

Movie review

The King of Comedy funny but...

by Terry Dupuis

The King Of Comedy was one of the most eagerly anticipated movies of the new year. Anticipated because it marks another collaboration between one of the most important actor-director teams in modern cinema: Robert DeNiro and Martin Scorsese. The two of them worked together previously in Mean Streets, Taxi Driver, New York New York and Raging Bull. The King of Comedy marks their fifth film together.

But there was one unusual aspect to this new film which also aroused much curiosity: namely, that Jerry Lewis was going to be playing a straight role.

When I first heard that Jerry Lewis and Robert DeNiro were going to be costarring together, it immediately caught my interest: they seemed like such an incompatible team.

The amazing thing is that it really works, and it is the energetic performances of these two men in the offbeat characters that they portray that makes The King Of Comedy particularly worth seeing.

Lewis plays a talk show host of late-night television named Jerry Langford who is idolized and watched by millions. He is the king of comedy of the title, but basically an unhappy man. He is haunted by his success, torn between his craving for adulation and his need for privacy.

DeNiro plays Rupert Pupkin, an aspiring stand-up comedian. But Rupert not only has big dreams of becoming the king of comedy himself, he wants it right away. No working his way up in low-class nightclubs. He wants instant fame, and he feels he can

get it if he can get a few minutes of air time on the Jerry Langford show. Langford is a television personality whom Rupert idolizes, but he finds that getting on Jerry's show is not as easy a matter as he expected.

The King of Comedy deals with ambitious driven men who want to be in the spotlight, a favourite theme in most of Scorsese's films. Rupert Pupkin is a loner and a dreamer who mixes reality and fantasy, much as Travis Bickle did, the character DeNiro played in Taxi Driver. But Rupert has the gift of laughter to alleviate the tension that drove Bickle to darker deeds.

The King of Comedy is basically a two-man show, but there are also two female characters who figure importantly in the plot. Sandra Bernhard plays a rich but eccentric

young woman who has a crush on talk-show host Jerry Langford.

She is a loner like Rupert, and ends up being drawn into a plot with Rupert to kidnap Langford. Dianne Abbott plays a barmaid friend of Rupert's who ends up being taken in by his big talk of success.

It should be noted right off that The King of Comedy is not as negative or frightening a film as Taxi Driver, but it is still a bitter and hard-hitting look at North American culture, particularly with our society's obsession with celebrities and overnight stardom.

At the same time, this movie contains some hilarious scenes and many amusing moments of rich dialogue. Maybe director Scorsese summed it up best when he said "This film is funny, but it's not a comedy."

May is Red Shield Month Sally Ann aims to raise \$25,000

As the Salvation Army begins its long march into a second century of service around the world, here closer to home the Midland Salvation Army is gearing up for its annual Red Shield Appeal which will take place during the entire month of May.

Last year in excess of \$23,000 was raised in North Simcoe during a similar appeal chaired by Nancy Keefe.

This year, Midland Times editor Doug Reed is chairing the appeal along with a host of dedicated volunteers who met again Monday night to hear reports and to go over last minute planning.

The Red Shield Appeal will kick off with a parade on Saturday, April 30 at 11 a.m. from the Midland Salvation Army to the parkette next to the library on King Street.

Local, area, provincial and federal civic leaders will be on hand for the occasion as will Lt. Ray Braddock, members of the local Army and this year's campaign committee which includes: Industrial Chairman Nel

Peever, Blitz Chairman Sue Blake, Business Chairman Mary Gibson, Finance Chairman Vic Hodgins, Area Chairman Joan Schirmuly, Industrial Campaign Assistant Al Peel and his team of Robert Tuite, Frank Graham, John Gianetto and Charles Woods.

Kelly Barrie and Betty Aylsworth will help Mrs. Blake sort out the campaign in both the west and east parts of Midland respectively while the following have agreed to be captains for this very important event: Joyce Bryce, Nadine Adams, Mena McGill, Sally Kitching, Shiela Chisholm, Helen Watson, Christine Brush, Sandra Muxlow, Laura Isaac, Tory Cunningham, Fran Ferguson, Randy Markham and John Lancing.

Volunteer canvassers are needed. If you can help please call Sue Blake at 526-6141. She'd be happy to hear from you.

The one-night blitz is to take place in Midland, Penetanguishene and Elmvale on Monday, May 9. While other centres in North Simcoe are expected to be blitzed either the same night or later in the month. There will

be no call back.

Penetanguishene Legion is to blitz that town while Elmvale Legion is to do the same thing in their own community.

