

Arts & Entertainment

Polaris play Princess not just for children

by Judith Rieb Kelly

We already know that real men eat "keesh" (who cares how to spell it, you know what I mean). Therefore, my first task is to inform you that real men (this is a general term which will include "real women") also enjoy children's programs. How is this possible, you say? We are students, support staff, academics, not children. This may well be, but tell us something. Do you chuckle to yourself, or laugh out loud when you read the daily comics in the newspaper? Is Saturday just not Saturday if you don't watch the morning cartoons on T.V.? Do you have a stuffed Garfield hanging on your car window? It's okay, you can admit it. We all like to be entertained. We like to laugh. We like to feel good. You've guessed it! Children's programs are not just for children. So, let's take the next step and go to the S.U.B. family theatre and see a children's play!

Now that we've decided that we are going to go to the play, my second task is to give you the "scoop" on James Toupin

Is Saturday just not Saturday if you don't watch the morning cartoons on TV?

(or Harley as he is affectionately named, our Goblin Prince). I wonder how such a dashing, good looking, likeable, young guy can be transformed into such a homely Goblin? Actually, my two children and I got to see James in action during rehearsal. We even got to talk with him during his break. I was impressed! He wasn't the homely Goblin I was expecting. As a Goblin, he was kinda cute! I loved his costume, especially the "hair."

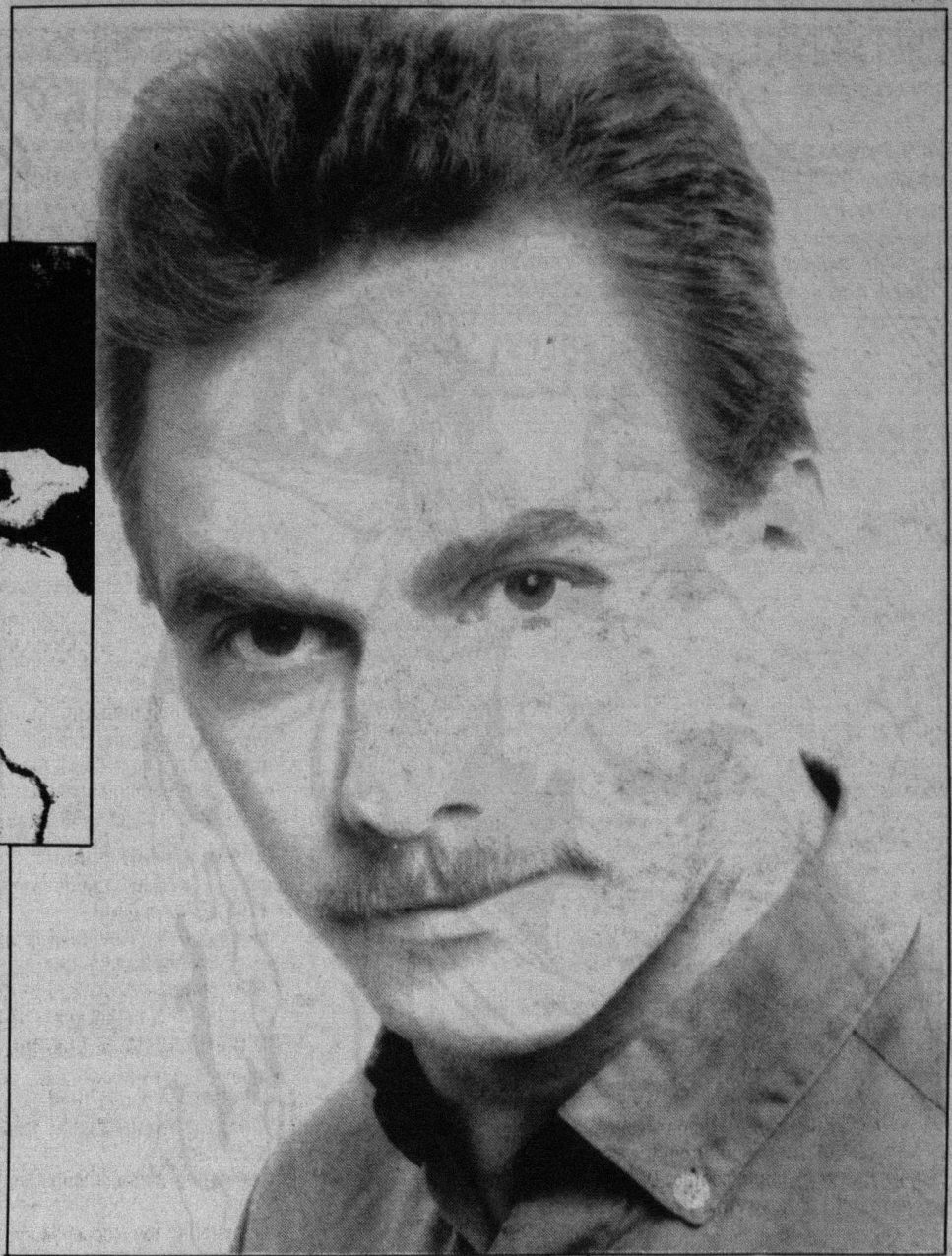
During our talk, James told us that he was born and raised in Edmonton. He played hockey just like the other kids in his area, but admits that he wasn't very good. (He actually played hockey against



