

Live at the Hollywood Bowl, Python is better the morning after

by David Stewart

Monty Python always seems better in retrospect than in the actual experience. I went to this movie with great anticipation, having been a Python fan for the past eight years, but found only rare moments during the performance of genuine bellylaughs. After the film was over, however, in discussing it with friends, we found ourselves giggling about bits that had evoked very little reaction during the film.

One of the problems with this movie for a true Python fan is the inclusion of so much well known material. Slightly better than 60% of the skits have been taken from previously released matter and these gain little from being performed live. I mean, how many times can one roll over in laughter when Eric Idle, as a tourist incapable of pronouncing the letter C, drones on and on about the inadequacies of most guided tours? When I first heard this skit years ago I marvelled at Idle's vocal dexterity but now the joke has worn thin. Other skits which I found tiresome due to familiarity were the "I'd like to have an argument" bit and the "Squire, your wife a goer?" dialogue. For those unfamiliar with Monty Python, however, these will prove very enjoyable.

I was much more pleased with the new material in the show. Par-

ticularly funny are a soccer game between the great philosophers of ancient Greece and Germany and a dialogue between the Pope and a slightly batty Michelangelo who, having been commissioned to paint The Last Supper, has taken poetic licence to the extreme by including 28 disciples, 3 Christs, assorted circus acts and at least one kangaroo.

In pieces such as these, Monty Python's ascerbic wit and intellectual prowess are evident. These are all extremely intelligent men, whose academic experience enables them to think up such things as The "Bruce song" wherein Three Australian professors, all named Bruce, sing of the prodigious drinking abilities of some of the world's great thinkers. It is here that we learn that immortal phrase of Rene Descartes, a la Python, "I drink therefore I am."

One must listen carefully to catch such witticisms and unfortunately the sound quality of this film is not always equal to the task. The cinematography also leaves something to be desired, many scenes being rather hazy. These problems, however, are only minor and do not greatly disturb the viewer.

Some of Monty Python's funniest moments on TV and/or records take place during such flights into the absurd as Twerp races and

funny walks. These are successful on the above mentioned media due to the built-in distancing mechanisms of these media. It is easy for us to accept that the performer has adopted a particular persona and we are amused, not by Eric Idle or Graham Chapman but by the character being performed. On the stage, though, I find myself uncomfortably thinking, as John Cleese is dressed as a woman yelling "Albatross" in the hope of selling some to the patrons of The Bowl, that this is embarrassingly silly. I cannot totally separate performer from character there and subsequently find no humour in the dramatic situation.

My final criticism is simply that one and a half hours is too much Monty Python to be ingested at a single sitting. The half hour TV format is better for this type of humour. The live performance further lacks the plot structure of Python movies like "the Life of Brian" which serves to maintain audience interest between laughs. All in all, I would recommend that people forgo the movie in favour of purchasing a Python record, and spend the time you save in writing a letter to the CBC petitioning them to rerun the Python TV series at least one more time.

Dalhousie: big acts this year

by Wendy Coomber

Marie Gilkenson, Activities Director for Dalhousie for the past two years, sees herself as a staffer who runs all of the regular programs but keeps a low profile as advisor on Special Events.

Depending upon the Orientation Chairperson, she says, she will either help a lot if the person is inexperienced, or not much at all if the person seems to have the situation under control.

She does, however, have her own ideas as to how she wants this year's Orientation turn out. "I want to attract the new students in with a concert before school starts," said Gilkenson in an interview, "and let them become acquainted with the campus before school begins and they don't have any time for it."

This year's big Orientation attraction was the Gary U.S. Bonds concert at the Dal rink last Wednesday night. Gilkenson said she had been working on getting a big name act for Dalhousie Orientation since May, contacting New York agencies, and finally coming up with Bonds.

Gilkenson observed it was unusually difficult to attract top professional acts to Halifax because the city is so far off the 'tour circuit' and record sales here are low and

discouraging. The deal with Bonds came through, according to the Activities Director, because Dalhousie was able to get together with Memorial University of Newfoundland and offer them three dates in a row - two at MUN and one here.

Ms. Gilkenson said depending on the success of the Gary U.S. Bonds concert, they might begin looking for another big name act for the Winter Carnival.

On a lesser, but equally important, note, Gilkenson listed a few of her office's programs which will run throughout the year: Monday Mindpower will be continued this year, featuring different diversions for the student mind at lunch hour such as dancers and other displays in the Green Room; TGIF Cinema will run Friday afternoons in the SUB, screening a wide variety of National Film Board presentations; live bands at the Grawood once a month along with the continuation of the Grawood movie series; and "The Big Screen", classic movies one Thursday per month, in the McInnis Room. Oliver and Jesus Christ Superstar will start off the series September 30 and Star Wars will be here sometime in November.

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

What's Happening - September 12 - 17

Coffee House:

Café Genesis XXII at the Grawood.
Sept. 12 - 8 - 11 p.m. \$1.00
Alex Giageroff Al Chaddock

Monday Mindpower:

Noon, Green Room. FREE
Weekly demonstrations
sports, dance, music.
This week - Chinese Dance.

Grawood Movies:

Tuesday - "Caddyshack"
Wednesday - "Eiger Sanction"
8 p.m. FREE

T.G.I.F. Cinema:

Friday, 3 - 4:30 pm., Rm. 410
-412 SUB
Diversified shorts and feature
length films.
This week - "GALA" FREE

ZAPATAS

~ Mexican Cuisine ~

is our speciality

one can also indulge in the finest

Greek and Canadian Dishes

DINING ROOM

Monday - Thursday
12 noon 'til 2:30 p.m.
5 p.m. 'til midnight

Friday - Saturday
12 noon 'til 12:30 a.m.

Sunday
5 p.m. 'til midnight



LOUNGE

Monday - Saturday
open 'til 2 a.m.

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