

## Animated Fantastic Planet

# Snapping plants and odd beasts rule fantasy

By WARREN CLEMENTS

Fantastic Planet is another of the fantasy-based, ethereal cartoon trips like Fantasia and Yellow Submarine, which have movie-goers rolling their joints even before they enter the theatre.

The light-weight plot concerns little humans (Oms) in the land of the giants (Draags), in a sort of Lilliput versus Brobdingnag battle with thousands of

Brobdingnagians trying to de-om the planet. Director Rene Laloux calls it "an epic, a surrealist western", which indicates how vague a plot summary would be; suffice to say it's a stoned allegory, in the vein of Harry Nilsson's The Point, the little fable about flat-topped Oblio and his dog Arrow in the land of point-headed people.

The animation in Fantastic Planet

involves the 'hinged-paper' technique, in which paper figures are cut out and moved across a static background. This allows much graphic richness, with intricate line-shading and colour balancing; in fact, the scenery, and the odd sequences of weird plant life and grotesque animals on the planet are the real stars of the film.

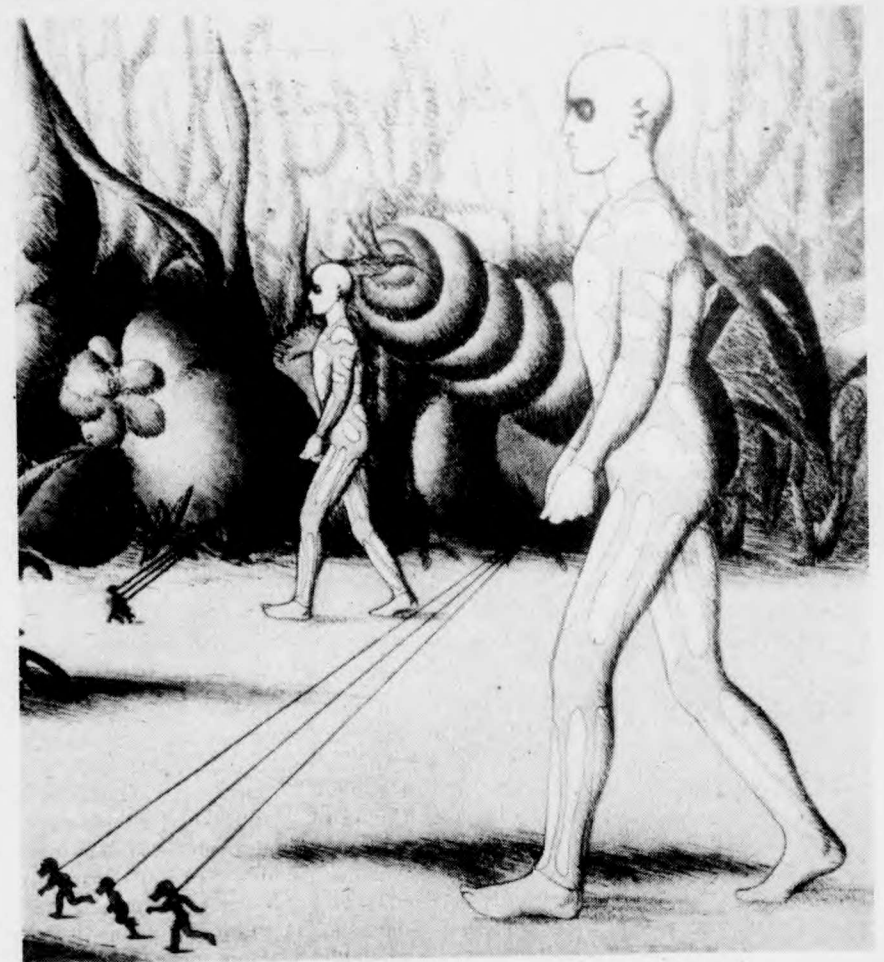
The movie's one flaw is that the movements are stiff and graceless, painfully so for viewers used to the fluidity and grace of Walt Disney (who used the method of drawing on layered acetate sheets.)

