

Baker's *Hellraiser* lacks fire

Hellraiser
New World Mutual Pictures
West Mall 8

review by Ryan Cromb

That's right, it's no damn good. Those fancy-schmancy previews and the loving words from Stephen King are about the only scary aspects of this film. The story of *Hellraiser* begins on what appears to be the set of a Sinbad movie, where a man with extremely filthy fingernails gives some guy a Rubik's Cube. This Cube is so interesting that if you twist it the wrong way a group of men in cheap Hallowe'en costumes will come and make a two-by-four covered with barbed wire whirl in front of you before they rip your skin off with big shiny hooks. This is what happened to the guy with the Cube. His name was Frank.

Frank's brother buys the house where Frank last played with the Cube. The brother and his wife seem oblivious to the fact that this is your standard horror movie house. It has rats in the attic, a plate full of maggots and cockroaches, a hand that grabs your foot, and a gargoyle nailed onto the banister.

Anyway, they move into this house, and

then the husband digs a deep furrow in his hand with a nail. His blood seeps through the attic floorboards and is magically converted into an ugly skinless Freddie Kruger. He and his brother's wife are naturally in love and she proceeds to lure victims to the attic where she hammers their heads in so Frank can use their blood to grow some skin.

All this is fine and dandy until step-daughter Buffy finds out. She then plays with the Cube until the ultra bad guys in the cheap Hallowe'en costumes come back. They do their thing to Frank again but Buffy then fiddles with the Cube some more to save the remaining innocent parties.

My favorite is the one whose teeth chatter incessantly like a lunatic in the first stages of hypothermia. Also amusing is the scene where the blood is transformed into Frank. In this scene, one bubble of blood dries up and begins to beat like a heart, and it is obviously a plastic bag.

Clive Barker's directing is itself hilarious. Man, can he direct! Low angles, high angles, rapid montages, juxtaposing scenes so that a new meaning emerges. What a director! When he's not hiding the chintzy effects with fog, he either turns the lights down or tries to distract the viewer by turning up the

volume.

There's no way to hide the acting or the script, however. The best scene is when the husband cuts his hand and shows it to his wife. "Is it deep?" she asks as blood pours from his soaked hand. "I don't know, I haven't looked," he replies casually.

Honorable mention goes to the scene where Buffy is working in a pet shop. A big ugly bum comes in and, of course, heads straight over to the grasshopper cage. He scoops a big handful while Buffy yells, "Hey, give those back!" He just looks at her with sad eyes and starts a-chomping on the grasshoppers. This, of course, has nothing to do with anything else.

In all, *Hellraiser* is an amusing if not horrific movie.

Movie Talk

by Elaine Ostry

What would *Jaws* be like without the recurring "DA da DA da DA da"? Somehow the sight of the shark's fin slicing through the water towards the helpless tyke on the rubber raft wouldn't be nearly so scary in silence. Indeed, what you hear in the background adds a great deal to the total effect of the movie, as music plays upon your emotions.

Of course, music was not always in the background, as in the days before 'talkie' films. In the "silent" movies, music was an extremely important cue to the audience regarding the events of the story.

The need for music in film did not disappear with the advent of talking pictures. In fact, although the music had lost much of its function, it retained its power, often resulting in exaggeration that makes a modern audience laugh, reducing the effectiveness of the movie altogether. I have the old version of *Anna Karenina* featuring Greta Garbo in mind. Every time Anna turned to throw an anguished glance at Vronsky, the violins sobbed feverishly.

Not only were those early soundtracks overdone, but they lacked originality. The music scores for love scenes sad and happy, suspense scenes, and dramatic climaxes were basically the same from movie to movie. You probably wouldn't be able to hum the sound track to *Casablanca* (aside from "As Time Goes By"), and you won't find it in a record store. Now, however, soundtracks to movies are more original — and more commercial. I'm not referring to musicals or movies which are based on music, like *La Bamba*, but those movies which use music mainly for added effect. An example is *The Mission* which featured a soundtrack by Ennio Morricone. Its combination of hymn and South American native music was something unusual in a film, and, for the most part, moving. However, modern movies are not immune to musical exaggeration: *The Mission* prompted one critic from *Vanity Fair* to comment: "He went into the jungle with only a flute; he came out with the Vienna Boys Choir."

