

MOVIE REVIEW

Hot Shots a bit lukewarm

By LISABETH JACKSON
Herald Special

"Hot Shots", this summer's movie contribution to air farce, has been playing in Georgetown for a number of weeks, so I decided to check it out and see what the fuss is all about.

"Funnier than Naked Gun 2½" the critics claim - but this evaluation certainly is no high accolade considering that cop comedy was a drag-and-a-half.

Charlie Sheen plays Topper Harley, an ex-Navy (actually ex-air force, but this is supposed to be one of the movie's jokes), fighter pilot who has retreated from the world to live the peaceful life where the buffalo roam.

However, you can take the man out of the Navy, but you can't take the Navy out of the man: Topper is haunted by the death of his flying partner, a death for which he was responsible. His flying paranoia is heightened by the eerie fact that his father also caused a pilot's death, and thus,

Topper refuses to follow in his father's footsteps any longer.

But the Navy wants him back. Lt. Commander Block needs Topper to assist the rest of the crazy air squad in a great battle. Most notable of the pilots is Washout, played by Jon Cryer. Washout is visually impaired, but determined to succeed in the force, and his character is an amiable contrast to Topper and Kent, played by Cary Elwes, both of whom are the smuggest big shots around.

Some viewers may be surprised to find Charlie Sheen starring in a comedy such as "Hot Shots", but, in fact, he may have found his true calling. His deadpan delivery of lines rivals that of - appropriately enough - Naked Gunner Leslie Nielson!

Lloyd Bridges, on the other hand, is more annoying than funny as an admiral whose body has seen too many battles. His jokes are amusing in the movie's commercial, but are tiresome when seen and heard in the actual

feature. Another problem with "Hot Shots" lies not in its plot nor in its humor, but with the technical quality of the movie. Some of the lines are muttered and sight gags go by too quickly, leaving the audience more bewildered than amused. Sloppy sound editing and direction are inexcusable, folks!

But "Hot Shots" is not a total recall. It is a step above that crotch-humor which made "Naked Gun" so irritating, and some of the scenes made me laugh loud if not long.

The most memorable sequence is its send-up of the sexy flick, "9½ Weeks", and it is a riot for those who have seen the Kim Basinger film.

If you do decide to see "Hot Shots", get to the theatre in time to catch the previews. A film short called "Mr. Bean Goes to a Premier" is slipped in before the feature.

"Mr. Bean" hits the bullseye more effectively and with more style in three minutes than "Hot Shots" does in an hour-and-a-half!

Murphy is pregnant

By BOB SPENCE
Thomson News Service

The cast of Murphy Brown (CBS/CTV) is growing.

On the season opener this fall, fans will discover reporter Murphy (Candice Bergen) is pregnant.

Filming has begun on School's Out, a two-hour special that picks up where the award-winning Degrassi High drama series ended.

It's the summer after graduation and the familiar Degrassi characters start to split up.

CBC-TV will air the special Jan. 5.

George Fox has come a long way, very quickly.

Three years ago, he was a Cochrane, Alta., rancher and a part-time performer.

Now, while still an active rancher, he may soon have more awards than cattle.

After winning the Canadian Country Music Association's rising star award in 1989, he was named male vocalist of the year at the CCMA's 1990 awards show.

He doesn't have to win an award to make it to the stage at the 1991 gala, as the CCMA has chosen him as the host for the Sept. 15 awards show, which CTV

will be airing live from Hamilton.

Fox, who already has two Juno awards, five Big Country awards and various other trophies, as well as his two CCMA awards, will likely hear his own name called when the CCMA awards are handed out this year.

The 43rd annual Emmy awards will be broadcast live Aug. 25 at 8 p.m. (ET) on CTV.

To My Daughter, the story of a mother of three who has trouble dealing with the death of her favorite daughter, airs Aug. 26 on CTV.

