

Movie Review

Updated Peter Pan fairy tale appeals to children and adults

By DAWN WOOD
Herald Special

Hook might be better titled The Return of Peter Pan if we take the title to be a reflection of the plot. Although, in this age the film industry seems to be preoccupied with developing its villains. We've seen this recently in Star Trek VI and earlier in Robin Hood. In Hook, Dustin Hoffman plays the infamous Captian J. Hook to evit pirate splendor, without being too sinister for the mostly young audience.

Directed by Steven Spielberg, grandmaster of children's films, the Hook adventure begins with the grown-up Peter Pan (Robin Williams) and family returning to England, his place of boyhood. Early in the film his children are kidnapped by Hook, who wants nothing more than to finish his century-old war with Peter. The storyline has little to do with James Barrie's Peter Pan, except for giving Hook its characters and a starting point for the battle. The relationships between characters in Hook are also unique, including a bazaar love triangle between Peter, his wife Moira, and Tinkerbell. We really suspend our disbelief for

this one.

Typical of Spielberg, Hook appeals to both young and mature audiences. He is definitely aware that most of the children who want to see Hook also bring adults with them. The fantastical sets are visually extraordinary. Never Never Land is an eclecticism of pirate imagination and grandiose with likewise costume design. While all of the artistic design is awesome for the kis, the older folks get an additional bonus from the many adult nuances uttered in lines by Hook and Peter.

The special effects are used to perfection in the war that occurs between Peter and Hook. Some excellent scenes involve the shooting of tomato-like bombs that burst into a vibrant color explosion. Gum balls are pelted, and a human rolling ball bowls over the bad guys. The fighting is carried out with relatively little violence, except for the loss of one boy, which is a little hard to take.

The backbone to this war is the determination to get it started by both Hook and Tinkerbell. By no means are the moral issues less than extremely complex in Hook,

and if you're looking for simple black and white characters they won't be found in this film. As Tinkerbell, Julia Roberts is flat and tedious. She lacks the mystical qualities of a Tinkerbell, instead offering relentless, unfairylike smiles to the camera.

Similar mediocrity is provided in the casting of Peter's kidnapped children. However, the child acting is saved by the performances of the lost children who become Peter's allies in the battle against Hook. Bob Hoskins is perfect as Hook's bumbling right-hand man, Smee, and we get a cameo appearance by Phil Collins, who is the detective investigating the kidnapping of Peter's children.

Hook is family entertainment that shouldn't give young children too many nightmares. It plays on the old theme of fathers who don't give enough time to their children and who put their careers in front of their families. Although the resolution is unrealistic, the movie will be of interest to anyone wanting an adventure and wondering what ever happened to Peter Pan and his desire to never grow up.



Super Sunday Series

The Georgetown Club of the Canadian Federation of University Women is pleased to present the second concert in its Super Sunday Series for children aged three to 10 years.

On January 12, Lilliput Productions comes to the John Elliott Theatre with 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. performances of "Walter Whatsit Wants a Home".

What is a Whatsit... Even Walter Whatsit doesn't know but with the help of Juliet the Vet and you-the audience-he will discover his true identity. A delightful tale of self-discovery, the play includes lots of audience participation and a colorful menagerie of zoo animals.

Series-only tickets available at the door. Cost is \$10 for "Walter Whatsit Wants a Home" and the April 12th performance of "The Funland Band".

For more information on the Super Sunday Series, contact 877-6140 or 877-5373.

Vaudeville acts to perform for local cancer society

Benefit Productions (formerly Edgar T Productions) presents "The Spectacular New Age Vaudeville Show" for 1992 in support of the Georgetown Unit of the Canadian Cancer Society.

Fri., Feb. 7 - 8:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

Sat., Feb. 8 - special childrens matinee 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Sat., Feb. 8 - 8:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

In the spirit of the golden age of vaudeville, the finest singers, comics, actors and jugglers, both professional and amateur - locally and nationally acclaimed, will perform in the beautiful John Elliott Theatre in downtown Georgetown for two high energy, action packed evening shows and one special childrens Sat. matinee not to be missed!!

Last years performances were a smash success and tickets were sold out two weeks before the curtain opened, don't be caught without them this year and call 877-6563 or 877-7239 for all ticket sale locations and inquiries.

Here is what is in store for this year:

*two one hour sets of fun filled entertainment each night (20 min. break) showtime 8:00 p.m. doors open at 7:30 p.m.

*an entertaining one hour set of puppets, singing, juggling, for the pre-teen children on the Sat. matinee showtime 3:00 p.m. doors open at 2:30 p.m.

*advance ticket sales - locations to be confirmed

*fine Canadian performers stretching their talents to move your emotions in every way possible

*door prizes

Apart from the ticket sales, the opportunity is available to be a supporter of the Cancer Society and the arts by sponsoring an "In Memory" name and yourself as a patron of the show. Space on the official program will be reserved for the name of your choice. Please call 877-1124 between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday, and we would be pleased to process your sponsorship and forward a tax receipt for your donation.

This years "Spectacular New Age Vaudeville Show" is jam packed with a great line-up of Canadian talent!!

*Your hosts Men Without Hairs - nationally acclaimed high-tech vaudevillians

*Double Exposure - back this year for another great performance Bill and Janine Kent and their band are always musical favorites for Georgetown

*Johnny Toronto - One of Canada's premier vaudevillian performers has travelled and played to thousands of enthusiastic people with his special brand of audience participation and traditional juggling/unicycle entertainment.

*Doug Reansbury - A talented singer/songwriter recording artist - one of Canada's finest up and coming performers

*Dave Bootle - originally a Georgetown native and now a successful performer in the greater Toronto area, Dave sings and writes his own unique style of pop music

*Ann Thatcher - returning as the lovely stage assistant and performer, her talents are truly unique

*Not to be overlooked are the number of local acts on the bill, singers, bands, dancers and comedians, all from the immediate area of Georgetown will be making their debut in this years show!

This year marks the beginning of the childrens matinee for the Spectacular New Age Vaudeville and it is lined up to be a wonderful experience for parents and children alike. With special appearances by a number of the already metioned performers and of course some special mystery performers, the vaudeville matinee will be a show you won't want to miss!!

*executive producer - Edgar Thatcher

*executive director - Victor J. Hanson

*musical director - Paul Thompson

All seats: \$15.00/person G.S.T. included Friday and Saturday evenings.

All seats: \$5.00/person G.S.T. included Saturday matinee.

This year we have endured the perils of new taxes, we have lived and loved in the toughest of economic and political times, and yet there are still many steps we must take to support those who

are touched and afflicted by Cancer. When you buy a ticket, sponsor the show or become a patron, you are taking the step that will help those who greatly need it. Please Join Us!

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