On the whole, I believe that movies are using music with greater attention to subtlety as well as originality. The movies that have subtle, yet interesting, soundtracks, are *A Room With a View* and *Hannah and Her Sisters*. Both soundtracks suited the romantic, nostalgic moods of these movies, managing to be original without being obtrusive, a quality that every movie soundtrack should have.

ACTION CALENDAR

Tuesday 29

EVENTS

MUSIC LECTURE SERIES contending with orchestral reductions, John Wustman, Fine Arts 1-29 2pm.

TORONTO SYMPHONY Berlioz, Roman Holiday, Mussogorski, Mozart, Jubilee Auditorium 8pm, \$20/\$10.

THE REGULATION OF DESIRE sexuality in Canada, (history of the gay community in Canada) HUM 2-21 7pm, free.

EXHIBITS

STRUCTURED PARADISE: A National Park Experience, photographic documentation of Banff, Ring House Gallery UofA, 11am-5pm free.

4 SEASONS IN COLOR photo exhibit, Custom Slide Printing 207 12306 Jasper, 10am-5pm free.

LOOKING THROUGH THE GLASS 5 women photographers, Latitude 53 Gallery 10920 88av, 10am-6pm free.

DUCK DECOY EXHIBITION Alberta Craft Council Gallery 509 10136 100st, 9am-5pm free.

SOMETHING DIFFERENT Calgary art, symbol & style, Edmonton Art Gallery Sir W. Churchill Sq, 10:30-5pm, \$1/\$2.

FIGURATIVE SCULPTURE Agnezka Matjenko, MVA, Paintspot 10325 Whyte, 9am-6pm free.

FILM

LILLY TOMLIN *The Film Behind the Show* Princess 9pm.

Wednesday 30

EVENTS

MASTER CLASS SERIES Department of music, John Wustman, CON Hall 7pm.

GO the world's most fascinating game, registration SUB 142 7pm.

AIIESEC careers day '87, SUB Dinwoodie 10am-4pm, free.

THE COUNTRY WIFE play, opening night (to Oct10) Walterdale 10322 83av, 451-8000.

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Thursday 1

EVENTS

AIDS ON CAMPUS Dr. Jerry Kates, lecture, ATH Hall Heritage Lnge 12:30pm.

MUGS general meeting & brainstorming session, Power Plant 5pm.

SOUTH MORESBY NATIONAL PARK A *New Park in the Queen Charlotte Islands*, lecture, Thom Henley, HUM L-1 7:30pm, free.

BOOK SALE Centennial Library Sir W. Churchill Sq. downtown, 1-2pm, 6-9pm, free.

THE ACCOMPANIST'S ROLE interpreting text, Dep't of Music, lecture, John Wustman FINE ARTS 129 2pm.

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THE GREAT **Spuds Mackenzie** TREASURE HUNT

CLUE NO. 1

CONTEST RULES:
This is the first clue to the location of a coupon worth next year's tuition* (up to a maximum of one thousand and two hundred dollars — \$1200.00). The coupon is hidden somewhere easily accessible on or near the University of Alberta campus (so you don't have to dig, break or dismantle anything to discover it).
A new clue will be published every Tuesday (and Wednesday, October 14) in the Gateway until the coupon is found. A summary of the clues to date will be available in Dewey's and R.A.T.T. every Tuesday evening (or on Wednesday, October 14 instead of October 13) so that you can review the clues while enjoying a cold Bud Light!
Eligibility is restricted to University of Alberta Undergraduate Students excluding employees of Labatt's Brewery, employees of the Students' Union, and members of the Gateway.
If you find the coupon, please call Doug Lavallee at 436-6060.
*If the student who finds the coupon is graduating in the 1987/88 academic year, that student will receive an equivalent prize value at \$1000.00

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