

Weekender Entertainment



Weekender Movie Scene

The Black Cauldron - confusing

By IAN BAILEY

THE BLACK CAULDRON: It isn't easy to make a feature length animated film. As an example, consider this Walt Disney production whose vital statistics are far more impressive than the movie itself.

The Black Cauldron, an excerpt from Lloyd Alexander's series, The Chronicles of Prydain, was in preparation and production for 12 years. It cost \$25 million, required two million drawings, 400 gallons of paint, 15,000 pencils, and 34 miles of film.

For all that material investment, one would think its makers could have at least threaded together a story that flowed. Instead, this bland fantasy epic about a young pigkeeper (voice by British actor Grant Bardsley) competing with an evil character named the Horned King (voice played by John Hurt) to locate a magical cauldron has a confusing plot - even for a cartoon.

The movie has enough unique characters to amuse young children (especially a scruffy dog named Gurgi whose voice belongs to John Byner, the comedian behind the late-night syndicated comedy show, Bizarre). But the problem here is overcrowding. There are so many, and those

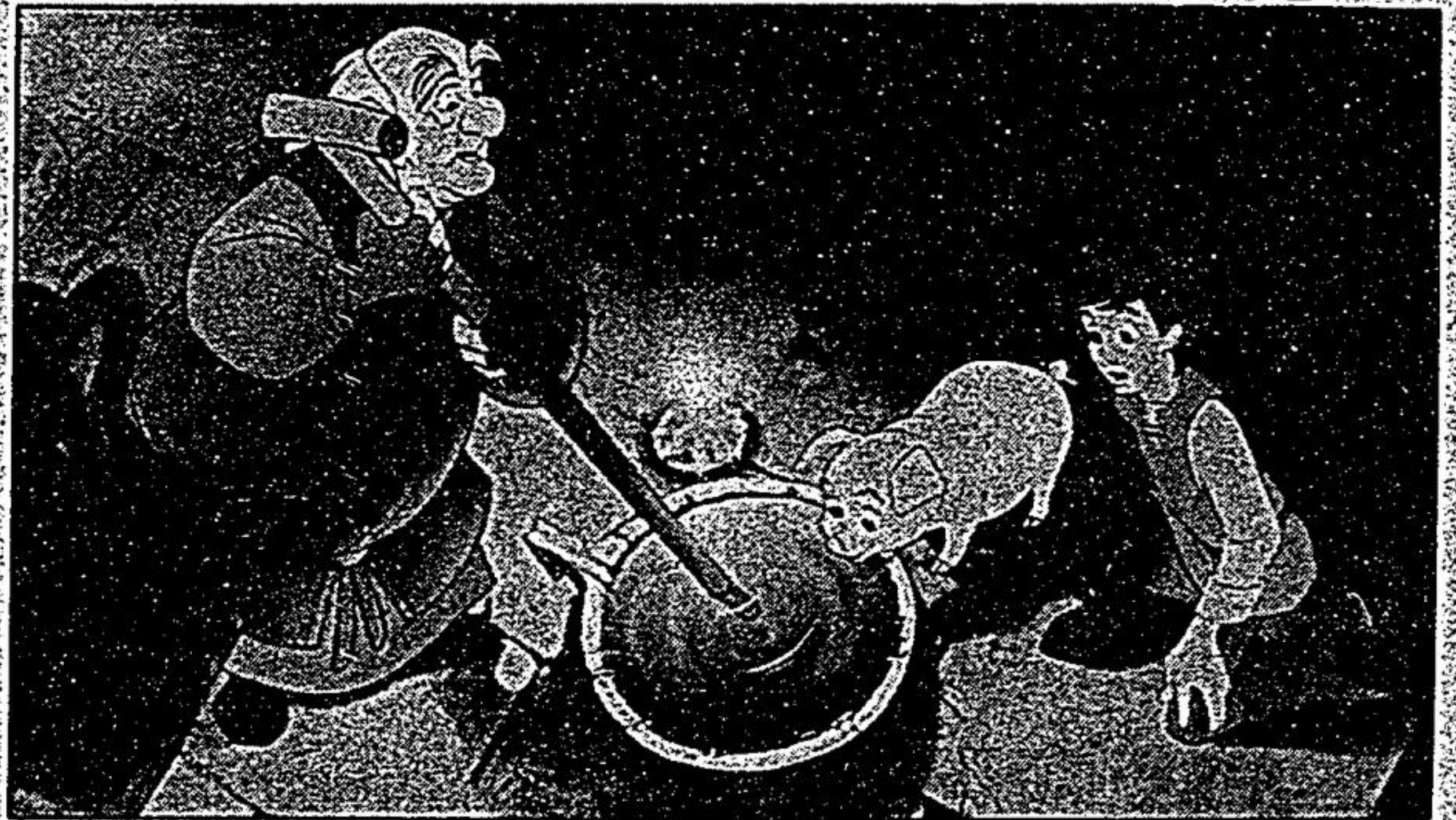
that are central to the film are never given the life of character development.

