

Movie Review

'Curly Sue' never lets its hair down

By DAWN WOOD
Herald Special

Curly Sue is writer/director/producer John Hughes' sappy story about a poor orphaned urchin (Alisan Porter) on the road with a down-and-out con man, Jim Dancer (James Belushi). This story is almost a carbon copy of Paper Moon, in which Tatum O'Neal played alongside of her dad, Ryan, and won an Oscar for her performance as Addie. Alison Porter has some good lines, but she is too cute to satisfy the hard edged side of Curly Sue.

Belushi is almost unrecognizable as a compassionate, one-time acquaintance of Curly Sue's mother. He takes it upon himself to care for the orphan when her mother dies. His career has significantly changed

course from appearances on Saturday Night Live, and the rough-and-tumble flops such as Red Heat in which he co-starred with Arnold Schwarzenegger. He goes solo and is obviously the star in Curly Sue, combining his knack for comedy with a more serious performance for a two dimensional outcome.

Kelly Lynch is relatively unknown to the industry, with only a few minor roles to her credit. She plays Gray, a high-powered lawyer who has been sacrificing her soul for success until she meets up with Bill and Curly Sue. She develops a social conscience and manages to plausibly transform from an elegantly clad, jocular ripping divorce attorney into a mellowed, preserver of the traditional family unit. She makes a good use of

facial expressions to show her enlightenment.

Hughes is extremely conservative in his Reaganesque/Bushleague message about American society. For instance,

are we supposed to rejoice in Bill's selfless decision to support a little girl by living on the street and pulling cans to feed her because he doesn't want the degradation associated with ac-

cepting welfare? This message is reinforced when Curly Sue wholeheartedly sings the Star Spangled Banner at the TV stations are going off the air; you may be poor, but you can still be ultra proud of the U.S. of A.

Likewise, it's very touching that Gray wants to be a part of Bill and Curly Sue's family, but her magnanimity serves to mitigate the fact that she must give up her career to be a mother. Here is a strong statement about a women's place, offering no feminist alternatives to the family vs. career dilemma that many professional women face. Hughes might have been more progressive showing her work part-time, or having her work with Bill staying at home.

Curly Sue is a sickly sentimental story that is appropriate for all family members who enjoy shedding a few tears at the movies. However, if you are bringing a young audience you might want to consider Hughes' conservative point of view. For the most part, the story is light-hearted, and entertaining.

Super Sunday Series returns to Georgetown

The 1991/92 season of the Super Sunday Series for children is off to a great start with the upcoming performance by Rick and Judy, to be held November 10th at the John Elliott Theatre.

This husband and wife team have been together on stage since 1978. Their diverse brand of music includes everything from folk and contemporary, to wild and wacky tunes that are sure to appeal to audiences of all ages.

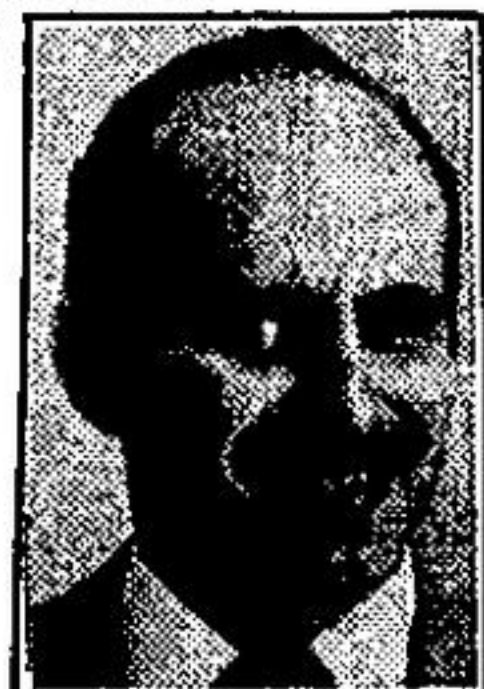
Sponsored by members of the Georgetown Club of the Canadian Federation of University Women, Rick and Judy are part of a three-concert series aimed at children aged three to 10 years.

On January 12, 1992, Lilliput Productions comes to town bringing with it an endearing little play called "Walter Whatsit Wants a Home." The final show in the Super Sunday Series is The Funland Band on April 12, 1992. A talented group of performers, they have mastered the art of blending music, fantasy and lovable characters in a delightfully-engaging show.

Show times are 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. for all three concerts. Tickets are only \$15 for the series, and are available from Penniesworth, Georgetown Yarn and Craft and the Acton Library. For further information contact 877-6140 or 877-5373.



Eliot Ness returns



Entertainment
by
Bob Spence
Thomson News
Service

The Return of Eliot Ness airs Nov. 10 at 9 p.m. on CTV.

Brian Orser is going for a skate through part of Toronto and invites you to skate along. In his second CBC-TV special, the two-time Olympic Silver medalist portrays a hip, street-wise character on a night-long odyssey through Toronto's Queen/Soho district.

On the streets, he encounters such people as a threatening gang and a quartet of street singers.

At a local club, he meets a mysterious lady in red, whom he pursues, but who keeps one skate-laced foot ahead of him.

Former Olympic skating champion Katarina Witt is the seductive lady in red. Other guests include such skating stars as Toller Cranston and former pairs champions Paul Martini and Barbara Underhill.

Other guests, whose forte is music rather than skating, include The Nylons and jazz singer Taborah Johnson.

The special, Night Moves, airs Nov. 10 at 9 p.m.

Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson will make a camera appearance in an episode of CTV's Neon Rider in the new year.

In the episode, Johnson, who was stripped of a gold medal in the 1988 Seoul Olympics after a drug test showed he had used steroids, counsels a youth who was involved in a drug-related tragedy.

Who better to follow a twisting trail through Chicago's murky underworld than Eliot Ness?

The former G-man is brought out of retirement in a TV special, The Return of Eliot Ness.

Set in the late 1940s, the drama unfolds in a turbulent Chicago where Al Capone has just died. Gangs are battling for control of Capone's lucrative underworld empire.

After gangsters fire a bazooka at a section of a newspaper building, two bodies are found in the wreckage. One of the victims is the girlfriend of the son of an underworld leader; the other is an investigator from the district attorney's office. The circumstances leave people questioning whether the investigator was linked to the mob.

Ness, a friend of the late investigator, returns to Chicago to attend the funeral and to try to clear his friend's name.

Robert Stack, who portrayed Ness in the 1960s TV series The Untouchables, returns as the venerable crimefighter.

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