

# If You Could See What I Hear

by Terry Dupuis

One of the more entertaining Canadian-made films I've seen this year was a semi-biographical film called *If You Could See What I Hear*.

It deals with the life and times of a blind piano player and songwriter named Tom Sullivan. The movie was shot on a modest budget, but it has several worthwhile performances, particularly from actor Marc Singer who plays Sullivan.

There have been many movies dealing with the problems of handicapped people. Most of them tended towards a sentimental or inspirational expression of their subject. The interesting thing about the Tom Sullivan biopic is that it is for the most part light-hearted. *If You Could See What I Hear* contains a great deal of humour. Laughter seems to be Sullivan's most potent weapon in dealing with his handicap, at least according to this movie. In any case, at times this film seems to owe more to *Animal House* than *The Other Side Of The Mountain*. *If You Could See What I Hear* is more in the category of being a raucous college comedy than an inspirational drama.

The end credits state that apart from Tom Sullivan, the other characters and the events in the story are fictionalized. Therefore, this movie cannot be taken too seriously as an authentic biography of the musician, but at least it admits it, and at least the movie is entertaining, whatever liberties may have been taken with reality.

The movie opens with Tom's college days at Providence College and his friendship with another joker named Will. The two are constantly playing pranks on each other as well as on others.

Tom does not allow his blindness to prevent him from being a ladies' man. His first serious romance is with a black student named Heather. But their relationship ends because Heather fears she won't be able to handle both a blind husband and an interracial marriage.

After his school days, Tom's next serious romance is with a vacationing girl named Patty. Tom leads an all-round active life. He attends graduate school at Harvard, plays golf, performs at his father's pub, and in one of the movie's best sequences he tries his hand at sky-diving. (Actor Marc Singer did

## parachute stunts in film done by Penetang man

not do the actual sky-diving for the film; a local Penetanguishene sky-diver named Claude Lalonde did the stuntwork for this scene and doubled for the actor.)

The screenplay for the movie by Stuart Gillard never gives us much insight or depth into the life of Tom Sullivan, but at least it is nicely paced. Some of the dialogue is unnecessarily raunchy, however, and there is an overuse of profanity which detracts from the story. But many of the episodes are genuinely amusing and the audience is likely to stay awake throughout the film's running time of 102 minutes.

## Oldtimers square off Sunday

The Midland Oldtimers Hockey team, fresh from their successful escapades in the Elmvalle Oldtimers Tournament, take on the Penetanguishene Brule Oldtimers this Sunday morning at the Centennial Arena. Game time is 11 a.m. The Penetanguishene squad were gold medal winners at the Stroud tournament last weekend, and should be up for this match with their traditional rivals.

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