

# The quest for fine films is well rewarded

## Mosquito Coast (Westmount)

review by Graham Bell

The movie *The Mosquito Coast* is based on expatriate American writer Paul Theroux's novel of the same name. Australian director Peter Weir has made the novel into a marvelous piece of cinema, larger than life, full of frantic energy (largely provided by Harrison Ford) and exceptionally well-cast with supporting actors capable of creating memorable comic characters.

Harrison Ford gives the best performance of his career as the verbally volatile Allie Fox. This man just won't shut-up. He continually provides sneering comic diatribes against contemporary America, punctuated with the challenge, 'Think about it.'

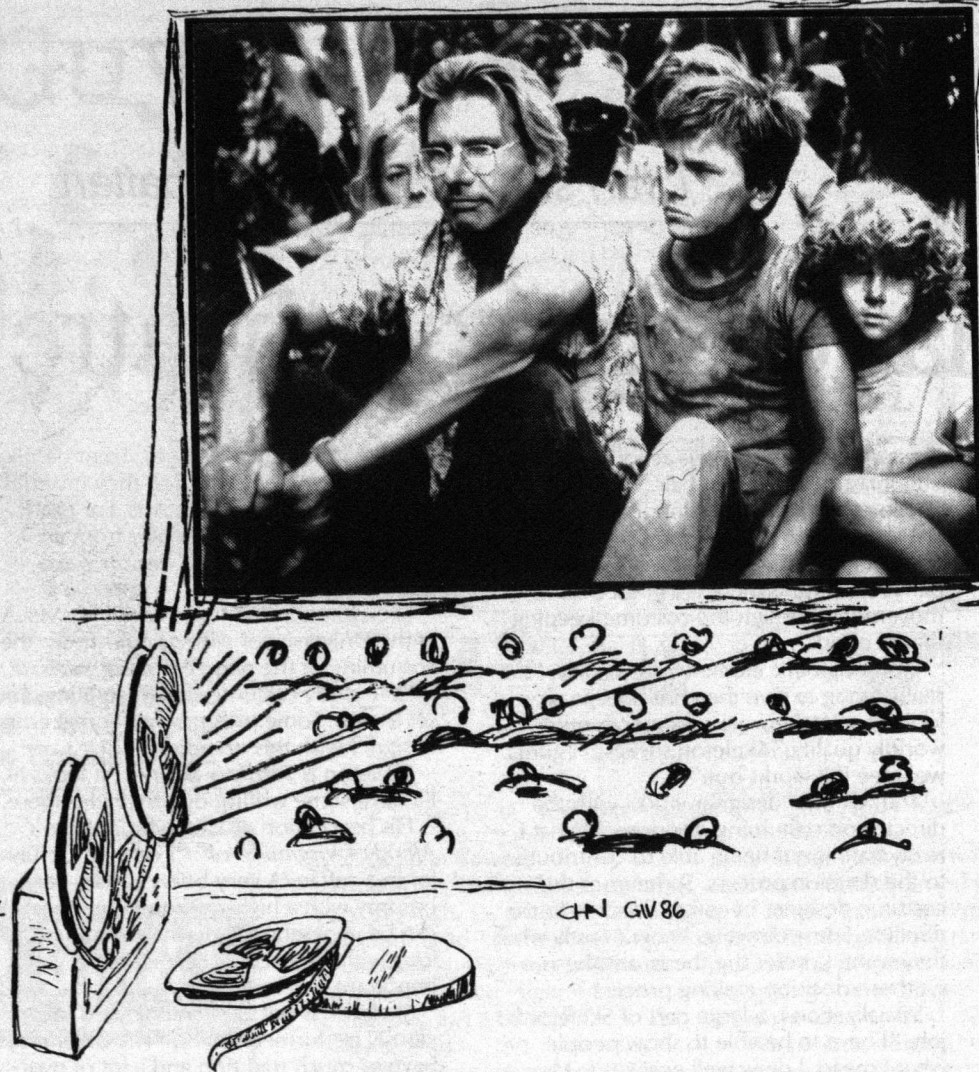
Allie Fox's son Charlies narrates the story. At the beginning he simply says, 'My father was an inventor, a genius.'

