

Reel Reviews

Wheeling American Flyers

By TIMOTHY LETHBRIDGE
Senior Editorial Advisor

American Flyers

I liked "American Flyers" even though its plot and themes are rather simple.

The title was obviously designed to attract American patriots, and I entered the cinema wondering if I would see some kind of American propaganda. Although the "Star-Spangled Banner" was heard more than once, the film was well balanced and emphasised individual achievement rather than the American nationalism I had feared. A nice touch was the sympathy evoked among

the audience for a Russian cyclist who is snubbed by an American.

The plot centres around two brothers, Marcus (played by Kevin Costner) and David (played by David Grant). Their father died of a genetic vascular disorder in the brain. Will one of the brothers have it? The fear causes family conflict and also draws them together.

Marcus and David are both expert racing cyclists and most of the action centres around their competition in a major cycle race in the Rockies. Scenes of cycling actually take up a major portion of the film,

and it becomes a bit like watching an exciting sporting event when one knows the background of some of the players. The photography was better than your average "Wide World of Sports" (even considering that the action is pre-planned) and some of the scenery is spectacular.

The acting overall is moderate to good. The brothers have female companions; Alexandra Paul plays Becky and Rae Dawn Chong plays Sarah. I much prefer Chong's role in "Commando" (which was also playing at the Plaza Cinemas this past week) because she is given more individuality but she is nevertheless really a sidekick. The film was directed by Steven Teisch.

Marie

This was a true story highlighting one woman's efforts to stand up against corruption in the Tennessee state governor's office. Although it had its interesting moments, I wonder really if it was worth making a film out of this plot.

Marie, in real life, is currently a lecturer in criminal law. In the film we are taken back to the time she left her husband in Georgia and moved to Tennessee in 1973. She went to college and then started to rise in various civil-service positions. She, however, proved too honest to go along with the corruption she finds and, led by the motto 'When good men do nothing, evil flourishes,' she strikes out on a path of reform—and this leads her into trouble.

Sissy Spacek is perfect in the role of Marie and ably shows Marie's evolving personality over the years. "Marie: A True Story" was capably directed by Roger Donaldson.

The screenplay was written by Peter Maas, and it is hard to tell how much poetic license he took. I would tend to think that Maas must have actually missed some significant points, especially near the end (either that or else part of the plot fell on the editing-room floor). If this was fiction, I would say it lacked credibility.

The movie does give interesting insight into the sort of corruption possible when political appointments are made and campaign funds are sought. Thank heavens we do have honest people.

RATINGS OF RECENT FILMS

Film	Cinema	RATINGS									
		O	V	E	R	A	L	T	A	N	L
Jagged Edge	Plaza A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
American Flyers	Plaza B+	A-	B+	B	C+	B	A	B-	A-	A	A
Marie: A True Story	Na'sis B	A+	A	A	A-	B	B	B	B-	B	B
Silver Bullet	Plaza B	B	A-	B+	C+	A	A-	B-	C	B	B
Commando	Plaza D	D	B-	B-	D	B+	A+	D	F	B	B

Etc...

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet will be dancing at the Fredericton Playhouse on November 5 and 6 at 8 pm. The performance on Nov. 5th is sold out already but seats remain for the 6th.

The late 18th century double portrait of Mrs. Thrale and her Daughter Hester (Queeney) by Sir Joshua Reynolds will be the focus of the gallery talk at the Beaverbrook Art Gallery on Nov. 5th at 12:30.

The Music Group of London

piano trio will perform the annual Walter Baker memorial Concert in the Auditorium of Memorial Hall at U.N.B. on Sunday, Nov. 3rd at 8 pm. Tickets will be on sale at the door, with discounts for senior citizens, children and students. They will feature music by Haydn, Ravel and Brahms.



Your suspicions are confirmed

MAKE TRACKS
TO THE CLUB
COSMOPOLITAN
ON
TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY
NOV. 5 & 6



ELEMENTARY

as THE CLUB PRESENTS:

THE INSPECTORS

A DYNAMITE PARTY ROCK BAND WITH A
NON-STOP DANCE SONGLIST !!

TUES & WED, NOV. 5 & 6
10 PM - 1 AM
MEMBERS \$2.00
NON-MEMBERS \$4.00

COME ON !!
INVESTIGATE
THE CLUB !!