader to the

# Choral society will celebrate Beatrice in tour of Holland

By DONNA GUMULAK  
Georgetown Choral Society

The April 26 departure date for the Georgetown and Achill choral societies tour of Holland is rapidly approaching. The 10-day tour will include four concert performances in all, one in Etten, celebrating the birthday of Queen Beatrice and the remaining three (dedicated to the commemoration of Dutch liberation) in Amersfoort, Hengelo and Abcoude.

Several day trips are also planned so that between rehearsals and concerts, choir members will have the opportunity to visit such places as the tulip fields and an open-air museum in Arnhem. A boat trip along the canal in Amsterdam is planned, as well as an excursion to castles and tours through quaint gothic towns like Hengelo and Groenlo.

The combined choir consisting of 100 voices is being hosted in Holland by the Etten Manenkoor (male choir), a popular Dutch choir of about 100 members.

The choir is from the small village of Etten in the province of Gelderland, a mere five kilometres from the German border. The Etten Mannenkoor was formed in 1913 and has made successful concert tours through Austria, Germany, Belgium and Canada. Their music repertoire of some 300 pieces includes classical works, folksongs, negro spirituals and sacred music, of which recordings have been made on record, tape and compact disc. The Georgetown/Achill choir will have the opportunity of performing in concerts with the Etten choir during their stay in Holland and will also be making a recording of their own.

An all-day recording session has been planned for Wednesday, May 2 in St. Joriskerk (church) in Amersfoort. This church was originally built in 1248 and after various structural changes and extensions, in 1530, gained its present

day appearance. The church boasts three organs, the first built in 1374 and the second in the 16th century. A third organ was built a century later and was fully updated and renovated in 1970-72. This beautiful instrument consists of 2,460 pipes and 38 stops, divided among three manuals and pedals.

Doing a professional recording in St. Joriskerk is sure to be a tremendous experience for choral society members and being accompanied by such a marvelous instrument will certainly add an impressive sound to the repertoire being performed.

This same repertoire will be featured in four concerts being performed locally on April 8 at Georgetown District High School, April 20 at Holland Christian Homes in Brampton (McLaughlin and Steeles), April 21 at Westminster United Church in Orangeville and April 22 at Knox Church in Alliston. Performances begin at 8 p.m. and tickets are now available at \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors and students from Oxbow Books and all choir members. Plan to attend what is sure to be an exciting performance and at the same time, lend your support to the choral societies as they represent Canada in Holland.

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# Georgetown gets a 'Second City'

The Second City is returning to Georgetown on Saturday, March 31, after two successful engagements in recent years. The group has a fabulous reputation and tickets are in heavy demand.

The Second City Touring Company was formed in 1976 in order to replenish the supply of qualified talent and act as the first step to becoming a member of The Second City. They have successfully toured across Canada and they performed for six months at Vancouver's Expo '86.

The touring company is comprised of three women and five men. They present zany, sometimes outrageous skits guaranteed to tickle your funny bone. The touring company presents a 90-minute program of "The Best of Second City," a sample of their hilarious rehearsed skits. Following a 20-minute intermission, the actors take ideas thrown out by the audience and improvise for 30 minutes. Sometimes the improvisations are polished and sometimes not but, clearly, you have to admire their creativity and nerve! Time Magazine calls it "a temple of satire."

The Second City is being brought to Georgetown by the Arts Alive Committee, a group of volunteers

dedicated to bringing top notch entertainment and cultural events to Halton Hills. For those of you who like to laugh on a full stomach, there is a fabulous hip of beef dinner being served in the gallery at 6:30 p.m. All tickets for the show are reserved so you can relax during dinner. The prices are \$10 for the dinner and \$15 for the show.

Tickets are available at Royal LePage Real Estate, 170 Guelph Street and at the Georgetown and Acton Public Libraries.

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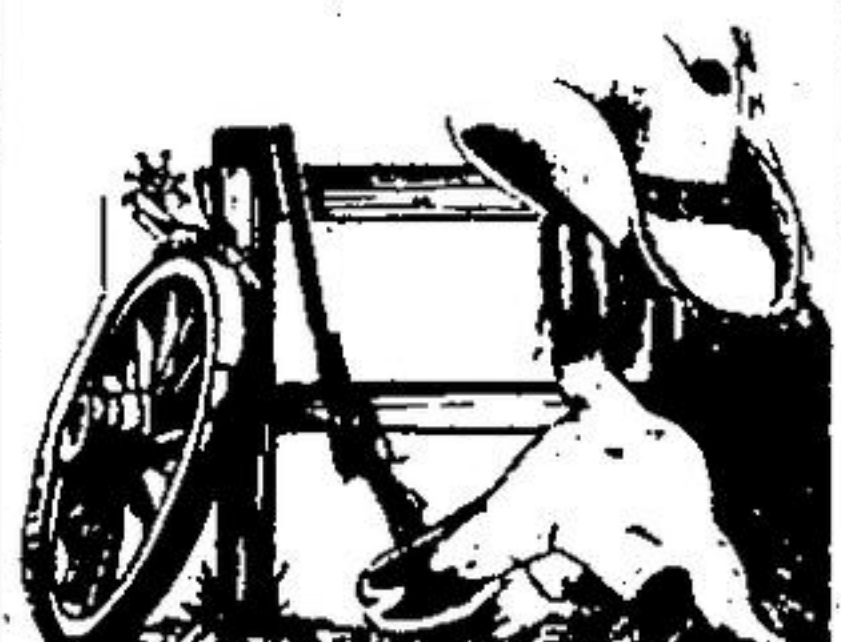
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