

Movie Review



By LISABETH JACKSON
Herald Special

You will believe a man can fly when you see "The Rocketeer," the newest release from Walt Disney studios.

Set in Los Angeles in 1939, the

film harkens back to the era of gangsters, fedoras and newspaper scoops and a time when airplanes were a relatively fresh attraction.

Bill Campbell makes his movie debut as Clifford Secord, a young

and daring airplane enthusiast.

While preparing to fly in the National Air Show, Cliff is sidetracked upon discovering a rocket-pack which enables him to soar plane-lessly into the clouds.

With the rocket-pack strapped to his back and his head fitted with a helmet lovingly created by his mentor Peabody (played by Alan Arkin), Cliff's adventure is one "just like in the comic books." And indeed, the film is based on the comic strip "The Rocketeer," created in 1982 by Dale Stevens.

But despite the joys of fulfilling a Ray Bradbury-ish rocketman fantasy, there lingers in the air the dangers of possessing such a unique invention. It is 1939 and the threat of Nazism hangs over America - and it seems the Germans want to get in on the potential powers of a flying man.

Cliff's girlfriend, Jen, an aspiring actress played by Jennifer Connelly (last seen in the forgettable "Career Opportunities") falls prey to the bad guys. Jen gets mixed up with "the number three box-office draw (and number one villain) in America," Neville Sinclair, played seductively by Timothy Dalton (the number four James Bond). The storyline follows Cliff's attempts to protect both Jen and the rocket-pack from the evil clut-

ches of the ne'er-do-wells.

Director Joe Johnston (who was art director and effects illustrator for the Star Wars trilogy and whose last major movie effort, "Honey, I Shrunk The Kids," was a smash success), incorporates the flavor and style of the comics into "The Rocketeer."

From Sinclair's big-lipped, square-headed right-hand muscleman to the shots which look as though lit by a comic illustrator's pen, Johnston and company have brought the comic strip alive on the big screen.

In keeping with the Disney

tradition, violence is kept to a minimum and no on-screen murders take place. Yet, suspense never wavers and the film never wants for exciting or frightening scenes. Johnston knows how to stick to Disney's rules and make us use our greatest fear facility, our imaginations, to fill in the scary sequences.

"The Rocketeer" is an enjoyable film for children of all ages, although parental guidance may be necessary for those who frighten easily. The film is excellent entertainment and will certainly be a summertime hit.

Freddy Wonders Travelling Show

Tickets are now on sale for Freddy Wonder's Travelling Fred Show. The Halton Hills Public Libraries have arranged for this juggling and magic show as a "kick-off" to their Summer Reading Program, Captain Book and the Bookaneers.

The Fred Show is on Thursday, July 4, 1991 at 10:00 a.m. at the Georgetown Branch Library and 2:00 p.m. at the Acton Branch Library.

The tickets are being sold at the Circulation Desk at both locations for \$3.00 each. For more information call 873-2681.

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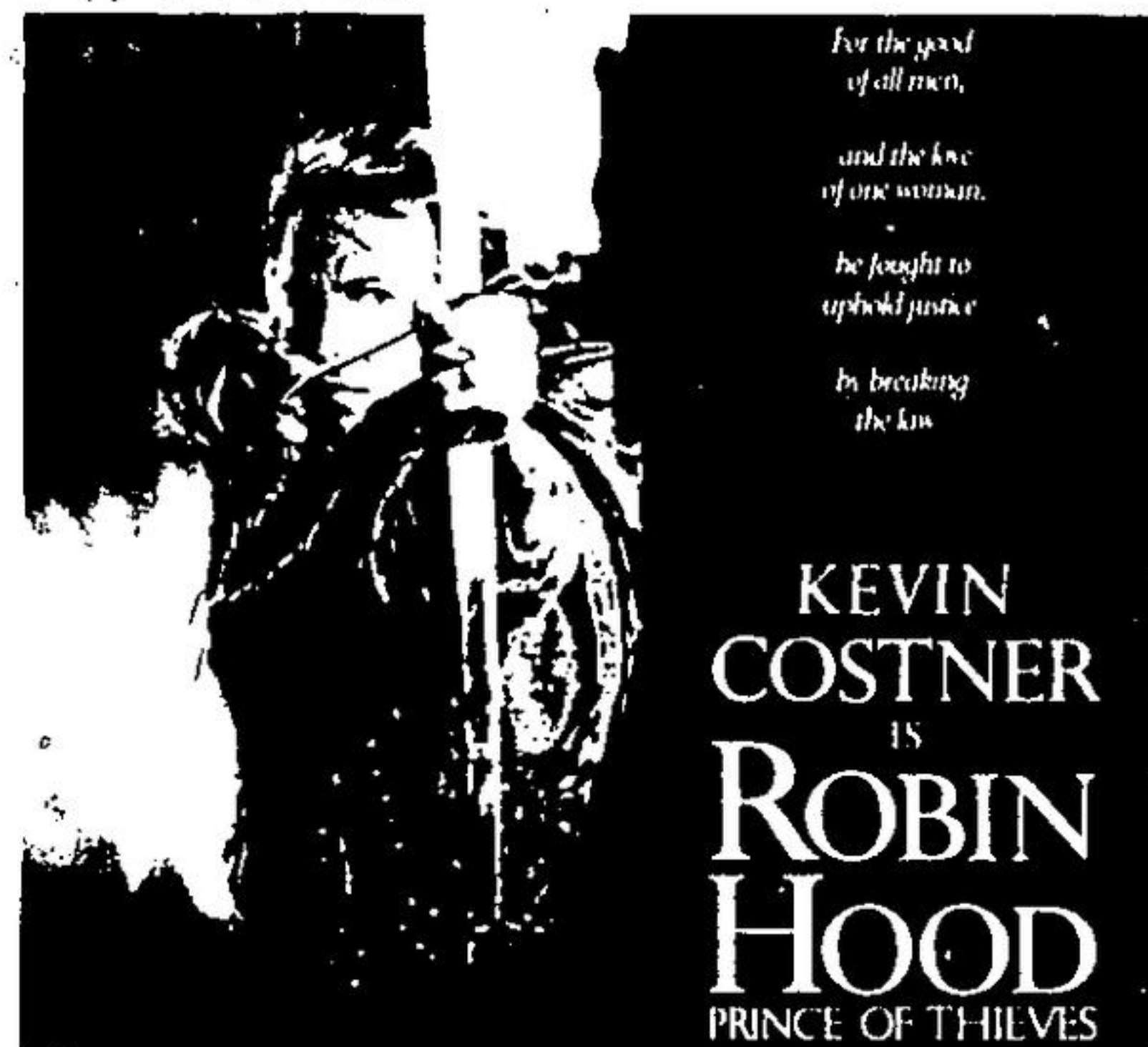
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