

THE TRIBUNE

# Arts & Entertainment

## Home Alone for the holidays



**Screen Scene**

Stuart Green

In 1990, writer/producer John Hughes created *Home Alone*, a silly but entertaining film that has become something of a holiday time classic. In addition to bringing a new meaning to the term pain threshold, the film (and its atrocious sequel) made a temporary star of Macaulay Culkin.

Seven years later, Hughes has reinvented the wheel hoping to re-create the franchise with a new generation of young movie goers.

Opening tomorrow, *Home Alone 3* is essentially a minor rewrite of the first film with a new child star, new villains and new methods of wounding said villains.

Alex D. Linz stars as new protagonist, Alex Pruitt, a exceptionally bright eight-year-old boy who defends his family's suburban Chicago home from unwelcome invaders using a variety of toys, gadgets and booby traps.

Sound familiar? It should. There's only one real difference, apart from the cosmetics of the cast, between this film and the original.

In the first film, Culkin was on the defensive against a pair of bumbling cat burglars after being left behind while his family went away on Christmas vacation. In

this one, the bad guys are a quartet of international terrorists who are searching for a stolen computer chip.

The "Alone" portions of this film (they are brief and many) come to pass when Pruitt's parents, who are taking turns looking after the chicken pox-afflicted youngster, are called away for short intervals. Yes, it begs the question what kind of parent knowingly leaves an eight-year-old child on his own? which the film never really answers.

Additionally, all the implausible situations, corny one-liners and cloying, family-values sentimentality of the first two are evident in spades.

As disturbingly derivative as *Home Alone 3* is, though, it does have a certain appeal that will be most appreciated by the young ones. The violence is nothing worse than would be seen in a Road Runner cartoon—in comparison, the second film was a mean-spirited torture fest with no redeeming values—and Linz' boyish charm is less grating than Culkin's. And first-time director Raja Gosnell (an editor on the first two films and numerous other Hughes entries) captures the energy and spirit of the first film.

*Home Alone 3* is a step above the second film, but it's almost as pointless. In a pinch, though, it's not an entirely awful way to keep the kids busy for an afternoon over the Christmas break.



Alex (Alex D. Linz) prepares to fend off an international terrorist in *Home Alone 3*.



FUZZY FEELING: Alexandra Vinluan, 3, hugs a bunny at the recent Stouffville Library Craft Show as it is shown to her by Mary Ellen Harrison.

Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEEN

## Live bands play the Ice Box

### FULLERTON'S

Tonight: A mixed bag of hits with Fitzpatrick and Sebastian. Friday and Saturday: Grant Fullerton. Sunday: 6 to 10 p.m. Full Count - great rhythm and blues. Trivia with Martyn Allmand at a new time Monday at 7 p.m. 6211 Main St. Stouffville, 642-5360.

### THE TOWN CRIER RESTAURANT & PUB

Book your Christmas party soon. Linda Kroon hosts the new Pub Quiz. English breakfasts served Friday, Saturday and Sunday 8-12. Lunch and dinner served daily. 6298 Main St. Stouffville, 642-6937.

### JUGHEAD'S DINER

Enjoy the sounds of the '50s from your own jukebox while sitting in a diner booth. Friendly staff, good food, good times. 6242 Main St., Stouffville, 642-9511.

### THE EARL OF WHITCHURCH

For an evening of great food and fun visit the Earl. Book your Christmas dinner reservations now. 640-8300.

### LIVE BANDS

Tomorrow: Grades 7 and up, live bands featuring Lisa Swain, Yard Trip and Stalin's Head at the Ice Box, Stouffville Recreation Complex (12483 Ninth Line) 7 to 10 p.m. Admission: \$5.

## spotlight

### CONCERT AT LIBRARY

Come to the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library for the Christmas Concert Saturday. Join Cindy Cook from the Polka Dot Door in the hilarious Jingle Bell Conga, 11 a.m. Admission \$2 at the door.

### CHRISTMAS CONCERT

A Christmas concert and play at Stouffville United Church, 34 Church Street, Sunday Dec. 20 at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

### SPRINGVALE BAPTIST PRODUCTIONS

Springvale Baptist Church, at Kennedy and Stouffville Roads, presents *God With Us*, Saturday, Dec. 20 and Sunday, Dec. 21, at 7 p.m. Tickets free at the church office, a freewill offering will be received. Call 887-5651.

### DON ROSS IN CONCERT

Son Recording artist Don Ross plays St. Paul's Anglican Church on Friday, Dec. 19, at 8 p.m. Ross released his CD *Wintertide, Guitar Music for Christmas* in 1996. Tickets are \$12 at Blue Heron Books and Encore Music.

A CEREMONY OF CAROLS  
The Uxbridge Chamber Choir

presents Benjamin Britten's A Ceremony of Carols with guest artists Sharlene Wallace on harp, and the Uxbridge Youth Choir, Saturday, Dec. 13 at 8 p.m. and Sunday Dec. 14 at 3 p.m. at St. Paul's Anglican Church, Uxbridge. Tickets \$12 adults, \$8 students/seniors, at Blue Heron Books, and Presents Presents.

### BROTHER ANDRE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Brother Andre's music department presents a holiday concert Tuesday, Dec. 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the cafetorium. Tickets available at the door, \$3 students, \$5 adults and \$10 family pass.

### CATHEDRAL CONCERT

Michael Burgess and Jackalyn Short perform seasonal music at Cathedral of the Transfiguration Sunday, Dec. 21 at 4 p.m. Tickets \$22, \$20 for children and seniors, call 887-5896 or 773-5303 days, 294-5230 evenings.

### CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Rejuvenescence, York Region Youth Singers, presents an evening of seasonal music, Wednesday, Dec. 17, Markham Baptist Church, 110 Church St. Doors open at 7 p.m. concert starts at 7:30 p.m. Reception with refreshments follows. Tickets at door: \$8 adults, \$5 seniors and students. Call 294-8975.

## Chapters invites you to enjoy these exciting DECEMBER EVENTS!

SATURDAY, DEC. 13TH  
12:30 - 2:30 P.M.

**SOMETHING TO REMEMBER ME BY**

JOIN US FOR A LOVING UNIVERSAL STORY BY SUSAN J. BOSAK & LAURIE MCGAW, ECHOING THE CLOSE BOND BETWEEN YOUNG AND OLD.

SATURDAY, DEC. 13TH  
3:00 - 5:00 P.M.

**THE CANADIAN COMPUTER HANDBOOK**

AUTHORS: DAVID ROSE & CARYN MLADEN TEACH YOU HOW TO GET THE MOST COMPUTER FOR YOUR MONEY.

SUNDAY, DEC. 14TH  
1:00 - 4:00 P.M.

**DECK THE HALLS WITH BELLS OF HOLLY...**

COME AND ENJOY THE FESTIVE SOUNDS OF THE CHRISTMAS CAROLLERS

SATURDAY, DEC. 20TH  
2:30 - 3:30 P.M.

**CLEAR THE TRACK - THE EDDIE SHACK STORY**

HOCKEY LEGEND EDDIE SHACK AND VETERAN HOCKEY WRITER ROSS BREWITT WILL BE VISITING US TO SIGN COPIES OF THEIR NEW BOOK.



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