

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Markham Movie Scene

### A tried and true formula

By TOM NEWALL

Alex wants to become a professional dancer with an accredited ballet school of dance. In the meantime she supports herself as a welder (that's right; a welder!) by day and a club dancer in the evenings.

Nick, the construction company owner, supports her ambitions, falls in love. They fight, they make up. Alex electrifies the dance company admissions committee. Will she make it? Does the show go on?

By now you've gathered that Flashdance follows a tried-and-true formula and, if box office receipts are any consideration, the story line is working once again, 1983 fashion!

Flashdance, indeed, is one of the 1983 film successes, in part because of the attractive lead performances. Michael Nouri as Nick and, most definitely, Jennifer Beals as the star-struck Alex.

There's some striking photography—Pittsburg and downtown Los Angeles through filtered lenses, dance sequences shot through vibrant strobe colored lighting and inspired camera angles.

And there are effective cameo appearances by supporting characters—Ella, a street vendor caught between Alex and Nick; Ritchie, the struggling comic; Johnny C., an eccentric porno street person; Hanna Long, Alex's elderly

mentor and friend, lively ghetto street dancers.

The choreography, set to a multitude of pop songs as well as original music by George Moroder, is electrifying, reminiscent of Fame, and the works of Bob Fosse. Figure skating emerges as well and there is a pet dog to pull at your heart strings. Add a set of protective parents along the way! Many a movie cliché is paraded about to keep things moving, believe me!

That most of it jells is a tribute to a fresh new personality, Jennifer Beals, and to the dance routines developed by Jeffrey Hornaday. Miss Beals has a youthful, innocent air, flashing dark eyes and when she's cycling through

Pittsburg, as she does throughout the film, she emerges as a winning and winsome figure indeed. And she can dance!

Hornaday's routines are stark, frantic, athletic and mesmerizing—the audience seems to throb with the jungle beat of orchestral accompaniment; certainly the camera captures the sexual heat of a crowded, somewhat decayed club, the setting for much of the action. Add Irene Cara's voice over the soundtrack belting out "Flashdance... What A Feeling" and you have the recipe for a hit movie.

A word of caution, however... the advertisement includes "coarse lan-

guage"...they mean it...so, if you are not up to frank dialogue, bring along your earplugs when the conversation gets raunchy. Funny, but frank!

And keep an eye open for Flashdance II! After all, Alex, even if she's admitted to the Conservatory of Dance, will have to make it to New York. Will Nick remain her lover and friend? Will Alex become a Broadway star?

You can bet that producer Don Simpson is going to see that we find out—and Jennifer Beals will be right there to help him. A lively film—and a fresh new star to make it work!

Flashdance is now showing at the Markville Cinema 3.

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