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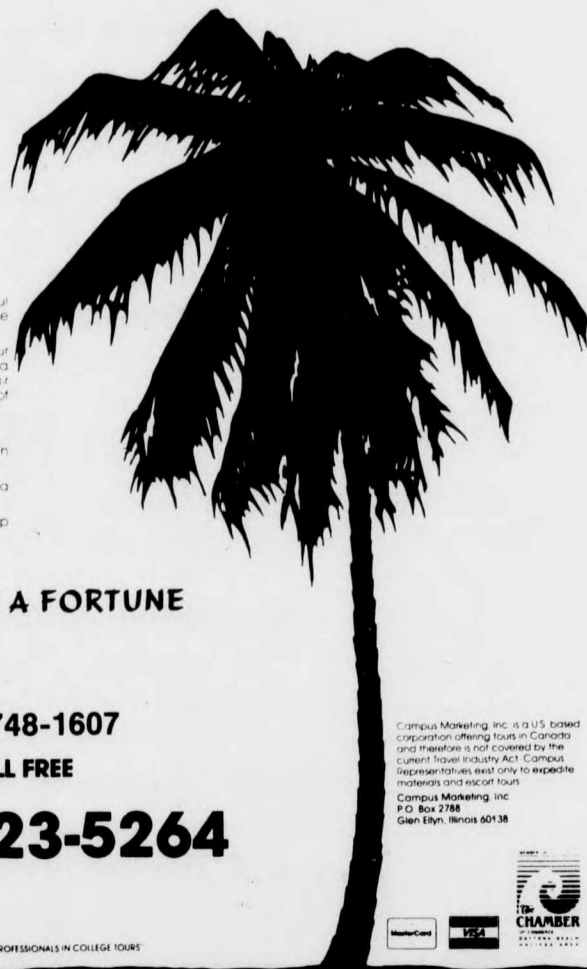
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(a juror for the murder case) actually resorts to seducing a women senator in order to get a vote on an upcoming bill. what shocking filth!

The only positive thing this movie could offer would be the knowledge that you didn't spend the \$6.50 to go see it. Stay away.



## Emperor has no clothes

By JENNIFER PARSONS

Spielberg's style is too much of what someone once must have told him was a good thing. This is evident in his latest film *The Emperor of the Sun*.

A young boy's survival in, and eventual liberation from a Japanese prison camp is treated much like the back-lit, dry-iced rise, of *E.T.* from near death. The film is complete with the same group of awe-struck angels that summons itself into the soundtrack at especially epic moments and with the same close-ups on the wide-eyed and teary innocent.

the *Emperor* diminishes the ordeal of imprisonment to the like of the Adventures of Huckleberry Finn who in this case, is a bratty, impertinent annoyance on the screen, and worst of all: definitely not as cute as *E.T.*

## This Funeral is lots of laughs

By OTAV LOMBARDO

Japanese director Juzo Itami nimbly handles the darkest of topics with humour and leaves one thoughtful at the end of his new film, *The Funeral*.

Filmed in Japan and playing in Canada with English subtitles, *The Funeral* follows a husband-and-wife acting team as they attend a traditional Japanese funeral ceremony.

The film develops the contradictions—both comic and solemn—of day-to-day Japanese life after Nobuka Miyamoto's father suddenly passes away. Sincere grief is interwoven with the reality of the rat race early on, as the mourners are seen speeding off to the morgue eating TV dinners and listening to a Japanese cover version of Credence Clearwater Revival's "Travelling Band."

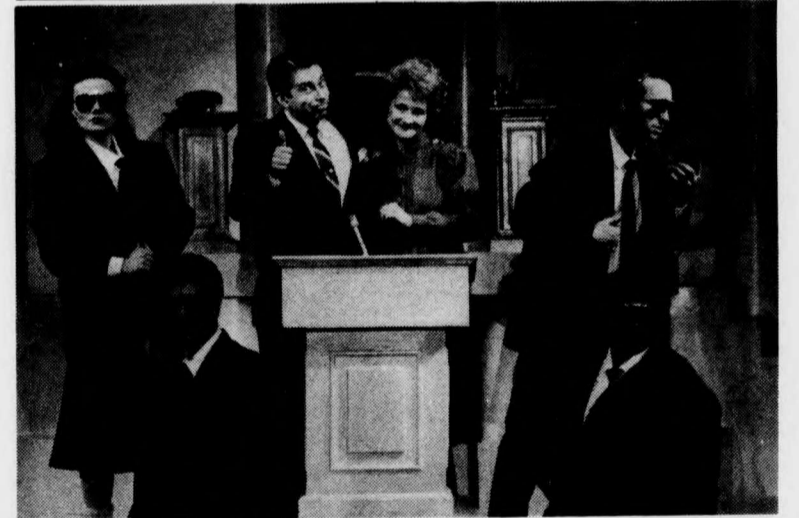
When the couple arrive at the morgue, a handful of relatives is there to greet them. In the ensuing scenes, Itami dramatizes the negative influence that contemporary society has had on the ancient funeral ceremony. Though grief is sincere among the mourners, tradition demands that it be expressed in moderation, a thing alien to the 20th century. The problem is explored with comedy and pathos in Itami's film in a scene in which two of the family members are seen watching a "how-to" video on funeral etiquette.

In another noteworthy scene the couple conscientiously rehearse their lines for the funeral while one downs a hurried meal and the other blow-dries her hair. Contemporary Japanese attitudes are exposed as the family appears both comic and pathetic in its attempts to come to terms with the reality of death.

In the end, genuine grief is supplanted by a confused, sad acceptance as the funeral progresses against a background of promiscuity, irreverence, and insincerity.

Itami has created a fine film in *The Funeral*. His trademark detailed cinematography brings assinine human behaviour into sharp focus while somehow leaving the dignity of the deceased unblemished. Itami manages to create comedy in the context of dying tradition and contemporary confusion, and somehow manages to leave the audience with a little hope.

## ARTS CALENDAR



**THUMBS UP:** Toronto Workshop Productions' *Rap Master Ronnie* is a musical satire that features the lyrics of Gary Trudeau. The show will be running to the end of the month.

### GALLERIES

**Manuela Maiquashca**, mixed media works by the artist. Founder Gallery (206 FC), Jan. 18-22. Opening Jan. 20, 4:30-6:30.

**Selections from the Inuit Collection of the AGYU**, guest-curated by Cynthia Cook, Art Gallery of York University (N145 Ross), until Jan. 29.

**Group Exhibition**, a collection of works by the design students of York University. IDA Gallery (Fine Arts Building), Jan. 18-22.

### MUSIC

**Concert Series**, Luncheon performance by jazz pianist Andrew Boniwell and friends. McLaughlin Senior Common Room, Jan. 14, 12:15 p.m.

**Canadian Piano Trio Concert**. Jaimie Weisenbaum (violin), Nina

Tobias (cello), and Stephanie Sebastian (piano). McLaughlin Hall, Jan. 20, 12:30 p.m.

### DANCE

**Northern Lights Dance Theatre**. York Dance graduates will perform in an evening of modern dance at the Premiere Dance Theatre (Harbourfront), Jan. 12-16.

### LECTURES

**Jim Henshaw**, actor and writer with the *Adderly* TV series, is this week's guest speaker in the Prime Time series. Atkinson Theatre, Jan. 15, 10:30.

**William Austin**, of Cornell University, gives a lecture-demonstration on "Piano Preludes and Fugues of Shostakovich: History, Theory and Performance." Burton Auditorium, Jan. 21, 3 p.m.