

Weekender Entertainment



Weekender Movie Scene

Jagged Edge does great juggling act

By IAN BAILEY

JAGGED EDGE: The courtroom drama is a sturdy old movie horse that requires a particular cut and thrust to work.

After all, most of the action in such films takes place in and around the fixtures of a courtroom. Such claustrophobic settings require certain elements to make things intriguing: a sensational crime, overwhelming certainty of the guilt of the accused and generally poor odds for the defense lawyer.

Jagged Edge is at its best juggling these elements. It's a solid thriller when it focuses on the circumstances of the crime that sets its plot moving, and it goes along to an ending that is as deadly and disturbing as the knife blade that gives the film its title.

The problem with Jagged Edge is that it just doesn't seem quite as sharp when it deals with its main character: a lawyer played by Glenn Close.

Close plays a corporate lawyer with a background in criminal law who is asked to defend her firm's key client, a newspaper publisher (Jeff Bridges) who is implicated in the ritualistic slayings of his wife and her maid.

On one hand, the screenplay by Joe Eszterhas (co-writer of F.I.S.T. and Flashdance) sketches the Close character with traits that draw her as a "strong woman." She's a single mother (divorced, two kids), and she has so much integrity that she takes Bridge's case on two conditions: If he turns out to be guilty, she'll drop the case, a rash action that she will also take if he lies to her.

But, on the other hand, this "strong woman" is written for the sake of melodrama as a weak professional who sleeps with her client thereby compromising her ability to defend him due to the tangled emotions that result.

But even if the main character doesn't click, the plot does. As in the best courtroom dramas, the best moments in this movie arise in during its trial where all the facts taken for granted are re-shaped with an onslaught of revelations. **THORNHILL SQUARE (R) ★★½**

THORNHILL SQUARE

AGNES OF GOD: A haunting look at the clash between faith and reason that results when an ethereal nun at a Quebec convent is found to be pregnant and then accused of murder when her child is found strangled. The three key players—Meg Tilly, Anne Bancroft, and Jane Fonda—are excellent. **(AA) ★★★**

SWEET DREAMS: A film biography of country singer Patsy Cline. Jessica Lange plays Cline and Ed Harris plays her second husband, Charlie Dick. **(AA) Coarse Language**

MARKVILLE

COMMANDO: This is the latest movie to find a role for bodybuilder-turned actor Arnold Schwarzenegger who walks a few heads taller and a few yards wider than just about anyone you can put him on the screen with. In the past, he's played a barbarian and, most successfully, a mindless robot. Here he's a retired member of a military strike force who is coerced into one last mission when his daughter is kidnapped. The film is violent and simple, but it's also efficiently assembled with more or less successful attempts to mitigate its endless violence with a quirky sense of humor. **(AA) Brutal Violence, Coarse Language) ★★★**

THE JOURNEY OF NATTY GANN: A Walt Disney film about a girl who travels throughout America during the depression in search of her father. **(PG)**

THE PROTECTOR: A thriller starring martial arts star Jackie Chan. **(R)**

SILVER BULLET: Yet another Stephen King movie. This time it's an adaptation of his quirky novel Cycle Of The Werewolf, about a werewolf who plagues a small town and a young, disabled boy who tries to stop it. **(R) Coarse Language, Horror**

RATINGS

- ★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★ Good
- ★★ Fair
- ★ Poor



Glenn Close (left) stars as attorney Teddy Barnes who takes her responsibility of defending Jeff Bridges (right) seriously in the Jagged Edge currently playing at Thornhill Square. The movie was directed by Martin Ransohoff.

Liona Boyd to play in Uxbridge

Liona Boyd will include Uxbridge on a 1986 tour schedule that also takes her to Europe and the Orient.

The internationally renowned classical guitarist is part of a three-concert season presented by Uxbridge Music Hall's entertainment committee.

A list of dates for 1985-86 follows:

Nov. 16, concert pianist Elyakim Taussig; Feb. 15, The Climax Blues Band; and April 19, Liona Boyd.

In 1983, singer/songwriter Murray McLaughlin played two sold-out shows to kick-off the Music Hall's concert series. This was followed by the formation of an entertainment committee which has since

attracted the likes of Mary Lou Fallis, Peter Appleyard and Sylvia Tyson.

A 1985-86 series pass costs \$30, with tickets for individual concerts available at the door while supplies last. For more information contact Dorothy at 852-3361.

Markham Little Theatre busy



FRED GREEN
He's producing

Lillian Sievenen is going to be a busy woman this fall as she will play a major role in two Markham Little Theatre (MLT) productions.

However, that role is somewhat diversified. First, she is repeating her role as Margaret in Waiting for the Parade, to be presented on October 26 as part of the opening week of the new Markham Theatre for Performing Arts.

Then she will direct On Golden Pond, which will run November 20 to 23.

Lillian is a 20-year founding member of MLT. She is vice-president on the board of Community Theatre Central Ontario and festival chairman for the Theatre Ontario Festival 1987. That festival will be held at the Markham Theatre for Performing Arts with Markham Little Theatre hosting theatre groups from all over Ontario.

Lillian's numerous performances include roles in Blythe Spirit; Tunnel of Love; Plaza Suite; No Sex, Please, We're British; Luxury Cruise; A Delicate Balance; and the award-winning '84 production of Waiting for the Parade. She has directed Harvey; Plaza Suite; Everything in the Garden; and Curious Savage.

Lillian has been a Markham resident since 1965. She finds her job as a real estate agent with the Family Trust interesting and challenging.

Of the new theatre Lillian says, "I am thankful that there is a cultural facility in Markham and hope that it will be well received and supported by the community."

The producer of On Golden Pond is Fred Green. Fred began his association with MLT in 1981 when he auditioned for the Alan Ackbourn comedy, Bedroom Farce.

He played Nick in that successful production and then took on the role of photographer for the group. In 1983 he was elected to the Board of Directors and has served as treasurer since then. His second acting role was in the spoof The Creature Creeps which required him to play six different characters one of which was the creature. Fred and his wife and two children have resided in Markham on and off since 1971. He is employed by Chesebrough-Pond's (Canada) Inc. as Director of Manufacturing Operations. This is Fred's first experience as a producer.



LILLIAN SIEVENEN
Directing new play