The Black Cauldron is often visually attractive, though not to the degree you might expect given the work that went into it - but it's ironic that here, special effects are such simple things as a puff of smoke, a burst of realistic looking flame or a pool of water that plays with light, all merely simulations of everyday elements. **MARKVILLE (F) ****

MARKVILLE

COMPROMISING POSITIONS: Good characterizations help this droll mystery about a suburban housewife (Susan Sarandon) who tries to find out who murdered her dentist, a philandering cad involved in illicit pornography. The plot offers all the twists of an episode of Murder, She Wrote but the wide-eyed Sarandon is a beguiling lead and she is helped along by the sharp characterizations of co-stars Raul Julia, Anne DeSalvo and especially Judith Ivey as a sarcastic artist. Nicely directed in closed suburban settings by Frank (Monsignor) Perry (AA) ** 1/2. **PEE-WEE'S BIG ADVENTURE:** A pretty dumb movie wherein cult comedy star Pee-wee Herman (Paul Reubens) sets out on a cross-country search for his stolen bicycle. Fans may enjoy Pee-wee's peculiarities, but strangers to the character can expect a long, dull ordeal where laughter is an embarrassed reaction to a movie that sets out to plumb the depths of movie badness and succeeds in sinking lower than any other movie has this summer. (F) ** 1/2.

YEAR OF THE DRAGON: A high-powered thriller about a New York police captain who sets out to break a Chinese crime gang for reasons that are more racist than legal. Although this violent film is engrossing, it lacks a perspective on the bigoted central character played by Mickey Rourke. Imagine Archie Bunker without Meathead, Edith, Gloria or the Jeffersons to put his opinions in perspective. Rourke's performance is convincing, but the movie never comes together to either explain or condemn him. (R) Brutal Violence, Coarse Language ** 1/2.



Dalben (left) and his young Taran, prepare to witness a vision brought forth by their oracular pig, Hen Wen, in Walt Dis-

ney's full-length cartoon feature, The Black Cauldron currently playing at Markville.



The Creeper, one of The Black Cauldron's bad guys, always aims to please his master that is - the evil Horned King.

What's On

Pop Art entertains at the Wellington

Saturday, September 7 Pop Art, a top-40 band will be playing the Wellington (in the Markham Mall). There is no cover and showtime starts at 9 p.m.

Sunday is movie night at the Wellington (in the Markham Mall). There is no cover charge and the popcorn is free.

For further information about the movie call 294-3165.

Cullen Country Barn

Cullen Barns (on Steeles Ave. and Kennedy Rd., south) has opened its theatre again for the fall season. Small Town Ontario '85, a light-hearted song and dance review of happenings in small towns in Ontario, will be running until November 3. Showtimes are 1:30 and 3 p.m. every day except Monday. The cost is \$2 per person and \$1.50 for seniors.

Footloose Roadhouse

Saturday is Beach Pack night at Footloose (in the Mr. Grocer Mall). Two loaded beach packs will be drawn as door prizes. Every Tuesday night is Dance Contest Night. There will be a \$50 first prize.

Reservations are recommended for the weekends.

The Duchess of Markham

Washbrook will be featured for the regular Sunday jam session at the Duchess (on Main St., Markham). All budding musicians are welcomed to join. Showtime starts at 8:30 p.m.

39 Mainstreet

Saturday, from 3 to 7 p.m. Bernard and the Acadians will be entertaining customers in the lounge at Mainstreet (on Hwy 48 in the old town of Markham) with their Dixieland music.

The Nag's Head North

Saturday, September 7, the Nag's Head (on Woodbine south of Hwy 7) is presenting Green River, a Crecedence Clearwater Revival tribute band. Showtimes start at 9 p.m. and there is no cover charge.

Monte Cristo Steak House

Zachery Polk will be playing the dining room at this Main St. Stouffville restaurant every night this week, except Monday, from 8 p.m. until 2 a.m. He will feature a variety of modern and dining room music.

