Entertainment



Fox does it the easy way

We need another big-budget Hollywood comedy like the Titanic needs duct tape. Not that we couldn't use a good laugh, but the recent flow of anemic offerings have left us weary.

So along comes The Hard Way, a high-concept, cop-buddy comedy that at first glance embodies everything we've come to loathe, but ultimately becomes the funniest film to be released in a long, long while.

Michael J. Fox plays Nick Lang, a Hollywood icon immortalized through his slew of action/adventure sequels. But after years of playing shallow, lightweight characters, Lang decides he wants out. He sets his sights on playing a tough, gritty New York cop, but in order to prove he's right for this part (he's

Country dance

Brent Lee and The Outsiders, a Vancouver band, currently based in Toronto, will headline a country dance on Saturday, March 30.

The dance is sponsored by the EBHO Riding Club. It'll be held at the Hillsburgh Community Centre, 8 p.m. until 1

Tickets are \$7 in advance by calling 519-855-4770, or \$10 at the door.

Choir in Acton

The Canadian Orpheus Male Choir performs this Saturday, March 23, 8 p.m. at the Bethel Christian Reformed Church, Acton on Hwy. 7.

If you missed the concert they gave at Roy Thomson Hall last Friday, here is your chance to hear them close to home.

Recognized as North America's leading Welsh male choir, it's a guaranteed evening of great entertainment.

Tickets are \$10. For more information call 853-3093 or 853-2393.

Bridge winners

Results of the Georgetown Legion's Duplicate Bridge, last Monday were: Elsie Whitham and Blaine Hillock, first; George Sargent and Jack Kaarsemaker, second; Adele Glavicic and Rene March, third.

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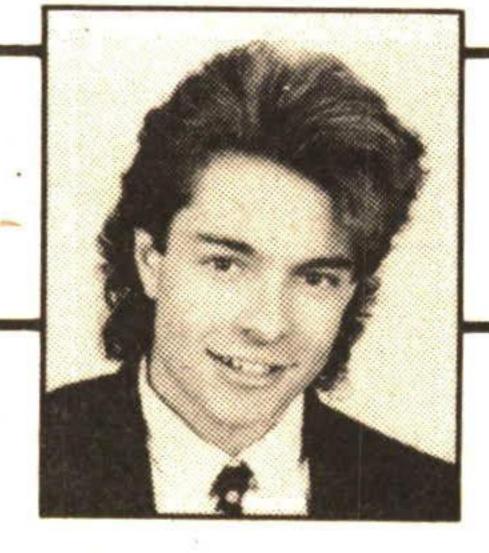
Hollywood Beat

By DAVID GIAMMARCO

up against Mel Gibson), Lang decides to research a real New York cop, to experience firsthand how he walks, talks, thinks and breathes.

Catching sight of a hardened N.Y.P.D. detective named John Moss (James Woods) on the evening news, Lang realizes he's found his role model and catches the next flight out to New York. When the intense and highly excitable Moss gets wind of the elaborate scheme to pair the two up, he refuses to have any part of it. However, as a last ditch effort, the pint-sized actor uses some of his charm and Hollywood bravado to persuade Moss' boss, and the grizzly cop ends up stuck with Lang tagging along on an undercover drug operation.

What makes The Hard Way such an enjoyable trip into absurdity is that it's written, directed and performed with such a redeeming, self-mocking zest. It's witty, clever, bouncing full of



energy and most importantly, it's funny. The dialogue in the film is top notch and some of the precarious situations the battling buddies fall into are priceless, as are the countless Hollywood in-jokes.

Fox brings an unequalled appeal to the film, sometimes too much appeal as Woods is upstaged more often than not. But Woods puts up a good fight, utilizing his trademark super-hyper intensity for comedic effect, although his through-the-roof energy level is usually too overpowering for audiences to laugh

My only real fault with The Hard Way is the clumsy, poorly edited climax which draws the film to an uneventful close. Nonetheless, The Hard Way is well worth seeing.

Out of ten, The Hard Way rates an eight.

What makes a 10? reader asks David

Dear editor,

Since your breathless film commentator characterizes The Grifters as "masterfully constructed," notes that the actors give "150 per cent," and finds the picture "film noir at

its absolute best," yet rates the picture as only a nine, I await with curiosity the adjectives he finds for a movie he thinks worthy of a ten.

> Sincerely, (Mr.) T.S. Raymond



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