

Entertainment

Movie Review

Mr. Destiny — a treacly plot

By DIAHANN NADEAU

James Belushi stars in this rather sentimental film, which manages to amuse and entertain despite its treacly plot.

Belushi is Larry Burrows, an average guy with a pretty decent life. He has a gorgeous wife, Ellie (Linda Hamilton), a new, not quite finished house, a nice dog, and lots of friends. His job seems pretty good, he's middle management in a sports company where his wife and father are unionized employees.

Yet Larry just isn't quite satisfied. He's having one of those days - no coffee, no Wheaties, he's fired - and it's his 35th birthday. And the car breaks down one more time.

The wagon conks out in front of a bar, and Larry goes in to use the phone and drink a beer. The bartender, (Michael Caine), however, is not your average Joe. Listening to Larry's woes, remembering how he missed a crucial hit at his high school's big baseball game, the bartender gives Larry a chance to change his life. How different his life would be if he'd hit the ball. Larry has no idea just how dif-

ferent it will be.

He's suddenly married to the boss's daughter, has two kids, lives in an enormous mansion, Ellie is an employee who hates him, his best friend Clip (Jon Lovitz) is a wacked out failure, and his name isn't even Larry anymore - it's L.J. The old Larry steps into his 35th birthday not knowing where the bathrooms are in his house, who his friends are, and thinks Stilton is the name of the person who gave him the cheese.

Unfortunately, L.J. is not a nice guy at all, and as Larry tries to do what seems right, he alienates his V.P. (Hart Bochner), who was his boss in his previous life. One thing leads to another and Larry finds his new life is terrible. Will he get back to Ellie and home before somebody shoots him?

The similarities to It's A Wonderful Life are obvious. Mr. Destiny certainly doesn't live up to that classic, however. The plot is predictable, and there just isn't the kind of sweetness that pervades Life - L.J. is not nice, and he's surrounded by some nasty people. Yet, because of James

Belushi's enormously appealing performance, this film is far more likeable than it has a right to be. You can't help rooting for Larry, even as the action gets off track and goes beyond credibility (within its own odd limits).

The supporting performances are good, with Rene Russo luminous as Cindy Joe, L.J.'s wife, Pat Corley likeable as Larry's dad, and it's good to see Jon Lovitz again - for those of us who miss him on Saturday Night Live.

Mr. Destiny isn't a very good movie, but it's hard not to enjoy it while you're watching - it's only afterwards that the flaws really hit you. James Belushi lifts the film beyond its plot and direction and gives it a glow it probably doesn't deserve.

Canadian courts guilty of humour

By BOB SPENCE

Thomson News Service
We take you now to a Canadian courtroom. A lawyer is questioning a witness.

"And have you ever been injured or killed yourself, ma'am?"

That quote is among a host of wacky comments, unintentional puns and mangled metaphors cited by Peter MacDonald in Return of the Court Jesters (Stoddart Publishing), his third book about some of the strange things that get said in Canadian courts.

MacDonald, of Hanover, Ont., is a reporter-turned-lawyer who, when not in a courtroom himself, writes newspaper columns and books about courtroom humor.

What else has been said in Canadian courts?

Q. "Now then, lieutenant, you have investigated many other murders, have you not, where there has been a victim?"

And even:
Q. "Where is Mr. Albert McIntosh now?"

A. "He's buried."

Q. "Is he dead now?"

MacDonald, who is fed tidbits by members of the legal profession and by reporters, also cites some of the comments by witnesses that have brought smiles to the faces of everyone in the courtroom.

Such as:
Q. "Are you sure this is the man who stole your car last Thursday?"

A. "Well, I was. But now, after cross-examination, I'm not sure I ever owned a car."

The Rocky Horror Picture Show, the 1975 British movie that became a cult classic, is making a belated appearance at video stores.

It is scheduled to be released Nov. 8.

Princess in Exile, an upcoming, two-hour movie, is a poignant tale about a group of young cancer victims who want to make the best use of the limited time they have.

The moving, yet frequently humorous story follows Ryan, a shy, cynical 17-year-old whose outlook changes when he meets Robert, another cancer victim, at a special summer camp.

With the encouragement of the daredevil Robert, Ryan throws his energy into fulfilling his two life goals - getting his journal



Bob Spence
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published and losing his virginity.

Princes in Exile, a film about enjoying life while preparing for death, is based on the Mark Schreiber novel of the same name.

The movie was produced by Cineplex Inc. and the National Film Board of Canada.

It airs at 8 p.m., Nov. 11, on CBC-TV.

Veteran Dave Broadfoot has rejoined the comedy troupe for The Royal Canadian Air Force's 18th season.

It airs at 10:35 a.m. (ET) Saturdays on CBC Stereo and after the 1 p.m. (ET) news Sundays on CBC Radio.

Residents of Los Angeles may prefer not to watch a particular two-part TV miniseries.

Otherwise, their stomachs may go boom in the night.

In Canada, the drama airs Nov. 11 (8 p.m., ET) and Nov. 12 (9 p.m., ET) on CTV.

P.A. day fun at libraries

Tickets are now on sale for Erewhon Theatre's Alice in Wonderland coming Friday, November 23rd, 10:00 a.m. to the Georgetown Branch Library.

It's a P. A. Day so plan now, journey to the library for this fun adaptation of the favorite children's storybook.

Tickets are \$2.00 each at the Circulation Desk of the Georgetown Branch Library.

The P. A. Day Special in Acton will be Munch to The Movies, 12:00 noon. Just grab your lunch and come to the Acton Branch Library for an hour of movie fun! This program is no charge. For more information call 873-2681.

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