

Entertainment Outlook

Spike dared to be different



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Entertainment
Toronto News Service

TORONTO - There are a lot of tales about Spike Jones.

At the height of his popularity in the 1940s and 1950s, the band leader, drummer and humorist was called everything from "innovator" to "the man who set music back at least a thousand years."

The Spike Jones Story, a one-hour documentary that airs on CBC-TV May 29, looks at both the personal and professional life of the flamboyant musical humorist.

In the Benny Goodman big band era, when music and musicians were conservative, Spike Jones stood out like a nudist at a Chamber of Commerce meeting.

Spike, with his chewing gum, loud checkered suits and wild props, dared to be different.

He offered satirical versions of "serious music." The Spike Jones and his City Slickers' adaption of You Always Hurt The One You

Love (the Mills Brothers hit song) became a major hit, as did their version of Liberace's September Song.

Jones appeared in several movies and was given his own show by CBS-TV in 1954.

He died at age 53 in 1965 of a respiratory ailment.

The documentary includes clips of the late musician performing some of his hits and interviews with his widow and some of the people who worked closely with him.

This is the way Milton Berle remembers Spike Jones: "He will go down in the annals of show business as the guy who brought something different to an audience."

Among May movie video releases are National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (May 9); Dad (May 10); The Little Mermaid (May 18) and The Fabulous Baker Boys (May 24).

Jim Henson, the man who unleashed the Muppets on an unsuspecting world, has agreed to produce a four-part miniseries version of Gulliver's Travels for NBC.

The miniseries will air next season.

YTV wants Canadians to tell the television network about the nation's young innovators, achievers and heroes.

Nominations are now being accepted for the second annual YTV Achievement Awards.

There are 15 categories: bravery, entrepreneurship, visual arts, sports, public service, dance, band, vocal music, instrumental music, innovation, specialty performance, acting, writing, environmental contribution and the Terry Fox Award. The latter award is given to an individual (or group) who best exemplifies the dedication, determination and spirit of the late Terry Fox.

Nomination deadline is June 30. Pat Mastrolanni, a star of the CBC-TV series Degrassi and a member of last year's YTV judging panel, is a strong booster of the award program.

Nomination forms and additional information can be obtained by writing to: YTV, Awards Coordinator, 64 Jefferson Ave., Unit 18, Toronto, Ont., M6K 1H4.

VIDEO PLUS

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Party weekend May 24

Several big name Canadian bands will be playing in the annual "May 24 Party Weekend" at Courtcliffe Park in Carlisle May 18 through May 21.

At least 14 live bands will hit the stage during the weekend event including Colin Janes, Brighton Rock, Honeymoon Suite, Sven Gall, Goddo and the Razorbacks.

Tickets are \$60 for the full weekend, including camping, \$70 at the gate or \$25 for Sunday only.

Tickets are available at 11 TicketMaster outlets in southern Ontario.

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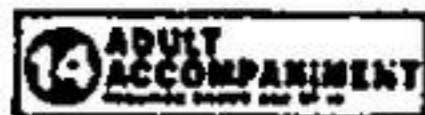
CINEMA 1

6th HILARIOUS WEEK



RICHARD GERE

JULIA ROBERTS



She walked off the street, into his life and stole his heart.

PRETTY WOMAN

Evenings at 7:00 & 9:15 p.m.

Sat. & Sun. Matinee at 2 p.m.

CINEMA 2

5TH SMASH WEEK

Hey Dude, This Is No Cartoon!

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Evenings at 7:00 p.m. Only

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