

Grade A summer

by Fred Davis

As the end of the school year approaches, one wonders (if one hasn't already) about the summer and what it holds for us: jobs, sun, beer, beaches, wine, bathing suits, beer etc. - it will all be there. But instead of wondering where you're going to get a job, why not preoccupy yourself with the enlightening entertainment section of the newspaper instead of those hard-to-read classified ads?

The movie industry plans to make a lot of money off of us this summer, and with the line-up of new flicks approaching, it appears as though they will.

APRIL: *Paradise* is this year's challenge to *Blue Lagoon*. It stars the guy from *Eight is Enough* and another unknown as the female lead. It doesn't really matter what their names are unless you're desperate. And unless you're desperate or live in Da Nang, don't see this film.

Universal Films released *Cat People* last week. This stars Natassia Kinski as the woman who has been raised from birth by panthers. That's the story I hear, anyway. When sexually aroused she turns into what her parents always wanted her to be - a panther. Kinky. The movie is

not that good but Kinski has never been anything less than a fine actress.

MAY: Filmways is hoping to release *Death in Amityville*, the continuing story of the DeFeo family and their house of a thousand unnatural things.

Universal is planning to open with *Conan the Barbarian*, starring Arnold Swartzenegger. The movie is quite an accomplishment in that the sets and special effects were a costly and lucrative endeavour if ever there's been one. But we'll all have to wait a while before seeing that.

Steve Martin's *Dead Men Don't Wear Plaid* will open on the 21st. *The Dark Crystal*, also opening the 21st, is a co-operative effort between the special effects masters of *Star Wars* and the creators of the Muppets. A science fantasy flick if there ever was one. This film promises a good deal of (of course) special effects and good S.F. entertainment for those who enjoyed *The Empire Strikes Back* and its predecessor.

JUNE: Buena Vista (Walt Disney) is coming out with *Tron*, probably the most secret film this year. The producers are attempting to attain the same level of hush-hush which *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*

got before it came out. Because of its secrecy, you probably won't find out too much before its release on the 18th. The only information revealed thus far is that Disney animators are sharpening their pencils and lasers for more and more special, special effects.

Columbia Pictures hopes to make it big this month with two retakes. *Star Trek 2* and *Grease 2* will open mid-month and expect to pull in many viewers between the two. You'd better see *Star Trek 2* first, before anybody tells you that Spock dies. Whoops! Ricardo Montalban doffs his white coat and shows us what Roarke's really made of in this one.

United Artists releases Steven Spielberg's *Poltergeist* (a real ghost story) on the 4th. One week later comes the film summer would not be summer without, *Rocky 3*. Sly Stallone really knows what to do with a good thing.

Universal also promises a new Steven Spielberg film (yet untitled) to open the third week this month. *The Thing* opens one week later as a meteorite crashes into the North Pole leaving Kurt Russel to save the world and Santa Claus.

Warner Bros. may have the

single biggest movie of the year (post-Academy Awards). Harrison Ford is Decker in *Blade Runner*, a futuristic cops, robbers and assassins flick with a big budget. Some scenes should be quite impressive, boasting cars of the future and other such goodies unthought of even by *Star Wars* designers. Clint Eastwood has another long-awaited movie opening the 25th called *Firefox!*. This promises (as most C.E. movies do) to be action-packed too.

JULY: Woody Allen, now working with Warner Bros., has a tentative date set this month for his newest, *Summer Nights*. Burt Reynolds and Dolly Parton team up in Universal's *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* (adapted from the Broadway play) and United Artists will release its only animated feature this year (since *Lord of the Rings*) when it presents *Secret of Nimh!* Disillusioned Disney animators switched to U.A. for this cartoon mystery.

AUGUST: This is the month most movie companies present their line-up for back to school. Columbia will appropriately present Cheech & Chong's latest, *Things are Tough all Over*; along with the rerun of *Stripes* (Bill Murray). Paramount

will open National Lampoon's *Joy of Sex* and...*Airplane 2!* For Pink Floyd fans, United Artists will present Pink Floyd's *The Wall* in September starring Bob Geldof (Boomtowntown Rats) as the lead.

Of course those are not all the films that will be playing throughout the summer. Some films are reruns and others I neglected to mention. Do not go by specific dates given. I say this because marketing agencies may insist upon film distributors releasing a film at an earlier or later date. For example, *Porky's* was not supposed to open until mid-May. In other words, don't lay bets that what's been written will always be the unadulterated truth.

What else is coming up? Well, there's *Videodrome* with Debbie Harry. This is said to be a landmark production in film technology. Others are *A Chorus Line*, *Evita*, *Philadelphia Experiment*, Stephen King's *The Dead Zone*, James Bond in *Octopussy*, *Nobody Wants My Resume* for B.A. students and, or course, the latest Star Wars saga, *Revenge of the Jedi*. All that should be out by next Xmas.

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