"We hope to meet our target of \$25,000 this time around," chairman Reed confessed yesterday.

"This week's meeting was nothing short of a great success. We have a host of wonderful men and women who have volunteered to help in the appeal and I'm certain we'll meet our

target."

He added, "I have nothing but the highest respect for the Salvation Army and what it is trying to achieve here in North Simcoe. I also have nothing but praise for all those who have agreed to be part of this year's effort...it's all very humbling to tell you the truth."

Canvassers will be making their rounds from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. during blitz night...please welcome them with open arms and an open heart.

April 20

Microwave demonstration hosted by St. Theresa's Ladies Auxiliary and sponsored by Therrien's Homeland Furniture at the high school at 7:30 p.m. Tickets available at Therrien's and Lamers Paint and Wallpaper.

Our greatest national treasure

One week every year is set aside to honour the contribution volunteers make to our society. This year National Volunteer Week is from April 18-24.

Premier William Davis in his letter to the Association of Volunteer Bureaux in Ontario honours volunteers thus:

Guide Cord

In Ontario there is For the first time, the Fifth Midland Girl Guide Company has an All Round Cord Award in their midst.

Lisa Kinnear, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Kinnear of Midland, was presented with the award on Monday, March 7.

This award is the highest attainable in the Girl Guide program for girls aged nine to 12.

Lisa has been a Brownie, a Brownie Pack helper, and a Guide. Events and accomplishments which contributed to Kinnear's All Round Cord program are swimming, camping, citizenship, and community service.

The award was presented to her at a Guide and Parent Pot Luck Supper and Badge Ceremony held at St. Paul's United Church on March 7.

Guests and former Brownie and Guide leaders were invited from Woodstock, Victoria Harbour, Penetanguishene, and Midland.

almost no aspect of our society that is not touched by the efforts of our volunteer workers, kind and dedicated individuals who have given tirelessly of their time and means to make their community a better place in which to live.

In our increasingly depersonalized society it is important to recognize the worth of our volunteers, for their "personal touch" is a force for good of love and caring in the lives of us all.

As Volunteer Week is celebrated throughout our province, I extend the heartfelt gratitude of the people and the Government of Ontario for all that our volunteers have accomplished on our behalf, and express the hope that we will long have the benefit of your service and commitment.

Thank-you Mr. Davis, you said it for us all.

Linda Hogg

Volunteer Bureau Huronia

MOVIE GUIDE

ROXY THEATRE MIDLAND 526-5791

HELD OVER!

Fri., Sat., Sun. 7 and 9:15
Mon. to Thurs. 7:30

10 NOMINATED FOR ACADEMY AWARDS
including BEST PICTURE, BEST DIRECTOR — Sydney Pollack, BEST ACTOR — Dustin Hoffman

TOOTSIE
THIS IS A HELL OF A WAY TO MAKE A LITTLE...
JESSICA LANGE TEBI GARD

Sat. Matinee 1:30 - MEGAFORCE

PEN TWIN PENETANG 549-2953

PEN 1

Fri. & Sat. April 8-9
7 and 9

Losin' it

Sun April 10 to Thurs. April 14 7:15
PLUS LOSIN' IT

Sat. Matinee 1:30 - MAX DUGAN RETURNS

PEN 2

Fri. - April 8 to Thurs. April 14
7 and 9

"A complete crowd-pleaser. It really flies."
MAX DUGAN RETURNS

Midland Drive In Theatre 526-2411

Fri., Sat., Sun April 8 to 10

PLUS **10 to Midnight**
CHARLES BRONSON

Specials at the Granada Inn

Fri. - Sat. - Sun.

SALAD BAR
Georgian Bay Pickerel
All you can eat \$7.95

Spare Ribs
All you can eat \$8.95

Tender Filet Mignon & Mush. \$8.95
PLUS REG. MENU

HAPPY HOURS

'CLUB 27'
from 5 p.m.
Tues.-Sat.

Hwy. 93 at Balm Beach Rd. Midland
For reservations **526-2797**

Elmvale 322-2890
DRIVE-IN THEATRE
All Pictures Subject To Unavoidable Change

Friday-Saturday & Sunday
April 8, 9 & 10

The Missionary
He gave his body to save their souls.

Starring **MICHAEL PALIN**
MAGGIE SMITH
-Plus-

Monty Python at the Hollywood Bowl

ADULT ACCOMPANIMENT

Now Appearing
at the
PALACE TAVERN
Main St., Elmvale

April 7th, **Eastcoast Rider** 8th & 9th

DON'T MISS IT!

April 14, 15, 16
NIGHT MOVES