The effect is a loss of spontaneity in moments where spontaneity is the whole key to a joke, as in an episode where a little Om substitutes black powder for his mistress's white face powder. And in the tradition of current TV cartoon shows, the figures often stand still for 30 seconds with only their lips moving, a tedious device designed to save work for the animator.

Fantastic Planet treads a thin line between providing a relaxing evening of legend and fantasy, and boring the socks off any viewer unwilling to put up with the slow pace.

But Alain Goraguer's music, a collage of electric guitars and celestial choirs, helps immeasurably in putting across the whole airy feeling of the film, and it's safe to say that if you find the visuals repetitive, you can always close your eyes and listen to the dreamy score.

On at Cinecity with the main feature is the Academy Award nominee Life Times Nine, made by Toronto school children between the ages of 11 and



The Draags track down the Oms in Fantastic Planet.

16, with professional guidance and help.

Most of the "commercials for life" indicate that the youngsters have spent their lives glued to the idiot box, but on the bright side, the commercials are short enough so that the ones

you don't like slip by quickly. A spirit of whimsy balances the sadism of episodes like an anarchistic mud-fight and an anti-war commercial for a Sherman tank with scenes of holocaust and bombs spliced in.

As the film says, "The apples of life should be picked before they rot."

## Sight and Sound

### Marlowe lives in Long Goodbye

The fog was slimier than the hands of the jokers operating the two-bit peep shows around the corner. Elliot Gould as Phillip Marlowe walked out of the smog in a soiled trenchcoat and into The Long Goodbye. Robert (MASH) Altman's spoof on and tribute to Humphrey Bogart and the private eye movie comes to the Bethune Emporium Saturday and Sunday nights at 8:30 p.m., in Curtis LH-L. Admission per usual is \$1.25 general, \$1 Bethune. For the same price in the same place, Stanley Kubrick's droogs will scramble through A Clockwork Orange, a sequel to Elsie the Cow Meets Elmer the Safety Elephant, at 2 p.m. today.

### Pistols and Sea in Story Theatre

The toast of Bethune, York Story Theatre will present two one-act plays, Pistols for Two and Three at Sea, an adaptation of Out at Sea, tonight and Monday at 8 pm in Bethune's Club Room. There is no admission charge, and "they're not for children", writes the Theatre's publicity department.

### Glenda J. has Affair with Nelson

Return with us now to yesteryear, as Glenda Jackson parades as Lady Emma Hamilton in Hal (Anne of A Thousand Days) Wallis's The Nelson Affair. See scandal as Peter Finch plays Lord Horatio Nelson lusting after Emma. See timeless truths as Lady Hamilton loses her lover at Trafalgar. Sea humour as Nelson's pants fall down on board his ship. Winters brings the historical drama to Curtis LH-I tomorrow and Sunday nights at 8 p.m., for \$1.25 general, \$1 for Winters students. Yardarms optional.

### Gallows Humour dangles in studio

York's theatre department pulls out all the stops and fires Gallows Humour into the Atkinson Studio. Critic John Simon called the play amusing, literate and a substantial piece of tragi-comedy, and director David Markowitz offers his version of things tonight and tomorrow night in the Atkinson Studio at 8 p.m. for free.

## Wedding and Nature

Two of the better recent Canadian films will be sprinkled onto the screen next week by the film department, both in Curtis LH-L. On Tuesday at 5 p.m., Gilles Carle's The True Nature of Bernadette revels in the rural misadventures of a big-hearted and gullible madonna from the city. On Friday, March 29 at 11 a.m., Bill Fruet's Wedding in White, with Carol Kane and Donald Pleasance, chronicles the war-time sexual awakening (with a shock) of a shy young girl. Both films are free.

## Trio of dramas

The play's the thing tonight and tomorrow night in Stong Theatre at 8 p.m., under the aegis of the Theatre 120 class. Chekhov's The Proposal, Maeterlink's The Intruder and Ionesco's The Motor Show run back to back, all for free.

