

Entertainment

Movie Review

Roger and Me a caustic comment

By DIAHANN NADEAU
Herald Special

Roger and Me is director Michael Moore's caustic comment on General Motors, the largest, and to him, the most heartless corporation in the world.

Several years ago GM, the home company and pride of Flint, Michigan, closed down a bunch of plants, laying off 30,000 people. According to Moore, this was done not because of profit losses and a troubled economy, but because Roger B. Smith, GM's chairman and the Roger of the title, decided that profit came before people and moved the plants down to Mexico and pathetically cheap labor. This left Flint utterly devastated, as

Moore's camera records.

The documentary traces the effects of the job losses on a once proud and prosperous town, and the job changes desperate auto workers were forced to make. It also follows Moore's ineffectual attempts to meet Roger Smith and get him to spend the day with him in Flint, where he might see families being evicted from their homes on Christmas Eve.

There are two things that made this documentary such a sleeper hit last year - Moore's delicious wit, and the raw pain of the workers he films. Moore, a Flint native, has a flair for comic commentary and can spot ludicrous clichés a mile away (listen to Anita

Bryant, if you can). However, the film is flawed by its terribly one-sided viewpoint, and apparently Moore made a few 'adjustments' in his chronology in order to give the story more impact. (Reagan made his visit before his election, thus years before the layoffs, not in the midst of them.)

The story is sad enough, it really wasn't necessary for Moore to pad it at all.

By making factual errors he certainly undermines his argument and his film. We know from the outset whose side he's on, and there is nothing wrong with that; however, scrupulous honesty and attention to facts make for much more effective condemnation of one's enemy than rearranging things to suit one's own interpretation.

Moore should have known this, and this flaw makes Roger and Me a less than perfect indictment of GM.

But it is certainly funny and totally watchable, which so many documentaries just aren't. And with the Ford strike looming large in the news, this is a timely video to take out.

This video was supplied through the courtesy of Country Video.

Theatre

New faces at Little Theatre

By SHIONA WATSON

Georgetown Little Theatre proudly presents "New Faces", starring Alan Caples, Lois Trusler and Pat Ball!

No, this isn't another play, but the result of our recent membership drive! It means that you will be able to enjoy the fresh talents of these actors, as well as the familiarity of Ron Hill, Jacky Willows, Frank McKie and Roseanne Pattison in "An Act of the Imagination."

Alan has been in Canada only three months before getting in on the act, so to speak. He hails from the right side of the Mersey (or is it the left?) as is obvious from his strong Liverpudlian accent. A fan of his home football team, Alan has also been involved in amateur dramatics across the Atlantic for six years, appearing in such productions as "Yvette", "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and stage-managing "Night Must Fall" among others. He joined GLT in order to continue indulging his passion.

He looks forward to his role as Simon Putnam, deeming it challenging but fun, and prepares for the part by reading his script in bed! Alan also enjoys keep-fit, night-clubbing and beer. I think he'll fit into the Canadian way of life quite nicely.

Until last month, Lois Trusler was still living in Hornchurch, England, but like Alan, couldn't wait to get involved in the Theatre. Nanny to a family of four children, Lois felt that the Theatre would be a good way to meet people. She little thought she would get a role in the up-coming play.

Although she has no previous experience as an actor, Lois used to write and direct plays for the children in the residential home where she used to work. Now, her spare time is all spent learning her part as Brooke Carmichael, mostly when the children in her charge are napping! Other hobbies which are taking a back seat just now, are swimming, reading and keep-fit.

Pat Ball is really more of a nearly-new face, if she'll forgive me for saying so, as she has appeared with GLT once before, as Helen in "Exit the Body". She is thoroughly enjoying her role as Julia Putnam, a character with whom she says she empathizes. This is the biggest part she has ever had, and is finding it all quite a challenge fitting it in with her demanding job as a High School



Lois Trusler



Alan Caples



Pat Ball

special education teacher.

A couple of weeks ago, Pat used to like to relax by reading, rambling, or keeping-fit, but now she has to spend all her spare time going over her lines. She is so dedicated that the script even accompanies her to the bathroom! I've seen some interesting reading material in there before, but this takes the biscuit!

The production runs the 19th, 20th, 24th, 25th, 26th and 27th of October at the John Elliott Theatre in Georgetown.

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