

Weekender Entertainment



Weekender Movie Scene

Here's what's on at local cinemas

By Ian Bailey
Thornhill Square

A CHORUS LINE: Under Director Richard (Gandhi) Attenborough, the 1975 Broadway hit of the same name — the story of several dancers auditioning for a place in the chorus line of a major musical — has made it to the big screen with most of its brilliance intact. Neither Attenborough's miserliness with the lyrical touches that make moments in the movie (such as the song *At the Ballet*) so good nor a distracting focus on the love-life of a tyrannical choreographer (nastily played by Michael Douglas) are enough to derail the movie — a poignant and fresh look at the gust and dreams of the auditioning dancers. (PG)

OUT OF AFRICA: Robert Redford plays Denys Finch Hatton, a British hunter in Kenya in 1914, who fell in love with Karen Blixen (Meryl Streep), a Danish woman who managed a coffee plantation for 20 years and later wrote about Africa under the pseudonym of Isak Dinesen. This majestic epic from director Sydney (Tootsie) Pollack moves slowly at times but it's an intriguing drama where length means depth instead of tedium. (PG) ****

WHITE NIGHTS: In an inspired bit of casting, ballet star and Soviet defector Mikhail Baryshnikov virtually plays out part of his biography as a dancing defec-

tor who makes an abrupt return to the USSR when his jet crash-lands in Siberia.

He's nabbed by the KGB and turned over to a tap dancing American defector played by dancer Gregory Hines. They dance; they debate; and the funny thing about this contrived movie is that it works. (PG: Coarse Language) ***

Markville

THE JEWEL OF THE NILE: A flat and tedious sequel to the perky 1984 adventure *Romancing the Stone* that has little going for it except the charisma of stars Kathleen Turner and Michael Douglas. (PG: Swearing) ***

101 DALMATIANS: A re-release of Walt Disney's 1961 animated film about two dalmations who try to save their pups from certain death. With a Mickey Mouse short entitled, *Once Upon A Mouse*. (F)

ROCKY IV: Contrived trash. The fourth Rocky film has Rocky Balboa (Sylvester Stallone), the Italian Stallion fighting the Siberian Express, a Soviet boxer (Dolph Lundgren) who kills Rocky's pal Apollo Creed (Carl Weathers) in an exhibition match. (PG: Violence) *½

SPIES LIKE US: Chevy Chase and Dan Aykroyd ham it up as spies in this dull, pointless dud. It's all been done before, only much better. *½



'Out of Africa'

Robert Redford stars as Denys Finch Hatton and Meryl Streep stars as Karen Blixen, in *Out of Africa*, in a true story currently playing at Thornhill Square.

She's back on tour

Life's changed for Markham's Gia Guddat



GIA GUDDAT
On tour

When Gia Guddat took a job as a professional figure skater last year, she never thought she'd spend a rainy night stranded on a German mountain ledge.

But that's exactly what happened to the 22-year-old former Markham resident who has been skating professionally with the world renowned Torvill and Dean Ice Show since last July.

"It was the worst experience of my life being stuck like that overnight," she told the Weekender from her Toronto hotel last Wednesday. "A friend and I went hiking and managed to get stuck there."

Though the experience was harrowing, Miss Guddat, who was in Toronto last week with the troupe for two shows last week at Maple Leaf Gardens, said she can now look back on it and smile.

At present she works a 50-hour week with rehearsals, practices and exercises and admits she finds little free time.

"I'm learning more about dance all the time," she noted. "It's a different approach to what I learned in the past."

The 18 skaters in the troupe are currently working on new numbers for the show under the direction of dance choreographer Louis Falco who made a name for himself in the movie *Fame*.

Miss Guddat said she has worked hard to measure up with the likes of Torvill and Dean because they work so hard to maintain the grace and smoothness they display on the ice.

"There are times when I get frustrated but it's all worth it," she noted. "I want to do this for as long as I can."

Claremont prepares for third annual carnival

A Lions and Lioness-sponsored bingo night will kick-off Claremont's third annual Winter Carnival on Wednesday, Jan. 29.

This new carnival event begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Centre on Brock Rd.

Students at Claremont Public School get into the winter spirit with a Thursday afternoon snow sculpture contest. Judging takes place at 3 p.m.

And another ice sculpting competition, open to all Claremont families, is to be judged on Saturday morning. Pieces should be completed on your front lawn before Feb. 1.

Several Pickering dignitaries are scheduled to attend the winter festival's official opening cere-

mony on Friday, Jan. 31. (The five-day carnival continues until Feb. 2).

Residents will gather at the United Church Friday at 6:20 p.m. for a torchlit community procession to the park.

Claremont's 1986 Snow Queen will be selected in a pageant beginning Thursday at 8:30 p.m. in the community centre. A panel of three judges consists of CFTO-TV newsman Jim Junkin of Altona and Claremont's Mary Borland and Kitty McArthur.

Claremont-area high school girls are still needed for the Snow Queen contest. Application forms — available at Pickering High School, Peter Gillespie Real Estate and Claremont Post Office — must be returned to Gillespie's

office at the Four Corners by Friday, Jan. 24.

A United Church pancake breakfast; Miller Mile Foot Race; parade; and the gala Trappers Ball highlight Saturday's busy agenda.

The parade begins at 10 a.m. from the Co-op and winds its way to the Legion, where everyone's invited to warm up at an open house.

The final day, Sunday, Feb. 2, features a cross-country ski trek on the Claremont Estates property (skiers meet at the United Church at 1 p.m.), and a hymn sing and bean dinner from 5 to 7 p.m. at Claremont Baptist Church.

For more carnival information contact Karen Marks at 649-3030.