## On Campus

### SPECIAL LECTURES

Thursday 4:00 p.m. — Introductory Lecture (Physical Education) discussion on benefits derived from Transcendental Meditation; for further information call Dave Smith at 3529 - 3rd floor. Tait McKenzie

4:00 p.m. — Poetry Reading (Latin American Studies Program and Club) "Poetry of Love, War and Revolution" with the following York faculty members — H. Bouraoui, Michael Kay, Margarita Stein, L. Pena and Pastor Valle-Garay — SCR, Founders

4:30 p.m. — Mathematics Colloquium — "Cross Ratio and Related Invariants" by Dr. Hans Schwerdtfeger, McGill University — S203, Ross

7:30 p.m. — E.G.O. Program (Continuing Education) "Consciousness Raising for Men and Women" with Mary Stein — general admission \$6.00; \$4.00 for students — 107, Stedman

Friday 9:00 a.m. — Guest Speaker (Physical Education) "Sport and Government Involvement in Canada" by Dr. Darwin M. Semotuiuk, University of Western Ontario — 222, Stong

11:00 a.m. — York Poetry Series (Faculty of Fine Arts, Humanities, English) with Dennis Lee, writer-in-residence at Glendon for 1972-73 — I, Curtis

2:00 p.m. — Public Lecture (Graduate Studies, C.R.E.S.S.) "Predissociation of NO by Radiative Recombination in the d-system, the f-value for the d(0,0) band" by Michael Mandelman, candidate for the Ph.D. degree — 317, Petrie

4:00 p.m. — Physics Seminar Series — "Theoretical Studies of Forbidden Transitions in Hydrogen and Helium" by Gordon Drake, University of Windsor — 317, Petrie

Monday 2:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m. — Guest Speaker (Sociology/Anthropology) "Workers' Control in Yugoslavia Today" by Robert Agger, Department of Political Science, McMaster University — S872, Ross

3:00 p.m. — University of Toronto-York University Joint Program in Transportation — "Transportation Planning Techniques: Problems and Prospects" by Dr. Helmut Schuster, Lecturer, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (Washington) — S915, Ross

4:30 p.m. — Biology Seminar Series — "Photorespiration in Algae" by Mr. S. Cheng, York graduate student — 320, Farquharson

Tuesday 1:15 p.m. — Guest Speaker (Political Science) "The Conference for European Security and Cooperation" by C.W. Hooper, Department of External Affairs (Ottawa) — A212, York Hall, Glendon

Wednesday 4:30 p.m. — Chemistry Seminar Series — "Struc-

tural Aspects of a Series of Alkyltin Nitrates" by Professor A. Walker, Scarborough College — 320, Farquharson

### FILMS, ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday 11:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m. — Canadian Womens' Films (Calumet) "Joyce Wieland" (J. Steed), "Solidarity" (J. Wieland), "Rat Life and Diet in North America" (J. Wieland), "Paralysis" (L. Siegel), "Playground in 6 Acts" (D. Stermac) — a discussion with Judy Steed, Lois Siegel and Daria Stermac will follow the films — 109A, Atkinson

12:00 noon — 2:00 p.m. — Jazz Concert (Music, Musicians Trust Fund of Toronto) with the Mike Stewart Quartet — 120A, Bethune

1:15 p.m. — Concert — a recital by the Faculty of Fine Arts Quintet — Old Dining Hall, Glendon

2:00 p.m. — Film (Bethune) "Clockwork Orange" — admission \$1.25 — L, Curtis

7:30 p.m. — Film (Film Department) M. Norman McLaren, film animator, with selected screenings — L, Curtis

8:00 p.m. — Play (Theatre) "Gallows Humour" (by Jack Richardson; directed by David Markowitz) — performed by York students — Atkinson Studio West

8:00 p.m. — Play (French 225) "La Leçon" (d'Eugène Ionesco) — entre 50¢ — Pipe Room, Glendon

8:30 p.m. — Play — "The Whipping Boy" (the trial of Solzhenitsyn) performed by Creation 2 — general admission \$2.50; \$2.00 for students — Moot Court, Osgoode

Friday 11:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m. — Canadian Womens' Films (Calumet) "Barbara's Blindness" (B. Gerguson), "Telephone Film" (B. Ferguson), "Standing Buffalo" (J. Henson) — 109A, Atkinson

7:00 p.m. — Film (Film Department) "Storm Over Asia" — L, Curtis

8:00 p.m. — Film (Winters) "The Nelson Affair" (Glenda Jackson, Peter Finch) — admission \$1.25 — I, Curtis

8:00 p.m. — Play (Theatre) See Thursday's listing at 8:00 p.m.

