

# Weekender Entertainment



## Movie Scene

### Just Between Friends: A slick dramatic comedy

By IAN BAILEY  
**JUST BETWEEN FRIENDS:** It should probably come as no surprise that slick dramatic comedy moves along with the pacing and pat conclusions of a highly-tuned sitcom.

After all, it was produced by MTM Enterprises, the studio behind such TV hits as *Ne-Whart*, *WKRP* in Cincinnati and *Rhoda*.

But what is quite surprising here is the film's plot, which unfolds like a series of well-timed explosions. It concerns the complications that arise when a housewife (Mary Tyler Moore — the founder of MTM) unknowingly befriends the mistress (Christine Lahti) of her husband (Ted Danson).

To say much more about the surprising events that arise from this pointed triangle would probably steal half the fun in a film too cute to be taken seriously but amusing enough to be entertaining. It's enough to say that the plot unfolds in directions that, while not unexpected, are progressively more outlandish.

The dramatic centre of *Just Between Friends* is the relationship between Moore's naive character and Lahti's more worldly character. But it's a core that only works to a point because of the simplistic shading of Moore's character.

Indeed, writer-director Alan Burns (co-creator of the *Mary Tyler Moore Show* and one of its spinoffs, *Lou Grant*), has an occasional weakness for peddling clichés where characters would do. And while he has a genuinely amusing ear for dialogue, he sometimes inserts jokes in the most tragic moments of the film.

At least his film has two adroit performances from Sam Waterston as Danson's nervous buddy and Danson himself, who plays a rat, but one with two sides that we see. (AA) \*\* THORNHILL SQUARE.

**F/X:** So how does a film's special effects expert get even with government agents who set him up and try to kill him? Why, he just uses special effects gadgets to fight back. That's the plot and point of this engaging thriller whose only real failing is that it's never quite as tricky as you might expect it to be. At least it features a good performance from Australian actor Bryan Brown as the slightly crazy technician. (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)\*\*\*

**MARKVILLE THE COLOR PURPLE:** An occasionally overdone Steven Spielberg adaptation of Alice Walker's Pulitzer-Prize winning novel about 40 grim years in the life of a black woman in the southern U.S. Although Spielberg's flamboyant cinematic style sometimes seems at odds with the simplicity of the plot, the movie is worth seeing for its flawless performances. Nominated for



Christine Lahti and Mary Tyler Moore star in the MTM Production of *Just Between Friends* currently showing at the Thornhill Cinema.

11 Academy Awards. (PG)\*\*\*  
**DOWN AND OUT IN BEVERLY HILLS:** The lives of a neurotic Beverly Hills family are disrupted with amusing results when they take in a bum who tries to drown himself in their pool. Good performances by Richard Dreyfuss and Bette Midler in this amusing and adroit satire by Paul Mazursky, the director of *Moscow on*

*the Hudson*. (AA: Coarse Language)\*\*\*  
**POLICY ACADEMY III: BACK IN TRAINING:** The first two *Police Academy* movies about a collection of misfits in an anonymous urban police force, made a total of \$300 million at the box office. It should therefore come as no surprise that a third film has arrived. This one was filmed in Toronto last year and stars

Steve Guttenberg, Bubba Smith and Michael Winslow. (PG)  
**SLEEPING BEAUTY:** A re-release of Walt Disney's 1959 version of the classic fairy tale. (F)  
 Christine Lahti and Mary Tyler Moore star in the MTM Production of *Just Between Friends* currently showing at the Thornhill Cinema.

## There'll be High Jinx at Wellington

Tonight, the Wellington (in the Markham Mall) will be presenting local talent *High Jinx*. The show starts at 9:30 p.m. No cover charge.

Every Sunday night is movie night. Watch your favorite movies on the Wellington's 10-foot screen. There is no cover charge and the popcorn is free. For further information on movie night call 294-3165.

### Fletcher's

Tonight Fletcher's (Hwy 48 south of Aurora sideroad) will be presenting the music of Aardvark DJ service.

### Markham Theatre

The Markham Theatre will be presenting *The Chambers Players of Toronto*, with special guest Erica Goodman on the harp, March 25. The program includes music by Lully, Rameau and Debussy. Call 479-0201 for tickets.

### O'Toole's Roadhouse

Every Saturday win a weekend for two at the Hotel Renaissance. All patrons can pick up their free tickets at the door between 8 and 9:30 p.m. only. 105

### Le Flirt

Le Flirt (located in the Old Town Hall on Main St., Markham) features dancing to Top 40 music. Every Monday to Wednesday night is Rhythm and Blues Nite at Le Flirt featuring some Motown music. The club is located in the lower level at 96 Main St. North.

### Old Village Spaghetti

Gord Best is featured at Old Village Spaghetti House's Village Pub tonight. Sunday is Movie Nite. The restaurant is on Main St. North in Markham.

### Nag's Head

Tonight at the Nag's Head (Woodbine Ave north of Steeles Ave) Tres Hombres, a ZZ Top tribute band, will be featured. Tickets are \$3.  
 This Sunday to Tuesday Pegasus will be featured.

### Cotton Club

Saturday nights at the Cotton Club experience the wave — new music high energy. Cotton Club is on Hwy 48 south of 14th Ave.

### Hobby Horse Arms

Tom Baker, the former musical

## What's On

Donna Cox 294-2200



director of the *Second City Revue*, will be featured every Saturday night at the Hobby Horse Arms (on Main St., Uxbridge). The piano soloist plays from a collection of pub songs and will also play requests. Showtime is 8:30 p.m. and there is no cover charge.

### The Duchess of Markham

Every Sunday is Jam Nite at the Duchess featuring Jane Harvey. All amateurs are welcome.

### Footloose Roadhouse

Every Saturday is the Super Platter Giveaway Nite at Footloose (in Mr. Grocer Plaza). It will be served at the table. There will be two chances to win.

Every Tuesday is Oldie Nite featuring music from the '50s to the '70s.

Reservations are recommended for the weekends.

### Mainstreet

Friday and Saturday night the

Bryan Westwood Trio will perform at Mainstreet Restaurant in Markham.

### Fernando's Restaurant

Fernando's is presenting *Hits of the Blitz, Encore*, a show packed with music and comedy from World War II. This show features Vic Cummings, Peter Glen, Rummy Bishop, Coralie Allan and Deano Seward.

The show runs Friday and Saturday night. Dinner is from 7 to 9 p.m. and curtain time is 9:15 p.m. The price is \$23.95 per person for dinner and show. The restaurant is on Markham's Main St.

### Melba's Restaurant

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

### Brodie's Bar and Grill

Thursday through to Sun-

day, Rick Washbrook will perform at Brodie's Bar and Grill (Hwy 7 in Unionville). No cover charge.

### Deer Park Inn

Theatre in the Park (Deer Park Inn on Hwy 47 north of Stouffville) is presenting *Barefoot in The Park* — a Neil Simon comedy recommended for the whole family. Call 640-6060 for reservations. Dinner is at 7:30 p.m. for this engagement.

The show runs on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings with matinees on Wednesdays.

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.

### Ristorante

Thursday through Saturday dine to the guitar playing of Pino at this Italian restaurant in the Old Town Hall (on Main St., Markham).

### The Greens of Stouffville

Watch TSN sports everyday at this Main St., Stouffville restaurant. Also dine to the music of David Chester tonight.