

# ARTS

## Pirates princely

by Gilbert Bouchard

All I can say about the *Pirates of Penzance* is that I hope I'm this lively when I hit one hundred.

Forget that this play is Victorian, forget that this play is a light opera, this little baby is as bouncy and energetic as anything Roger and Hammerstein ever put out.

The whole production falls together and slips over you and envelops you like some half-drunken slumber, a trance-like experience that leaves you a bit weepy and weak-kneed after the show.

The theatre-like sets, with the weird shapes and colours (purple and blue cows for example) added to imaginative lighting and clever use of space combine into the obviously deamlake quality of this fine flick. And the Dolby sound wraps around you like some ugly blind date. This is one movie where you come up for air, not only coke and popcorn.

And the cast stands out like the crown jewels at the cheap bauble shelf of the Woolco downtown. Kevin Kline (pirate King) smiles and grins flashing those teeth and hams it up just enough to give a credible comic performance without overdoing it. Classy and funny at the same time, a young Groucho Marx (without the stoop).

Angela Lansbury (Ruth) is spitfire, barnacles and lavender soap that prickles, shocks your senses and still comes up smelling like your mother's flower patch. What a voice on this broad (and with 41 movies, 13 stage productions, and 26 T.V. shots need we say more).

Then we have a model major-actor by the name of George Rose (Major-General) who stammers and stutters his way through the heart and souls of mean pirates and Gateway reviewers alike. Rose's rubber tongue is matched only by Tony Azito's (the Sergeant) rubber body as he boogies, slitters and bounces from set to set in what you'd swear are impossible contortions for any creature with bones, a real double-jointed treat.

And for lovers at heart we have Rex

Smith (Frederic) and Linda Ronstadt (Mabel) two fine voices, nice acting and great charm and sex appeal on both sides. These two fried the sets with their kisses and melted pancake makeup with their glances: nice chemistry, these two should team up again, soon.

Overall the film gelled with great success, I mean some of these dance numbers verged on the tremendous, bodies flying all over the place with never a collision (if only our air traffic controllers were half this good).

One of the better, more intelligent films about, flawless on all counts. Not many films of this quality come by in any given year, but on opening night only a dozen people sat through it!! What a waste. See this movie, you'll be surprised (I was).

## Another Slugfest in Edmonton

Doug and the Slugs  
Convention Inn South Ballroom

by Lois Dayes

Doug Bennet and the boys returned to Edmonton last Sunday evening to promote their latest LP - *Music for the Hard of Thinking* (RCA).

As usual Bennet gave it all he could, but it wasn't enough to overcome the cold, sterile, depressing uniformity of the seating arrangement of the Convention Inn Ballroom. If anyone has any influence in this town she or he had better get up off her or his butt and convince someone at the Convention Inn to move those chairs. It is

pretty damn hard to get an audience aroused if they fear blows from behind for showing enthusiasm.

As for Bennet and his Slugs, they have a better future with video than live performance. Best bet is the LP will hold the attention span longer.

Opening act David Raven and the Escorts warmed up the audience with their high-energy performance. It shouldn't be too long before these lads get their due recognition.



These charming gents are the Nat Adderley quintet. They are going to be appearing at Centennial Library Theatre March 12. More next issue.

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