8:15 p.m. — Recital — featuring Reesa Gringorten (clarinetist) and Lorna Benson (soprano); piano accompaniment by Alain Baudot and Beth Gilbert — Old Dining Hall, Glendon

8:30 p.m. — Concert — "Happy Birthday, Johann", a harpsichord tribute to Bach with Richard Birney-Smith — admission 75¢ — SCR, York Hall, Glendon

8:30 p.m. — Play — "The Whipping Boy" — see Thursday's listing at 8:30 p.m.

Saturday 8:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m. — Open End Coffee Shop — featuring The Vortex Company, a multi-media entertainment — members include: Shirley and Richard Cohen; Murray and Sally Geddes; and Howard Spring; visual work by Leo Hunnako —

Events for On Campus should be sent to Dawn Cotton, Department of Information and Publications, N817 Ross. Deadline is Monday, 12 noon.

004. Vanier 8:30 p.m. — Play — "The Whipping Boy" — see Thursday's listing at 8:30 p.m.

8:30 p.m. — Film (Bethune) "The Long Goodbye" (Elliot Gould) — admission \$1.25 — L, Curtis

Sunday 8:00 p.m. — Film (Winters) "The Nelson Affair" — admission \$1.25 — I, Curtis

8:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m. — Open End Coffee Shop — featuring the Vortex Company — 004, Vanier

8:30 p.m. — Film (Bethune) "The Long Goodbye" — admission \$1.25 — L, Curtis

Monday 8:30 p.m. — Concert (Music, Vanier) featuring "MEV", an electronic music group — JCR, Vanier

Wednesday 12:00 noon & 1:00 p.m. — Noon-Hour Concert (Music) featuring Virginia Markson (Flute) — F, Curtis

4:00 p.m. — 6:00 p.m. — Lecture/Demonstration (Music) "Models for Musical Improvisation" by Dr. Bruno Nettle, Professor of Music and Anthropology, University of Illinois — F, Curtis

8:00 p.m. — Play — "The Whipping Boy" — see Thursday's listing at 8:00 p.m.

8:30 p.m. — Play (English 253) "Jack or the Submission" (by Ionesco) — admission 50¢ — Pipe Room, Glendon

### MISCELLANEOUS

Sunday 7:30 p.m. — Roman Catholic Mass — 107, Stedman

Tuesday 9:30 a.m. — 3:00 p.m. — Christian Counselling & Religious Consultation — call Chaplain Judd at 661-3738 or 633-2158

9:00 a.m. — Christian Science College Organization — S737, Ross

Wednesday 8:30 p.m. — IRISH STUDIES SEMINAR — first of a five-day symposium; opening remarks by the Irish Ambassador, His Excellency Patrick F. Power — 9:00 p.m. Panel Discussion — "The Writer and Society Today" — with Brian Friel, Maurice Leitch and Brian Moore; Moderator — Mavor Moore — for further information call: Dr. D.E.S. Maxwell at 667-2202

### ATHLETICS, RECREATION

Sunday 1:00 p.m. — Recreational Soccer — Tait McKenzie

2:00 p.m. — Indoor Tennis — Tait McKenzie

Monday 12:15 p.m. — 12:45 p.m. — Conditioning for Men & Women — each Mon., Wed., and Fri. — Tait McKenzie

Tuesday 7:30 p.m. — Scuba Diving Class — S203, Ross

### CLUBS, MEETINGS

Monday 7:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m., 9:00 p.m. — Hatha Yoga — JCR, McLaughlin

7:30 p.m. — York Bridge Club — Vanier Dining Hall

Tuesday 7:30 p.m. — Ontology Club — 118, Founders