Allie Fox describes himself, as 'The last man in America,' meaning he's the last inventive, self-made, original Yankee genius. He's the kind of man who made America great. Now he sees himself as no longer at home in a country of neon signs, fast food outlets and imported goods. He says, 'America has gone to the dogs.'

Allie Fox's remedy for this is to take his family to a remote part of Central America to set-up a homestead. In places the movie appears like a modern update of *The Swiss Family Robinson* although eventually the story turns much darker.

On their way to the Mosquito Coast, Allie Fox and family meet a slippery television evangelist, the Reverend Spellgood (played by Andre Gregory of *My Dinner with Andre* fame). They also meet numerous amiable Natives headed by their guide Mr. Haddy played by Conrad Roberts. In one wildly funny scene Harrison Ford both harangues individual natives on the imminent collapse of American civilization and frantically works building a settlement in the jungle. The Natives remain amiable but amused as Harrison yells lines like, 'People are starving in New York City. Think about it.'

The movie finally develops a more serious direction. Allie Fox builds a model settlement in the heart of the jungle but oversteps his capabilities. He moves from eccentricity to insanity, destroying all his



work along the way and for a while loses his family's love.

The film has a straightforward message: Yankee power and know-how has its limits. Like Allie Fox, America itself seems to have unbounded energy and know-how, but even the power of America has its limits.

The movie *The Mosquito Coast* probably has more impact than the novel without losing anything important from the original work. Director Peter Weir, star Harrison Ford and supporting cast have pulled off a neat cinematic coup.

**The Golden Child**  
Paramount Pictures  
Capitol Square

review by Glenn St-Germain

A Tibetan legend has it that every three thousand years a special child will be born. This child will have mystical powers and plays a pivotal role in the future of the world. If the child can be controlled, whoever controls him/her will have great power.

Or so the legend goes.

Anyway, the child is now a 4-year-old boy in Tibet. And he's been kidnapped. Eddie Murphy plays a man who looks for missing children in the Los Angeles area. That's right, Eddie Murphy. But forget that this is an Eddie Murphy movie for a moment.

He looks for missing kids — because he cares (a quality much underrated in this somewhat cynical society). He's approached by a young Tibetan woman to help find the Golden Child; she has reason to believe he's being held in L.A.

Even without the star, what we have here is a nicely-paced action-adventure yarn, complete with supernatural happenings, exotic locales, and a person to rescue. (Not to mention a few neat special effects.)

In the midst of this is Eddie Murphy, playing a character more likeable than those in his previous films. He has heart.

Murphy is streetwise. He's constantly wisecracking and joking, as if he weren't taking things seriously. He's thrust into a world of eastern mysticism and supernaturalism, completely alien to his L.A. streets upbringing. (No wonder it takes him a while to take things seriously....)

*The Golden Child* is not a typical Eddie Murphy flick. His humour is more restrained, more directed. He doesn't say four-letter words every other line. There is almost none of the hip-jive characterization that dominated in films like *Trading Places* and *48 Hrs.*

As an action-adventure flick of the *Raiders of the Lost Ark* genre, it holds up fairly well, with likeable characters, a goal, and lots of action. And it's very funny as well.

As a comedy, it's pretty good: it's funny, using the high-energy talents of its star to good advantage. And it has lots of action as well.

As a movie, it's worth a look; just don't expect to see the usual Eddie Murphy of film. This isn't it; it's better.

Entertainment writers unite!

A semi-formal exchange of ideas (i.e. meeting) will take place Thursday, Jan. 16/87 at 2:30 p.m.

## Welcome back!!!

Should you be considering reappraisal of a final exam, there must be good reason to believe that a mistake has been made on the paper.

Also, applications for reappraisal must be made by February 1, 1987.

**Remember . . . January 9th is the last day for withdrawal from full term courses.**

If you require help with the appeal or any other University policy,

**Please Stop By:  
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432-4689 (24 Hrs)  
Pat Perron  
Shawna Stonehouse**

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An official fees receipt (if fees are paid in full)  
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in the **Northeast** corner of the **Main** floor of the  
Central Academic Building  
between  
8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.  
February 9 - 11, 1987 (Mon. - Wed.)  
and  
8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.  
February 12 - 13, 1987 (Thurs. - Fri.)

*Please Bring Identification*

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