

Movie Review

Freejack specializes in visual and special effects

By DAWN WOOD
Herald Special

If you thought Mick Jagger had turned over a new leaf with his voicing an anti-Gulf War protest song, well think again because his bad boy, Rolling Stone image comes across loud and clear in his acting debut in Freejack.

In this film he is cast as a futuristic bounty hunter, working for a major corporation in the year 2009. In this time, technology has brought about amazing capabilities such as mind transferring, and Jagger's

job is to snatch bodies from the past and pull them into the future.

Alex Furlong (Emilio Estevez) is snatched one second before impact when the racing car he is driving crashes into the track embankment and he is dragged 18 years into future Manhattan. Estevez's healthy body is wanted by Jagger's employer, but the plan is spoiled when Estevez escapes before Jagger can complete the labotomy necessary to begin the transfer of his boss's mind into Estevez's body. The

escaped Estevez becomes what is known as a "Freejack".

Because Jagger must capture Estevez's body without damaging the goods in any way, one of Estevez's biggest threats becomes the potential for environmental contamination though he is not completely aware of this hazard. In one scene he loses Jagger by jumping off of a bridge into a polluted Lake. The challenge is to stay alive by not swallowing any of the water.

Jagger is quite at home with

the bad boy role of the bounty hunter. After all, it's a demonic image he has painstakingly cultivated since his early days with the Rolling Stones. As for acting, he is well directed by Geoff Murphy, who ensures a lot of screen coverage and lines that are put in a deadpan, tongue-in-cheek manner.

As an action film, Freejack is not as impact oriented as the many other films of its type. With Estevez as a racing car driver, there are some exciting road chases and heavy artillery for a

bonus. In fact, there are 45 credited stunt actors in this film.

Jerry Hall makes a cameo appearance as a reporter interviewing the freejack, though the leading feminine role is given to Rene Rosseau, who plays Julie, Estevez's girlfriend. Although she is given a strong role as one of the leading executives in the futuristic elite, she is exempted from most of the action adventure, mostly being carried out by the boys.

This movie is not terribly original, nor does it offer all star acting giants or the technical wizardry of Terminator II. In some ways this film undermines and parodies other action adventures, but for the most part it is a serious attempt to draw in an audience using some visual and special effects.

"Opera Comique" a unique production

By IAN WATSON
GLT Publicity

Georgetown's community theatre group, GLT, will be presenting "Opera Comique" at the end of January. This work has an interesting character - it is partly an outrageous comedy, part mystery, with some interesting points to make. It is often described as "farce with a difference", and despite the name, it is not really about an opera and is definitely more than a farce. Several of the characters are people who were actually at the Opera Comique, in Paris, on the night in 1875 when Bizet first presented "Carmen", though the events are almost entirely fictional.

Most of the action centres on a group of patrons, whose relationships are the basis of the slightly bawdy, brilliantly funny parts of the play. For example, Hector is a lecherous military cadet, and it

is his ambition to see a woman "au naturel". Meanwhile, he is one of the subjects of an attempt at an arranged marriage, which sounds like it should suit everybody. How could it go wrong? The play has the answer to this question, and many more.

In the background, most of the time, is an anxious Georges Bizet, played by Ron Hunt. Ron has been acting for 60 years, and this year was presented with a special Arts Alive award to acknowledge his contribution to the performing arts in Halton Hills.

Ron is well known to the Halton Hills audience for his acting, but his contributions to the group don't stop there. He also designed the set for "Opera Comique", having done about 40 over the

years. These included one for "Murder Mistaken" which won an award in 1978. This play is an entry in the Association of Community Theatres, Central Ontario (ACT-CO) annual festival competition. An adjudicator will be present on 25th January, and will make constructively critical remarks after the performance, for which the audience is invited to remain. Another special performance is the presentation on Friday, which is a benefit for the Parent-Child Centre. All ticket revenues go the Centre's funds, less the publisher's royalty charges and the town's charge for theatre rental.

"Opera Comique", by Nagle Jackson is to be presented at the John Elliott Theatre in Georgetown on Jan. 24, 25, 29, 30

and 31 and Feb. 1. Tickets at \$8 and \$10, can be bought by post - see the ad in this paper - or call the box office at 877-3700, 24 hours. They are also available from the John Elliott Theatre box office, which is in the Cultural Centre next to the entrance to the library, Tuesdays and Thursdays between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.

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