one of the other Edmonton born and raised actors in this play, Michael Charrois). James graduated from Grant MacEwan Community College's Theatre Arts Program in 1984 and is now one of the four full time actors with Stage Polaris, *The Princess and The Goblin* marking his fifteenth performance with the theatre. He has just finished playing in *Chicken Little* at the Starry Time Theatre (he was Foxy Loxy). His last performance at our S.U.B. theatre was as Winnie-the-Pooh in the *Winnie-the-Pooh Christmas Tail*.

Now that you know the "scoop" on James, my third task is to tell you a little bit about Stage Polaris. Although I had seen a Stage Polaris production before Christmas, I had no idea what Stage Polaris was all about. James mentioned that Stage Polaris is an Edmonton company that resides in the King Edward School. The old King Edward School, Starry Time Theatre (at 85 Avenue and 101 Street) is one Edmonton location where the actors perform for ages 3-7. They also perform for grades K-6 at the S.U.B. Theatre. The major difference between the two theatres is that the S.U.B. Theatre is larger, and can therefore accommodate more complicated programs, larger productions (6-19 actors) and larger audiences.

Now that we are familiar with Stage Polaris in general, I'd like to mention the



The Princess and the Goblin

James Toupin, a Stage Polaris regular, is transformed into something resembling the Goblin (inset).

names of some of the other performers in *The Princess and The Goblin*, which performs with a cast of 19. In addition to James, some familiar faces are Charissa Barton, as the Princess, Michael Charrois (I remember him as the fir tree in a previous Stage Polaris production; he was adorable) as the Goblin King, and Susan Woywitka as the Goblin Queen. Other familiar faces include Steffni Ault, Beverly Benn and Phil Upright. Stage Polaris welcomes newcomer Christopher Thomas, as well as the return of Steven Hilton.

Students from the Stage Polaris Academy of Drama round out the cast as Goblins, Guards, and Pages.

The play is billed as an action-packed comedy full of adventure, suspense, romance, and madcap excitement. The set of the play is medieval and ancient. The castle is invaded, plots are foiled, and the destruction of the Kingdom is threatened.

The Princess and The Goblin runs March 17-19 in S.U.B. Theatre. For information on showtimes and tickets call 432-9483.

Return of Disney classic Rescuers welcome

The Rescuers ***
Famous Players West Mall
(starts Friday)

review by Cathy Duong

The *Rescuers* is not as dazzling as *Cinderella* or as refined as *The Lady and the Tramp*, yet this Disney cartoon classic has a charm all its own that will leave the movie-goer with a contented smile.

It is about a little orphan named Penny who is kidnapped by a nasty lady, aptly named Medusa. This sagging pseudo-vamp forces Penny to go down a small black hole in Devil's Bayou to look for the Devil's eye, a huge diamond which Medusa believes will bring her power.

One day Penny sends out an SOS message in a bottle, which is retrieved by a group of mice called the Rescue Aid Society. The group calls an emergency meeting, gathering its international members in order to rescue Penny from Medusa. The two agents chosen to do the task are Bianca, a sassy femme from Hungary, and Bernard, a janitor who only

went along because Bianca persuaded him to with her batting eyelashes.

So we now follow the duo's adventures as they find their way to Penny. Bernard is completely smitten by Bianca and sighs dreamily when they travel via the Albatross flight.

The voices of Bianca and Bernard are performed by Eva Gabor and Bob Newhart. Gabor lends a husky sexiness to Bianca's character and Newhart provides the uncertain sweetness to Bernard.

The movie has many details that are "cute" all over. There are many exciting scenes that will leave kids with their mouths gaping or their hearts thumping. Medusa's pet crocodiles have a sneaky evilness that is both loathsome and humorous. A funny scene occurs when the two crocodiles try to play the pipe organs to blow Bianca and Bernard out of the pipes and into their open jaws. There are also many other characters which the two mice meet on their ventures, each possessing its own unique.

The Rescuers will definitely be a treat for the young and young-at-hearts.



Walt Disney's *The Rescuers* is a minor classic of the animated genre. Now, which one of these characters is really Bob Newhart?