Old Village Spaghetti House

The Village Pub on Main St. in Markham is presenting Syd Symkins Wednesday and Friday nights. He will be playing guitar and singing from his vast collection

of British pub songs. Show 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Today at 2 p.m. there will be a darts tournament. Entry fee is \$2. Prizes for the top competitors.

O'Toole's Roadhouse

Every Tuesday night is Team Nite. The largest team that comes into O'Toole's with their sweaters on will win a prize. At the end of September one team will win 40 Argo tickets.

Wednesday night at O'Toole's (on Hwy 7 near McCowan Rd.) is Girls Just Wanna Have Fun Nite. There will be a draw for the door prize. Each lady will receive a carnation with admission.

Kingswood Music Theatre

Kingswood Theatre at Canada's Wonderland (Hwy 400 and Major Mackenzie Dr.) is presenting Sting Saturday, September 14. Showtime starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$22.50 for reserved seating and \$15 for lawn.

Tickets can be purchased at any Eaton's Ticketron location. For further concert information call 1-832-8131.

Fernando's Restaurant

Fernando's has brought back Hits of the Blitz. It is a nostalgic parody of World War II Canadian radio network shows.

A lot of big band songs will be featured and skits enacted by Vic Cummings, Jack Duffy, Peter Glen, Linda Cornes and Carolyn Prue. The show runs Saturday night. Dinner is from 7 to 9 p.m. and the showtime begins at 9:15 p.m. The price is \$20 per person, and the restaurant is on Markham's Main St.

Melba's Restaurant

Dine to the classical guitar sounds of Paul Brooks Saturday nights at this Washington St. Markham restaurant. Reservations are recommended.

Brodies Bar and Grill

Saturday, September 7 Brodies (on Hwy 7 in Unionville) is presenting the country music of Michael Kelly. There is no cover charge and showtime begins at 9 p.m.

Deer Park Inn

Theatre in the Park (Deer Park Inn on Hwy 47 north of Stouffville) is presenting the musical comedy of I Do, I Do, every Saturday night. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m. and the show follows at 8:30 p.m.

In the entertainment lounge, Saturday night the House Band will be playing a selection of music from big bands to modern. The show starts at 8:45 p.m. and runs until close.

Local group organizes professional concerts

By WENDY PRIESNITZ

A group of energetic Thornhill and Unionville residents have recently formed a non-profit organization called Performing Arts York Region.

The group's immediate aim is to organize local concerts of top quality professional musicians.

On Sunday, September 22, at 7:30 p.m., the group's first concert of the season will be held at St. Gabriel's Church in Richmond Hill (northwest corner of Crosby and Bayview). A trio composed of Anthony Antonacci and Melody Lynden Trow on flute and Nancy Antonacci on piano will perform music by Berlioz, Doppler and Bach. Tickets are \$6 and \$4, and will be available at the door.

Thornhill residents, Tony and Nancy Antonacci, are world-class musicians who have taken an interest in the project. Performing Arts York Region chairperson, Lucie Trow, says that the Antonaccis were immediately supportive of the organization and have generously donated their time to its launching.

Tony is a long-time member of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, and Nancy is an accomplished accompanist who also teaches at the Parry Sound Summer School of Music. They performed at a benefit concert for the organization last spring and will be participating in upcoming chamber music concerts as well.

Mrs. Trow says that she will be depending on Nancy's continuing and capable guidance in the areas of prog-

ramming and artistic direction for her fledgling organization.

A second, more long-term, objective for the organization is to provide exposure and performing experience for young graduate artists who might not otherwise have an opportunity to be seen and heard.

Founder Lucie Trow cites personal family experience as proof of the need for this aspect of the project. The Trow family is a musical one, with the youngest son playing trombone for the North York Symphony Orchestra. His mother knows, first-hand, how difficult it can be for a young performer to gain performing experience and launch a career.

Now, under the auspices of Performing Arts York Region, young local artists who have reached a specific level of expertise will have the opportunity to perform with experienced musicians in a concert setting.

Those who wish to become members will receive a receipt for income tax purposes. Various categories of membership are available for those who wish to support the group's activities with more than a general \$10 membership donation.

Meanwhile, people in various parts of the community will be able to enjoy high quality chamber music. Another concert is scheduled for Saturday, November 16, at the new Markham Theatre on Highway 7 in Unionville.

Interested persons may contact Mrs. Lucie Trow at 889-5666 for concert or membership information.