

Little Drummer Girl

by TERRY DUPUIS

The spy thrillers of novelist John Le Carre have provided some fairly good movies for the screen, whether theatrical or television. *The Spy Who Came In From The Cold*, made in 1965, was a bleak complex thriller which provided the late Richard Burton with one of his best screen roles. And the made-for-TV adaptation of *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy*, several years ago, also provided some gripping entertainment.

Maybe it was for this reason that the recent adaptation of a John Le Carre thriller disappointed me. *The Little Drummer Girl* seemed on the surface to be quite promising at the time of its release, but I didn't consider that it amounted to very much after having seen it.

Dianne Keaton portrays an idealistic American actress who is acting on the English stage. Her idealism particularly

surfaces when it comes to politics.

Maybe naivety would be a better word than idealism because she seems to have a romanticized concept when it comes to political revolutions.

One evening an opportunity presents itself for her to put her beliefs into practice when she meets a man whom she is told is a Palestinian agent. Keaton then ends up getting in way over her head. It turns out that this man is really an Israeli agent masquerading as a Palestinian.

The Israeli terrorists want to hire Keaton to perform an assignment for them, precisely because of her abilities as an actress. Keaton consents because she believes she is fighting for a worthy cause, because she is falling in love with the Israeli man who hired her, and because this assignment will be a challenge to her as an actress.

If you think the story of *The Little*

this movie isn't a complete disaster although it seems to try

Drummer Girl sounds complex so far, it becomes even more confusing as the plot winds on. At 130 minutes, the movie is overlong and does not manage to sustain interest throughout its length. This yarn becomes very difficult to follow after awhile, even for a John Le Carre plot.

I haven't read the novel; maybe that would clear up some of the confusion. But I don't feel that a movie should demand that we must read the book in order to be able to understand it. This was the problem with last year's movie *The Osterman Weekend*, which *The Little Drummer Girl* puts me in mind of.

Another problem is the casting of Diane Keaton as the student actress turned political activist. She seemed to me to be too old for the part, and never entirely convincing in the role. Keaton is a very capable actress but I think she was miscast in this movie.

The best performances in *The Little*

Drummer Girl come from two of the supporting players. Klaus Kinski, the father of Nastassia Kinski, is highly effective as an Israeli intelligence officer. He plays a very intelligent volatile man who is by turns sympathetic and ruthless. Kinski is riveting and one of the best things about this movie.

Almost as good is a Greek actor named Yorgo Voyagis. He gave an excellent performance as Joseph in Franco Zeffereilli's highly acclaimed television mini-series *Jesus of Nazareth*, but I hadn't seen him anything else until *The Little Drummer Girl*. In this movie he creates a complex characterization as the Israeli agent who draws and actress into the whole web of intrigue and danger which she becomes involved with.

The Little Drummer Girl is not a complete disaster as far as spy movies go, but I can recall many others which I have enjoyed more.

Memories outclassed

Memories Roadhouse Raiders were downed by a talent laden Stayner Mystics team in Simcoe County Intermediate Mens Basketball League play Thursday, in Stayner.

The outcome was never in doubt as Mystics opened a 18-4 lead early in the first half and coasted to an easy 87-47 win.

Bruce Nickel with 18 points and Bob Hirst had 16 lead the Stayner squad.

For Memories, Ray Brien and Blais Robitaille netted 10 points each.

On Nov. 22 there will be a double-header at the MSS gym starting at 7 p.m. when Memories meet Barrie Mikes Milk, followed by CFB Borden against Commodores.

Indusmin lose close one to Wasaga Beach

Midland Indusmin Minor Bantams lost a closely contested hockey game at Centennial Arena last Saturday night to Wasaga Beach by a

score of 3-1.

Wasaga Beach took a 3-0 lead on singles being scored in each of the periods.

Midland finally got on the scoreboard when

Brent Macey, assisted by John Richardson and Scott Bales slipped one past the Wasaga Beach netminder.

Steve Duncan played well between the pipes.

Local volleyball teams hold mini-tournament

On Wednesday, Nov. 14, G. Wilicers played a home game at St. Theresa's High School against the Cookstown Crusaders and the Miland Y Malibus.

G. Wilicers opened up the evening by winning a hard fought match two games straight against

Cookstown 15-11 and 13-13. Defense was the name of the game for the G. Wilicers as they recovered many hits and tips. Carol Finlayson played especially well with her hustling and consistent digging skills.

The third match of the night brought the G.

Wilicers up against their hometown opponents, Y Malibus. G. Wilicers came out strong in the first game with hard hitting and good tip coverage that gave them a four point lead.

Malibus then came back to tie the score 4-4. From this point on both teams battled it out, but

Malibus came out on top with a close 15-12 score.

In the second game the Malibus took off with a strong lead of 10-0. Even though G. Wilicers tried hard to regain control, they lost out to the Malibus 15-1.

The Midland Y G. Wilicers next scheduled game is on December 19 in Orillia.

Reynolds wins \$400 draw prize

Doris Reynolds of Elmvale won \$400 in an Elmvale and District Lions Club Grey Cup draw.

One hundred dollar

winners were Clint Draper of RR 1, Phelpsston, Terri Wannamaker of Wasaga Beach, and Julie Quesnelle of RR 1, Perkinsfield.



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