Georgian Bay movie critic picks the ten best films from 1974...

by Terry Dupuis

It's that time of the year again when movie reviewers across the country cast a backward glance over all the films they've seen during the past twelve months. Compiling lists of the preceding year's best and worst motion pictures and best and worst performances has become almost a sort of a game which most critics delight in playing.

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for making 1974

a great year

for all of us.

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film which prominently appears on one critic's Ten Best list will be relegated to the Ten Worst section of another reviewer's column, tions. and so on.

Anyway, here is my contribution to this annual ritual. All my selections were made from the 33 theatrical motion pictures which I sat through during 1974. Most of them were 1974 Of course there are no releases, but a few are really winners, since all such lists 1973 films (or even earlier),

of preference) Chinatown

A bizarre, complex and engrossing detective drama set in California during the eve is the movie's most interesting component, but director Roman Polanski brilliantly captures an atmosphere of seediness and corruption that will stay with most viewers long after they've seen the film. Earthquake

One of the best of 1974's disaster pictures, this one was aided greatly by a process called "Sensurround" which similated earthquake-like vibrations in the theatre! However, it holds up on its own merits as a worthwhile movie, with it's nail-biting suspense, superbly realistic special effects and a superior cast which includes Charlton Heston, Ava Gardner and Lorne Greene.

Jeremiah Johnson This offbeat western first appeared in 1972, but it was officially reissued this year

J. MIKEL

LUANNE

movies which I missed when so I'm including it on my '74 over 70 musicals, among they first came out and list. It's a rugged frontier them Singin' in the Rain, An which I wasn't able to catch tale which combines up to until 1974. So I'm in- humour, suspense, action, cluding them in my selec- and myth. Besides a good performance by Robert Below are my candidates Redford in the lead role, it for the 10 Best Movies I've features excellent portrayals seen during the past twelve by Will Geer and Allyn Ann months: (They are listed McLerie, some beautiful alphabetically, not in order color photography, and fine direction by Sidney Pollock.

The Great Gatsby One of the most literal and satisfying translations of a great novel to film that I've depression of the 1930's. Jack ever seen. Director Jack Nicholson's sardonic private Clayton captures to perfection the essence of F. Scott Fitzgerald's Jazz Age classic. The casting was inspired and all performers are uniformly fine: Robert Redford as Jay Gatsby, Mia Farrow as Daisy, Sam Waterston as Carraway, the narrator; Bruce Dern as Tom Buchanan; and Karen Black as Tom's mistress. Also noteworthy are the film's sets, costumes, photography and musical arrangements of standard Twenties tunes.

A flawless production in

every respect.

The Sting Another triumph for 1974. Robert Redford was this amusing and extremely entertaining 1973 film about a big swindle. Redford and Paul Newman portray a pair of con artists in the Depression '30's who plan to "sting" a gangster boss (Robert Shaw). Their caper has to be seen to be believed. Directed by George Roy Hill (who collaborated with Newman and Redford five years ago for Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid), this one is a joy from start to finish, with quite a few surprises along the way. One contributing factor, among many, is composer Marvin Hamlisch's arrangements of old Scott Joplin ragtime

That's Entertainment This impressive minutes), in scope (some documentary on the MGM incredibly spectacular musicals of yesteryear was reviewed in detail in this column three weeks ago. It's a marvelous compilation of Astaire, to name but a few). song and dance clips from

American In Paris, The Wizard of Oz, Gigi and Showboat. The story of the MGM musical from 1929 to 1959 is told by 11 narrators, including Fred Astaire, Gene Kelly, Donald O'Connor and Debbie Reynolds. recommend it for viewers of

all ages. The Three Musketeers

A merry madcap screen version of the Alexandre Dumas swashbuckling classic, it's directed by Richard Lester in the same frantic free-wheeling style as his hilarious A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum (1966). The cast is a top-notch one: Oliver Reed, Richard Chamberlain, and Frank Finlay are the Three Musketeers; Michael York is an engaging D'Artagnan; and Charlton Heston, in offbeat casting, makes a surprisingly effective Cardinal Richelieu. Also prominent in the cast are Chriostpher Lee, Faye Dunaway, and Racquel Welch. One of the biggest and best "fun" movies of

A Touch of Class

A superior adult comedy which is bright and witty, and yet oddly touching. George Segal and Glenda Jackson give tremendously engaging performances as two people who plan a casual week-long affair, no strings attached. Some excellent location photography of London is an added bonus for

The Towering Inferno Another disaster epic, this

one is from producer Irwin wracking and hair-raising Allen, who two years ago movies I've seen in years. gave us The Poseidon Adventure. His latest all-star Young Frankenstein extravaganza is even more A priceless comedy from gripping and suspenseful than its predecessor. In fact, Mel Brooks, this is his best tunes, particularly catchy it strikes me as being the one yet, being even funnier than his western send-up, best disaster picture yet. It's epic in length (2 hours and 40 Blazing Saddles. Brooks' latest is a hilarious spoof on old horror movies, parscenes) and in cast (Paul ticularly the Universal Newman, Steve McQueen, Frankenstein series of the 1930's. Every performer Wiolliam Holden and Fred contributes to the fun: Gene Wilder as the modern-day It's one of the most nerve-

descendant of the original Touch of Class. The Dr. Frankenstein; Cloris remaining three movies, Leachman as a sinister housekeeper; Peter Boyle as Inferno and Young the monster; and above all, Frankenstein open in Marty Feldman as the Toronto in December. I'll be hunchbacked assistant Igor reviewing them in greater (pronounced eye-gore).

