

# Movies to make you laugh

Review: PLEASURE AT HER MAJESTY'S, and THE HANDYMAN  
by Ken Burke

So what's happening at our local film societies this week-

end? Well, having asked that rhetorical question, I'll answer by saying that both the Cohn and Wormwood's are showing movies meant to make you laugh; *Pleasure At Her Majesty's* is on Saturday and Sunday

at Wormwood's in the NFB building, and *The Handyman* is at the Cohn Sunday night. One of them I like, and one I detest with a certain desperate urgency. See if you can tell which is which by the end of

the review. Okay, here we go.

*Pleasure At Her Majesty's* is a documentary record of a benefit performance for Amnesty International featuring most of Monty Python, the Goodies, Beyond the Fringe, and a certain Grande Dame impersonator that I can't think of just now (I'd be worried if I could.) Dudley Moore narrates the festivities cheerfully, unable to be there in person with his mates from Beyond the Fringe. And what's this all-star line-up of British comedy actually like? Well, it's kinda dicey starting off, as it seeks to show the weeks of preparation that went into the event before getting into the show itself. That's none too exciting, but soon it's show time and the fun begins for real.

Fun is the word for it, too, as we see some of the funniest comedy routines of the last 20 years performed on stage. The Beyond the Fringe bunch are a special treat, as most of us North Americans have never seen them before (I hadn't). Peter Cook is particularly funny as the coal miner who would have been a judge if not for the rigorous exams. One shame, though: the Goodies' musical number, the funky gibbon, is genuinely awful. But you also get to see the parrot sketch, Beyond Shakespeare parody, a lot of new material, and a massed Lumberjack song at the end. What more could you want? By the way, proceeds from the film's screenings go to Amnesty International, so make this your week's political statement (it's more fun than voting in the provincial election).

Now for the bad news. *The*

*Handyman* was one of the few films in my life that I desperately wanted to get out of. In trying to understand why, I've reached this conclusion — the movie was bad. It probably still is, too. How it won a "Special Achievement" Canadian film award is something I'll never understand. But enough of this wild accusation — let's get to the film itself.

The movie tells the story of a handyman in Quebec, as he stumbles about from love to love, evading his best friend's "borrowing" and having an affair with a married woman whose husband neglects her. Nothing wrong with that, but Jocelyn Bérubé plays this handyman as an unsympathetic tit (twit?) whose brain turns to goo every time a female comes near and who totally seems to ignore the fact that his best friend steals his car, his money, and his girlfriends constantly. Our poor innocent hero must forgive his buddy, mustn't he?

The jokes just aren't funny, either. The whole thing resembles those dreadful Radio-Canada sit-coms Quebec dully regurgitates every year. Director Micheline Lanctôt is content to fill the comic void with a loopy soundtrack that follows the characters around exactly like the silly piano that dogs Mister Roger's motions on TV. But what bothered me most was an embarrassingly prejudiced portrayal of an Orange Crush-sucking gay boarder who keeps trying to seduce our naive hero, who responds with some pretty heavy abuse. Everyone should be offended. In short, a painful experience.

## FINAL YEAR?

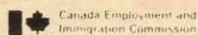
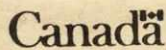
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## Entertainment Free-Bee's

### Monday Night Football

- in the Grawood

### Grawood Movies

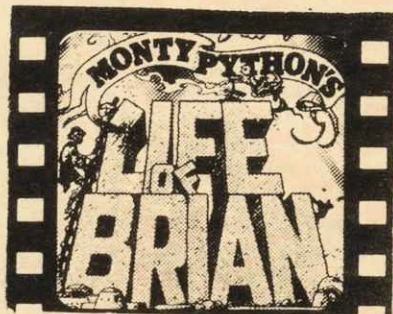
Tuesday Night

NEIL SIMON'S  
THE HEARTBREAK KID

8:30



Wednesday Night



### Friday Noonhour

in the Grawood

12:30

TAKE TWO

Sandy Greenberg & Ted Jordan

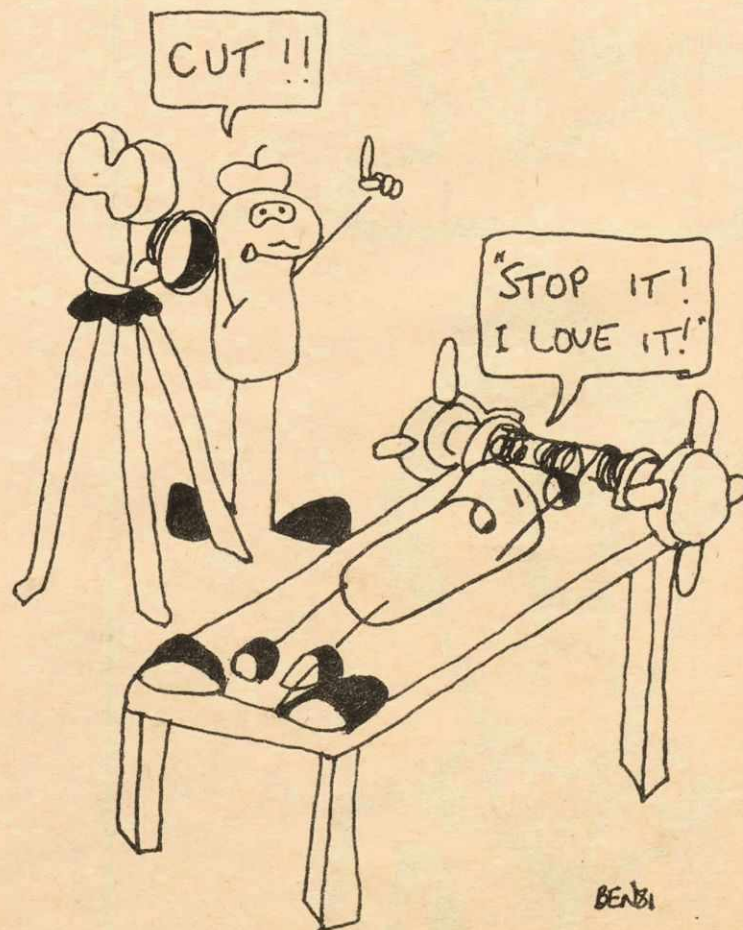


1:20

### Friday Steak n' Brew

in the Garden

West 5 pm



BENZI