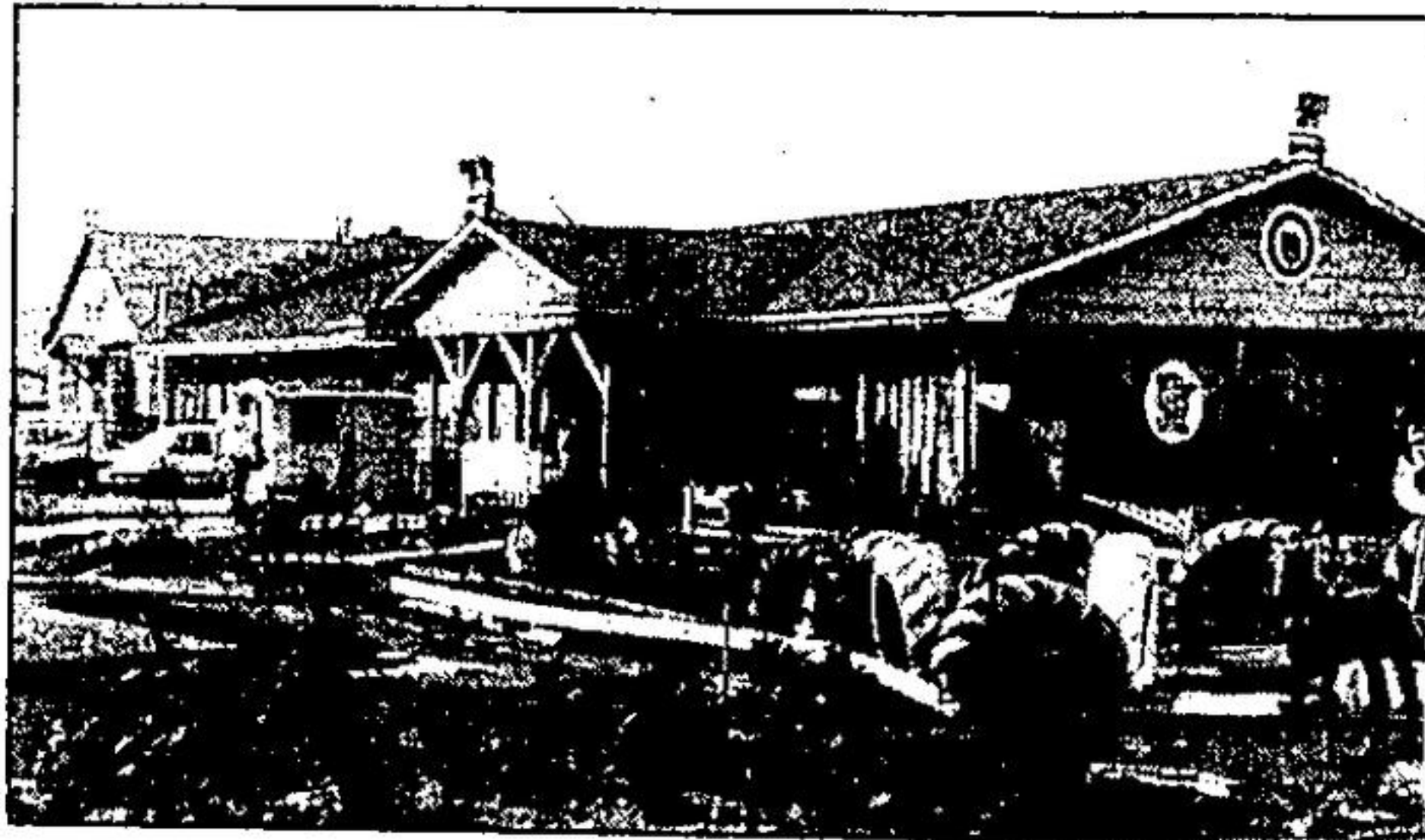
Rue McClanahan plays the mother, who, by failing to come to grips with her daughter's death, neglects to provide the emotional support her other two children need.

The two-hour movie airs at 9 p.m. (ET).

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Special celebration

Country Lane will be holding its 3rd annual corn roast this Saturday (August 24). The event is free to all 5,500 members, which will include free mini putting, use of driving range and batting cages and free corn and beverages. Prizes for longest hit ball on the driving range and for a hole in one on the miniature golf course will be presented. Country Lane is located on 10th Line in Georgetown. (Herald photo)

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GLT auditions

Georgetown's Community Theatre - GLT - starts the new season in October with the celebrated drama 'Steel Magnolias' by Robert Harding. There will be open auditions on Wednesday, Aug. 28 at 8 p.m. at the GLT hall, 33 Stewarttown Road, Georgetown. Anybody wishing to audition will be most welcome.

There are six roles in the play, all female, as follows:

Truvy: 40-ish, owner of the beauty salon.

Annelle: 19, beauty shop assistant.

Clairee: 66-ish, widow of former mayor, Grande Dame.

Shelby: 25, prettiest girl in town.

M'Lynn: 50 or so, Shelby's mother, wealthy and socially prominent.

Quiser: Same age as Clairee, wealthy churl, acerbic, but lovable.

All six roles offer a good challenge to any actor, so whether you're a seasoned veteran of the stage, or still waiting to display your talents for the first time, make a date for the 28th. You could be a star.

If you have any questions regarding the audition, or about GLT in general, please call Shiona Watson at 853-3265.

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