

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.

Of course there are no winners, since all such lists are entirely subjective. A film which prominently appears on one critic's Ten Best list will be relegated to the Ten Worst section of another reviewer's column, 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 releases, but a few are really 1973 films (or even earlier),

movies which I missed when they first came out and which I wasn't able to catch up to until 1974. So I'm including them in my selections.

Below are my candidates for the 10 Best Movies I've seen during the past twelve months: (They are listed alphabetically, not in order of preference)

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Chinatown
A bizarre, complex and engrossing detective drama set in California during the depression of the 1930's. Jack Nicholson's sardonic private eye 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 "Sen-surround" which simulated earthquake-like vibrations in the theatre! However, it holds up on its own merits as a worthwhile movie, with its 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

The Great Gatsby
One of the most literal and satisfying translations of a great novel to film that I've ever seen. Director Jack 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 Nick 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 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 tunes, particularly catchy.

The Entertainer
This impressive documentary on the MGM musicals of yesteryear was reviewed in detail in this column three weeks ago. It's a marvelous compilation of song and dance clips from

over 70 musicals, among them *Singin' in the Rain*, *An 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. I 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 Christopher Lee, Faye Dunaway, and Raquel Welch. One of the biggest and best "fun" movies of 1974.

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 viewers.



Scene from *Showboat* in *That's Entertainment*

wracking and hair-raising movies I've seen in years.

Young Frankenstein
A priceless comedy from Mel Brooks, this is his best one yet, being even funnier than his western send-up, *Blazing Saddles*. Brooks' latest is a hilarious spoof on old horror movies, particularly the Universal *Frankenstein* series of the 1930's. Every performer contributes to the fun: Gene Wilder as the modern-day

descendant of the original Dr. Frankenstein; Cloris Leachman as a sinister housekeeper; Peter Boyle as the monster; and above all, Marty Feldman as the hunchbacked assistant Igor (pronounced eye-gore).

Seven of the above 10 films 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*

Touch of Class. The remaining three movies, *Earthquake*, *The Towering Inferno* and *Young Frankenstein* open in Toronto in December. I'll be reviewing them in greater detail when they play locally during the early part of the new year.

Below is a list of other movies I enjoyed from the last year: *The Way We 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 '75*, *The Tamarind Seed*, *Uptown Saturday Night*.

(All but three of the above 16 films were screened locally over 1974. *Juggernaut*, *The Tamarind Seed* and *Airport '75* are still running in Toronto. I'll be reviewing them when they play in this area).

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Thanks for making 1974 a great year for all of us.

CKMP MIDLAND 1230

Food facts and fallacies

Q. How can I make hot cereals which are nutritious and less expensive than prepared types more interesting for my children?

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

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?

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 main dish.



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 Basketball Association and major league baseball into Toronto...good luck for coaches Russ Jackson of the Toronto Argonauts and Bart Starr of the Green Bay Packers. They are both

going to need it...a big final season for both quarterback Ron Lancaster and fullback George Reed of the Saskatchewan Roughriders of the Canadian Football League...another Stanley Cup for the Philadelphia Flyers...recognition and a first team all-star berth for Borje Salming of the Toronto Maple Leafs...better players for both Kansas City and Washington of the NHL along with more fans for Oakland and better fans for Toronto - including supposed super-fan Harold

Ballard...more goals and more laughs for Eddie "The Entertainer" Shack...and a successful but never quiet retirement for Heavyweight Champ Muhammad Ali.
Moving closer to home, there are more than a few items that would pick up the sporting scene in 1975. First, how about a junior B championship for the Midland Flyers, to go along with a league scoring championship for the hard working Ken Fox...continued success for Mike Robitaille,

Don Tannahill and Wayne King, who represent our area in major league hockey...an Ontario Junior Boys curling title for Russ Howard and his Midland Secondary School rink. You came really close last year fellows...good luck for the Midland Golf and Country Club and the Brooklea club 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 Penetangfishene 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.

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A credit course which combines classroom study during the winter months with three weeks travel and study in Europe from May 10-31. Focus will be on the evolution of western culture from ancient civilizations to the present. Classes start January 15, 1975 - Wednesdays, 17 weeks 7:00-10:00 p.m. Registration Fee \$50.00, Total Cost \$750.00

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