

Movie reviews

# Film companies often save best to last

by Terry Dupuis  
A lot of interesting movies should be making their appearance between now and the end of the year. Many film companies save their best product for the final quarter of the year, in order to be eligible for April's Academy Awards. Releasing a film in the latter part of the year also tends to ensure that it will be fresher in the minds of Academy Award voters. So there will be a tremendous amount of product appearing on movie screens between now and Christmas. The following films are all unpreviewed as of this writing, but I can give a report as to who is in them and what they are about. Full-length critical evaluations will appear in future columns, once I've seen the movies. Some of these movies will be opening soon in the Georgian Bay area, while there are some others which have not even opened in Toronto yet. But they will all get up here eventually.

**Oct. 6 at the Odeon in Midland** - Charlton Heston heads an all-star cast in a vivid and accurately-detailed account of a decisive battle which took place in the Pacific between the American and the Japanese forces during World War Two. The cast also includes Henry Fonda, Glenn Ford, Robert Mitchum and Hal Holbrook.

**The Outlaw Josey Wales** - (beginning Oct. 13 at the Odeon in Midland) - Clint Eastwood's many fans will welcome his return to westerns after a long absence. Eastwood's last western was High Plains Drifter. After that he switched to modern settings for Magnum Force, Thunderbolt and Lightfoot and The Eiger Sanction.

**Logan's Run** - Michael York stars in this futuristic tale about a society in which people are destroyed when they reach the age of 30. (Clyde Gilmour claims it is the best science-fiction movie since Kubrick's "2001" eight years ago.

**Fighting Mad** - Peter Fonda stars in a tale of vigilante violence which is in the same mould as Death Wish and The Human Factor.

**Nickelodeon** - Peter Bogdanovich, director of Paper Moon teams up again with Ryan and Tatum O'Neal. This one will also star Burt Reynolds, who teamed up with Bogdanovich last year for At Long Last Love, which turned out to be a disaster. I'm hoping that Nickelodeon will be as good as Bogdanovich's earlier films such as What's Up Doc? The Last Picture Show and Paper Moon.

**Car Wash** - Another youth-oriented nostalgic comedy in the tradition of American Graffiti and Drive-In.

**The Last Tycoon** - A lot of talent is going into this movie version of F. Scott Fitzgerald's last novel, which deals with Hollywood during the 30's. The script is by playwright Harold Pinter, the director is Elia Kazan (of "On The Waterfront" fame) and the producer is Sam Spiegel who turned out such successes as Bridge On The River Kwai, The Arrican Queen and Lawrence of Arabia. The main character of the film is a studio chief, based on Irving Thalberg. The part is being played by Robert De Niro, who gave sensational performances in Godfather Two and Taxi Driver.

**The Tenant** - Roman Polanski not only directed, but also stars in this bizarre macabre tale about identity. If the past is any indication, The Tenant should certainly be offbeat. Polanski's past films include Repulsion, Fearless Vampire Killers, Rosemary's Baby and Chinatown.

**St. Ives** - Charles Bronson is back in action again. Need we say more?

**The Marathon Man** - This thriller stars Dustin Hoffman and Laurence Olivier, has a script by William Goldman (author of Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid) and was directed by John Schlesinger, who last year directed The Day of the Locust. I don't know whether the director's latest flick will be any good, but one thing is certain: no matter how bad it is, it is almost impossible to believe that it will be as incredibly bad as The Day of the Locust.

## Huronia Players

### Plan for fall line-up

The Huronia Players are heading into their seventeenth season with a spirit of adventure and challenge.

Under the shared presidency of Joan Hanna and Raymond Knight, several firsts are planned.

One is a musical, something which the group has never tried before. Buoyed by the abundance of musical talent in the group, and by the promise of an outside director, they're planning on mounting a popular musical as their second production.

The first production, George Bernard Shaw's The Devil's Disciple will be directed by Joan Hanna, and will be presented later this fall.

"The play is set at the time of the American Revolution," says Joan, "and it's our salute to the American bi-Centennial."

Rehearsals have begun for The Devil's Disciple but there are still opportunities for involvement with the performance both backstage and on stage.

"There are lots of extras," says Joan, "and it's a good opportunity for people to get on stage. We always welcome new faces."

Another bright spot on the player's horizon is provided by the wide general acceptance of their suggestion that a civic theatre be incorporated into the plans for a recreational complex to replace the old arena. In the past, the Players have been contacted by touring professional groups like Theatre Passe Muraille, The National Ballet, and Feux Follets. Such productions have had to be passed up because our community has no suitable place in which to hold them.

Raymond Knight has indicated his readiness to serve on the building committee responsible for planning the recreational complex, and insists that a theatre would represent tremendous progress for the whole community. "Actually the Players would use the facility for

a very small percentage of the time," he said. "But there are so many other groups in the community that might use it. It could be used for political meetings, conventions, local choirs and orchestras, and most exciting of all, for summer theatre. Think what a good summer theatre season would do for our tourist industry up here."

The promotion of the theatre idea is the big thrust for the group this season. "We are excited about it," says Ray Knight, "but we would never be able to do it all ourselves. It must be a

community effort."

He continued that such a theatre would be administered through the Parks Board, or an Arts Council. "The players would have to rent it, just as other community groups would."

The Huronia Players are always looking for new members. For an annual membership fee of \$7, anyone in the area can join. Fun, and hard work are guaranteed. And there's always the possibility that you may get a chance to get in on the ground floor of planning for Midland's first civic auditorium.

### Conference held

The second annual conference of the Midland Branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was held at Parkview School on Sunday, September 12, 1976. The conference was attended by president Merkle, president of the Toronto Stake, and his two counsellors, president Pallin and president Finnigan, as well as the stake executive secretary, president Atchley. The following stake high priest quorum representatives were

present at the meeting: Grant Hillman, Brian Nargesson, Joe Etchley, and Robert Addey. The Toronto Stake Young Women's M. I. A. President, Sister Atchley, also attended the conference.

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