

la ride

le ruisseau coule lentement
 je regarde l'eau fraîche
 je veux la toucher et je veux
 faire des cercles (avec mes doigts)
 qui veulent casser le courant
 la paix. . . le monde
 je reste mes pieds dedans après
 je ne bouge pas maintenant
 le monde reste tranquille
 immobile
 et
 après
 le ruisseau coule lentement

par Michele Thibeau

Christmas Cinema Treats

by Dak Jiordani

Christmas and late spring/early summer are the favourite times for studios to release movies. So, it should come as no surprise to find the various movie theatres around Metro filled with a score of new films. For those looking to check out the new flicks but have not had time yet; here are three quick reviews of movies that may be on your list.

The first film on the hot seat is Bill Murray's Christmas comedy *Scrooged*. Based on Charles Dickens' immortal tale *A Christmas Carol*, the updated theme this time centres on sarcastic and cynical TV executive Frank Cross. Since it is based on ol' Chuck's venerable (and overtold) story, the plot line should come as no surprise and neither should the box office response. Christmas films usually do well and this one is no exception (top five every week since its release). Despite public popularity, the critics have insisted on slugging the hell out of the movie. Be that as it may, there are those who enjoy films simply because they are entertaining. And that is all *Scrooged* is meant to be. Granted, the sadistic jokes may be a bit much at times for the faint hearted, but it's all in fun. Bill Murray's performance deserves a Comedy Oscar or something. The guy is so mean that you wonder why someone with such a tight ass isn't producing diamonds every time he has a dump. Anyway, for six bucks worth of Christmas laughs, this is the movie to see.

Next up is the sequel whose title should have been enhanced

to *Cocoon: The Return of the Entire Original Cast (And I Mean Everyone) So This Movie Doesn't Seem Like a Cheap Rehash*. Actually, that's not fair. The movie is one of few sequels that is equal to if not better than its parent. While the storyline of *Cocoon: The Return* is very similar to the original 1985 hit, it is more of a continuation and expansion of themes than a clone. Indeed, Glace Bay native and director Daniel Petrie, well known to Canadians for his semi-autobiographical *The Bay Boy*, has done an admirable job of picking up where *Cocoon* director Ron Howard left off.

The end of the first movie saw the oldsters take off in the flying saucer to alien Never-Neverland and, predictably, they return to visit the sunshine and wrinkle set



who stayed behind. While the plot doesn't get much thicker than this, the key to the movie's enjoyability is the elaboration on the 'growing old and dying' theme. Instead of being portrayed as childlike teddy bears or cantankerous old farts, the elder generation is portrayed as it is, as real and as human as anyone of any age. All the characters progress and change to some degree, resulting in satisfying resolutions and a finished story. A good movie on its own and a worthy successor to the original. Need I say more?

Last of all is the dumb police movie to end all dumb police movies — *The Naked Gun: From the Files of the Police Squad*. Starring Canadian Leslie Nielsen and Priscilla Presley, this flick is the result of a cult video phenomenon centred on the short-lived TV series *Police Squad*. Dumb jokes, bad puns, and stereotypical slapstick make up the bulk of the laughs in this 'police drama' spoof. Surprisingly, they all add

up to a reasonably funny movie. However, just because the laughs were good the first time around, doesn't make this a great film. Sure, like any flick *The Naked Gun* has its moments: the 'Unarmed Police Rambo versus All the Nasty Politicians in the World in One Room' intro, the safe sex scene, and the Queen's dinner party, to name a few. But the enthusiasm and laughs would probably wane after one viewing. Therefore, see it once, have some fun, go home and do nothing more than remember it. I did . . . and I'm satisfied.

There you have it — three movie reviews in one article. My editor will be so thrilled. For those who missed the point all three were worth seeing at least once. Extra screenings are left to viewer discretion. As for ratings, well, both *Scrooged* and *Cocoon: The Return* get an 8.5 (same as the original, by the way), and *The Naked Gun* gets a 7. Merry Christmas and Happy Viewing.

ATK NIPS

- Roy Orbison died yesterday at age 52.

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