

# Entertainment

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## Cliffhanger delivers a mole hill

By Pat Freestone

After a number of failures at comedy, Sylvester Stallone returns to movie screens in the high altitude actioner cliffhanger. A film that promises filmgoers a mountain, but delivers a mole hill.

Cliffhanger is the story of Gabe Walker (Stallone), an expert mountaineer who hangs up his pitons after witnessing a climber fall to her death. However, after his ex-partner and ex-girlfriend (Janine Turner) are taken hostage by a psychotic criminal (John Lithgow), Walker must climb again.

When we as filmgoers go to an action film, whether we know it or not, we make concessions to the film in exchange for a good time.

### Movie Review

Such as the story; we don't expect Pulitzer Prize-caliber writing. No, we are willing to expect corny one-liners, false sentiment, and severe stretches of credibility. Cliffhanger delivers all these and more, so check your IQ at the door.

Another concession we make is in regard to the acting. We don't expect our favorite action hero to be on stage at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion saying "I'd like to thank the Academy...". No, it's just not going to happen. Once again, the cast of Cliffhanger doesn't disappoint. Stallone, et al, appear to be stretching themselves dramatically even with this mediocre material.

However, something filmgoers won't give in on is the action sequences. We want action sequences that explode off the screen and leave us gasping for air. Except for a breath-taking

opening sequence, Cliffhanger director Renny Harlin (Die Hard II) fails to deliver.

Harlin is able to build the action sequences but when it comes time to deliver the payoff, he fails. The reason for this is twofold:

First, Harlin and the script telegraph all their blows. One would have to be blind not see what is coming next. Therefore, with no surprises, there is no explosion.

Second is Harlin's incessant use of slow motion at the climax of the action sequences. Action films are built on physical movement, whether it be in-camera or in the editing room (to see the trailer for Cliffhanger is to understand this point). Momentum in an action sequence gets built, a rhythm created in the case of Cliffhanger, the momentum rhythm is destroyed by slow-motion death.

My advice to the filmgoer regarding Cliffhanger - go see the five-minute trailer 16 times. It is what action films are all about.

## Purely Pastel

"Purely Pastel", an Ontario group of pastel painters, will be holding its annual exhibition of members' work at the Halton Hills Library and Cultural Centre, 9 Church Street, Georgetown.

The exhibit will open officially between 3-5 p.m. July 10 and will continue until Aug. 31 on Tuesdays-Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. and Fridays-Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. It will also be on view to theatre patrons at the Cultural Centre.

The "Purely Pastel" painters are a non-profit group who are concerned with enhancing the reputation of this medium by exhibitions and also workshops conducted from time to time throughout the province.

Anyone who would like further information may call Ursula Reese in Campbellville at 416-854-0887.

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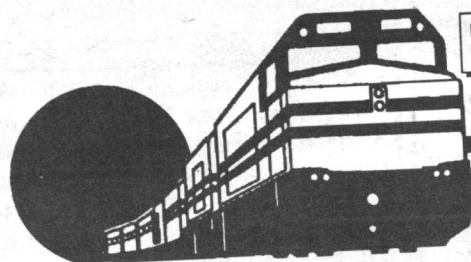
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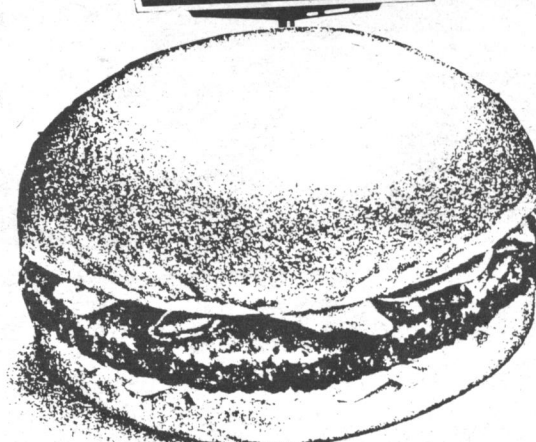
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