Seven of the above 10 films new year. were run in this area during the past year: Chinatown, Jeremiah Johnson, The Great Gatsby, The Sting, That's Entertainment, The Three Musketeers and A

Earthquake, The Towering detail when they play locally during the early part of the

Were, The Exorcist, The Apprenticeship of Duddy

Kravitz, Blazing Saddles, Breezy, The Midnight Man, Conrack, McQ, Name, The Parallax View, Juggernaut, Papillon, For Pete's Sake, Airport 1975, The Tamarind Seed, Uptown Saturday Night.

(All but three of the above 16 films were screened locally over 1974. Below is a list of other Juggernaut, The Tamarind movies I enjoyed from the Seed and Airport '75 are still last year: The Way We running in Toronto. I'll be reviewing them when they play in this area).



Scene from Showboat in That's Entertainment

production collins

Q. How can I make hot cereals which are nutritious and less expensive than

A. Adding sliced apples and cinnamon while cooking oatmeal is one interesting method and cheaper than using apple-cinnamon

Q. I still have several vegetable marrow from my garden but am getting tired of mashed or diced marrow. What are some other suggestions for preparation?

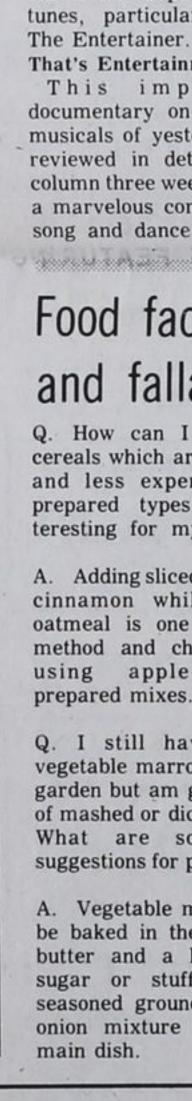
main dish.

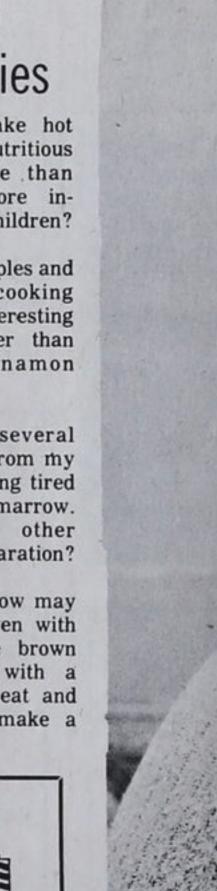
Food facts and fallacies

prepared types more interesting for my children?

prepared mixes.

A. Vegetable marrow may be baked in the oven with butter and a little brown sugar or stuffed with a seasoned ground meat and onion mixture to make a





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A touch of Class was a superior adult comedy

A sports fan's wishes for 1975

by Danny Asselin

All sports fans have some small wishes and hopes for their favourites, and as we start a new calendar year I would like to share a few of mine with you.

For 1975, in some cases with only slight hope, I would like to see:...expansion of both \ the National

League.,..another Stanley Muhammed Ali.

going to need it ... a big final Ballard ... more goals and Don Tannahill and Wayne season for both quarterback more laughs for Eddie "The King, who represent our Ron Lancaster and fullback Entertainer" Shack ... and a area in major league George Reed of the successful but never quiet hockey ... an Ontario Junior Saskatchewan Roughriders retirement for Boys curling title for Russ of the Canadian Football Heavyweight Champ Howard and his Midland

Borje Salming of the Toronto sporting scene in 1975. First, major league baseball into players for both Kansas championship for the Toronto...good luck for City and Washington of the Midland Flyers, to go along coaches Russ Jackson of the NHL along with more fans with a league scoring Toronto Argonauts and Bart for Oakland and better fans championship for the hard Starr of the Green Bay for Toronto - including working Ken Fox ... continued Packers. They are both supposed super-fan Harold success for Mike Robitaille.

Secondary School rink. You Cup for the Philadelphia Moving closer to home, came really close last year Flyers...recognition and a there are more than a few fellows...good luck for the first team all-star berth for items that would pick up the Midland Golf and Country Club and the Brooklea club Basketball Association and Maple Leafs...better how about a junior B with their remodelling programs - and the same success for club champs Marty Fitzgerald and Russ Howard.:.a return to championship form for the Midland Indians baseball

club and their ageless star Gord Dyment...a return to South Simcoe baseball for the Penetanguishene Merchants, and a special wish for the continued success and development of minor baseball, hockey, swimming, soccer and lacrosse and those who coach them.

And to all sports fans, we wish for the sanity that will help you realize you are watching games - just games. And a very happy and prosperous year in

sports.