

# Science fiction films excellent

by Denise Currie

The National Film Board's double feature of December 3 included Rene Laloux's *La Planete Sauvage* in its english version, *The Fantastic Planet* and *La Jetee* directed by Chris Marker.

*The Fantastic Planet* is a 72 minute colour animated film that was a Grand Prize Winner at the Cannes, Frieste and Teheran Festivals. It is a science fiction type story about tiny earthlings or 'Oms' from "a destroyed planet" who inhabited

the planet Ygam as domesticated pets to the giant, ruling, blue-skinned Drogges.

The 'oms' who seem to be about 2 inches tall when compared to a Drogg, begin to present a threat to the planet because of their rapid reproduction. Conflict results and a massive 'de-omization' gets under way but in the end a compromise is reached and an artificial planet, Terra, is made for the earthlings to orbit the mother planet Ygam.

Aside from the interesting story, the film is most highly praised for its fascinating and skilled animation that gives depth and panorama to its audience.

The second feature, *La Jetee*, was Grand Prize Winner of the Frieste Science Fiction Festival. It is a story

of 'heartbreaking nostalgia--nostalgia for the ordinary life of our present'. The story takes place just after World War III with the survivors experimenting with travels in time on their prisoners. The film is in french with english subtitles making it just a little difficult to follow but nevertheless the film aroused a curious thought regarding the aftermath of any future war.

Those who missed these two shows should be disappointed. They were good entertainment for a weekend night. Admission to NFB double features is only \$1.50 or \$5.00 for a membership. For information on up coming films for this month call the National Film Board.

## DALHOUSIE CRYPTOQUOTE

by H.M.K.

Here's how to work it: OXRUT OILZY  
is  
HENRY HICKS

One letter simply stands for another. In this sample O is used for the two H's, X for the E, Z for the K, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each week the code letters are different.

Our readers are invited to submit quotes, especially dumb ones.

This Week:

MVW LDUMWF EMHMWE VHE DP IOUWDFE, BLEM UD  
MWOWEME  
-BPVD IPEMWO FLCWE

Answer to last week: When more and more people are thrown out of work, unemployment results - Calvin Coolidge

Answer to this week's Cryptoquote is on page 2



## Film fare fair

by donalee moulton

The latest trend in Hollywood cinema is to use children in roles previously played by adults. The first of this type to hit the metro area is "Bugsy Malone".

The film is a take-off on the original gangster movie. On the surface "Bugsy Malone" is merely a transformation from the adult world of steel weapons and violence to the whipped cream splurge guns and violence of a child's world. Symbolically, however, the movie was a satire on gangster films and the emphasis that has been placed on mob warfare.

The main downfall of the movie is its failure to realistically make the transformation from adulthood to childhood. Rather than depicting the child's concept of "Bugsy Malone", the film forces the children to portray the adult conception of "Bugsy Malone". It is not a problem of misunderstanding or misconceiving, but one of inability: children have never experienced adulthood and it is absurd to expect an authentic portrayal, even a

satiric portrayal. Thus the unnatural and laboured acting was a consequence of the wrong people in the wrong setting. The one exception was Jodie Foster whose portrayal of Fat Sam's girl was authentic and not forced. Ms. Foster's success in this role stems from her ability to enter and experience adult life.

The only opportunity the child performers had to depict their lifestyle was in the final scene. By this time, however, the artificiality of the film was firmly established and this attempt only served to heighten the distinction.

There is little chance of a film succeeding in a symbolic or thematic level when it has failed on a superficial level. This is unfortunate as "Bugsy Malone" had a valid social comment to make and had a unique device with which to convey this message.

The highlight of the film was the soundtrack. The music reflects childhood and, like children, it is relaxed and catchy. Where the director failed, Paul Williams as musical director succeeded.

## Musicians depart soon

by Denise Currie

Unfortunately, two of Halifax's best talents--David Hayes and Steve Feuer--will be leaving this area soon for what they hope to be bigger and better times. These talented musicians have been writing and playing together for three-and-one-half years. Since most places in Halifax concentrate on "rock, disco and a Joan Baez type of folk music", David Hayes feels that Toronto is the only place to get some support for their original style of music.

Both artists attended Dalhousie University for the last three years and Hayes recently received his degree in music. The two found that the music department placed too much emphasis on traditional music and left no room for anything contemporary. Nevertheless, the two musicians did gain experience that they developed to form a style

all their own.

They recently played at the Carleton Hotel for a couple of weeks but at present are without a place to perform where people are interested in something more than popular folk music. They find Halifax definitely lacking in its support for original folk music and jazz and unfortunately people performing in these areas are forced to move elsewhere to get an audience.

So in January Hayes and Feuer will head for Toronto and they do not expect to be back to shake hands if they make it. If you are interested in hearing easy listening folk this month go and listen to these professional performers. This week they will be playing at the St. Mary's Art Gallery at noon, December 9, and at the Art College at 8:30 pm the same day.

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