

Beverly Hillbillies - Revenge of the Clampetts

By Lawson Oates and Dawn Wood

Hee Haw. The Beverly Hillbillies are back and just as darn tootin' a cultural enigma to Beverly Hills, California, as Beverly Hills is to the rest of us.

The nostalgia craze for the television shows of the baby boomer's formative years goes into high gear as the Clampetts are recreated on the big screen.

The real challenge with these television recreations is to make them as close a mirror-image to the original as possible and to draw enough of an audience to make the sequel profitable. The Beverly Hillbillies is successful on this score.

However, don't look for an in-depth plot. What plot there is is about as engaging as a trip to the milk store. To repeat, the goal is not to have a serious plot, only some fun

Movie Review

as everyone identifies the characters of that strange television show from another era. This is confirmed at the end of the movie when bloopers and gaffes are included with the credits, similar to the closing moments of the popular television shows "Home Improvement" and "Roseanne".

The casting for the Beverly Hillbillies must be applauded. Cloris Leachman (Phyllis) plays Granny and comes the closest to almost perfectly recreating the part. Jim Varney plays Jed and puts on some fancy dancing.

Diedrich Bader plays Jethro with the requisite enthusiasm and simplicity of character. Erika Gleniak (Baywatch) plays Elly May with perhaps a little too much enthusiasm. Veteran actor Dabney Coleman plays the schizoid

banker, Mr. Drysdale, and his sparky assistant, Miss Jane Hathaway, is played by Lily Tomlin.

Tomlin steals the show by not only playing the role of Miss Hathaway almost flawlessly, but adds her own personal "Tomlin" style to every movement and line.

The main cast is joined by Rob Schneider as Tyler and Lea Thompson as Laura. This duo plot to steal the Clampett's fortune. Some interesting cameos are offered by Zsa Zsa Gabor, Dolly Parton, and Buddy Ebsen (the original Jed).

Now that the Clampetts

have left Arkansas and settled in Beverly Hills, the setting is ripe for Part II. Will Jed find a new wife?

Will Elly May grow into a real lady and get a date or just keep crushing the captain of the wrestling team? Will Granny make the ultimate possum stew? The suspense builds. Hee Haw.

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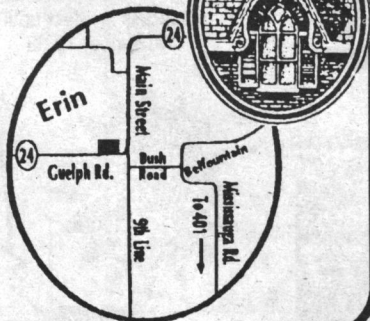
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