## Entertainment-

Video Notes

# Different tastes are satisfied

By DIAHANN NADEAU **Herald Special** 

Holiday plans are preventing your intrepid reviewer from hitting the theatre this week, so instead of a review of Only the Lonely, I have reviewed three recently released videos.

The Witches - Did you know that witches can be detected by the purple tint to their eyes, their itchy scalps under wigs, and the sensible shoes they are forced to wear to hide their toeless feet? If you don't know these facts, then perhaps you should take a look at The Witches, a thoroughly delightful family movie realized by the late Jim Henson and directed by Nicholas Roeg.

Angelica Huston plays the world's leading witch, a perfectly horrid and evil woman who wants to rid the planet of children. In this instance she intends to start with English children - if she has her way they will all be turned into mice (albeit conscious, talking mice). Trying to foil this dastard-

ly plan is Luke (Jason Fisher), an orphan being cared for by his wise-to-witches Grandmother (Mai Zetterling).

Set mostly in one of those large English seaside hotels, the story unfolds at a good pace, with lots of nifty special effects and some pretty hideous make-up (not to mention wigs). There is a lot of excitement and suspense, but mostly there is a sense of enchantment and magic. This film is destined to become a classic in children's cinema and I heartily recommend it for people of any age. And watch for rubber-faced Rowan Atkinson (Blackader) as the flustered hotel manager.

Miller's Crossing - As far from kid's movies as you can get, Miller's Crossing is brothers Joel and Ethan Coen's (Blood Simple, Raising Arizona) eloquent and elegant tribute to gangsterism.

Set in some unnamed Eastern city, Miller's Crossing follows the fortunes of Tom Ryan (Gabriel Byrne), advisor to Leo (Albert

Finney), a political boss and gangster lord, as he tries to prevent an all-out gang war. Tom doesn't hit people, he doesn't kill people, he just thinks a lot and bets too much. Oh, he also sleeps with his boss's girl Verna (Marcia Gay Harden).

When Leo, fuelled by his love for Verna, plunges the town into war by his refusal to kill Verna's brother Bernie (John Turturro), Tom ends up playing both sides of the fence and cosying up to rival gangster Caspari (Jon Polito). Tom walks an impossible tightrope in his desire to stay alive and prevent Leo's demise. He has the luck of the Irish all right, perhaps too much, but it all fits in this fascinating script.

Miller's Crossing is gorgeous to look at, with evocative sets and perfect cinematography. There is not as much violence as one would expect in a ganster movie, although it is still violent enough. The cast is superb, with Byrne as soulful as they come, and Turturro the very definition of weasel. This is one of the best movies to come out in 1990 and it's definitely worth renting.

White Palace - This stars Susan Sarandon and James Spader as mis-matched lovers in an offbeat love story.

Sarandon plays Nora Baker, a waitress in a hamburger joint, who manages to pick-up and seduce Max (Spader), an obsessively clean yuppie in mourning for his young wife. Steam and surpassing sex keeps him in thrall despite the fifteen year age difference and a considerable social chasm. The story follows their struggles as they try to overcome the problems inherent in the relationship.

White Palace isn't as good as you want it to be, although it has some good patches and erotic sex scenes. The ending is rather implausible, and basically the story is far too familiar. However, Sarandon is good and so is Spader, and the film is not a waste of time.

All videos are supplied through the courtesy of Country Lane.

# Hospital shows

Georgetown and District. Memorial Hospital will celebrate its 30th anniversary with two benefit shows on June 21st and 22nd at the John Elliott Theatre.

A community open house, to be held June 23rd from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Hospital courtyard will feature music, entertainment, clowns, face-painting, child safety programs, exhibits, contests, hospital tours, shortcake and refreshments.

### Sheridan College plans a party

Theatre Sheridan is dusting off those old 45's and new CDs for a summer run of fun in the sun.

The popular College performing arts company, "The Sheridan Style," will present the 1991 Summer Resort Tour Havin' A Ball! a salute to the parties of your past, present and future.

Everybody loves a party - be it in the rec. room, in a club or on a yacht - and "The Sheridan Style" is ready to bring back some old memories and create some new

Mainstage performances run at 8 p.m. June 5-8, 12-15, at Sheridan College's Oakville Cam-Sheridan Hall. Havin' A Ball! will then hit the road for a tour of Ontario's cottage country, mid-June to Labour Day.

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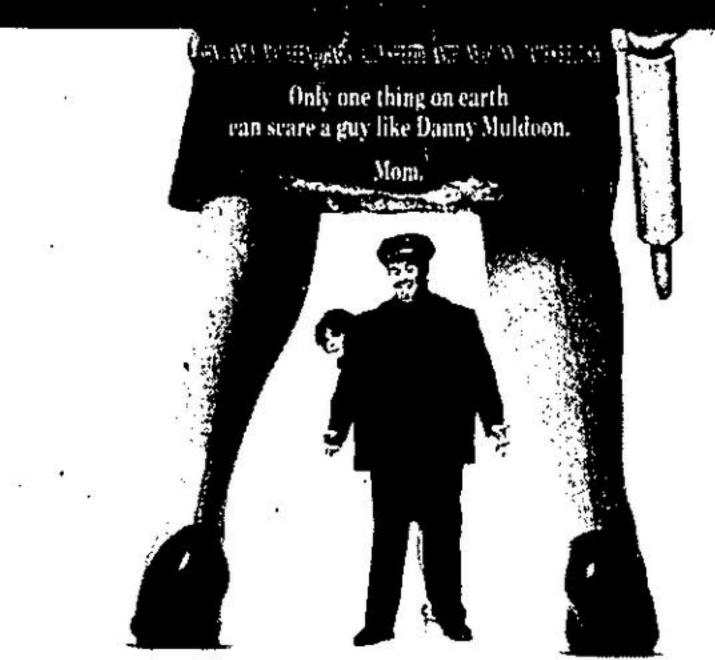
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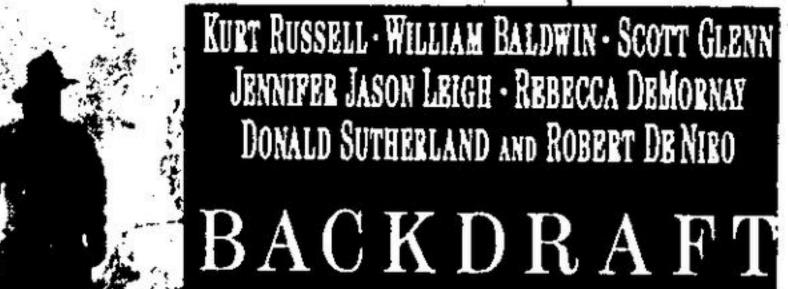
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