

Magic Christian is anti-avarice joke

By DAN MERKUR

The Magic Christian is a disgustingly hilarious movie. If you laughed at Dr. Strangelove, Candy and The Loved One, it should suit you to a 'T', especially the scene where the representation of the establishment go diving into a swimming pool after the money dropped into it. The swimming pool, of course, is filled with one part urine, one part blood and three parts manure.

Terry Southern, author of Strangelove and Candy, scripted the film from his own novel. As expected there are a lot of old movie cliché gags, in-jokes, and anti-American kibbitzing. The theme of the film is materialism. The angle is negative.

The story concerns one English duke (Peter Sellers) with loads of money and no air, who adopts a kid (Ringo Starr) off the street and proceeds to instruct him in the methods of manipulating the avarice of others.

En route we get to see Lawrence Harvey gaily render Hamlet's "to be" soliloquy. Richard Attenborough in a throw-away cameo as coach of the Oxford rowing

crew, who throws the race; Christopher Lee as a vampire aboard the HMS Magic Christian; and Raquel Welch, barely clothed, playing slave-mistress of the naked female galley slaves who propel the Christian.

The script is full of good one-liners, but as an entity it doesn't hold together. The general competence of the acting and Sellers' excellence (his best since Shot in the Dark) carry the film through.

Joseph McGrath, who turned the silly Bliss of Mrs. Blossom into a frivolous delight, is revealing himself as a definite auteur. As a director he appears to have had a hand in choosing the colors of the sets and props (they are brilliant — candy-like and not harsh and gaudy) and his camera manages to give his subject a surrealistic effect.

All in all though, as a movie The Magic Christian isn't much. Oh, there is a little speculation that the Beatle-impersonating group that did the score were the Beatles under an assumed name, but nobody gives it much credence. So if you're going to see it, go stoned.

Bubble gum Steam is full of hot air

Take an average group of musicians who, rather than choose a musical field to develop through their own various efforts and interpretations, only desire to make a few quick bucks from a single hit to be played on AM radio and which is to remain on the charts until the disc jockey themselves get sick and tired of listening to its repetitious melody with simple, endlessly recurring lyrics. With the right studio work, backing and promotion, such a group could possibly accomplish their goal.

Steam is a perfect example of just such a 'musical' entourage. They moved to the top of the AM charts with "Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Him Goodbye," a song that sounded as if it were recorded by a bunch of children intent upon the perfection of their Porky Pig imitations.

Steam's ambition, however, was carried one step further than most bubble gum groups. They realized that the only way to make it in the music business, on a secure basis that is, is with albums and not only singles. This realization led to the release of their first album, simply entitled Steam (Mercury SR61254).

While their recent single could be argued to be cute, or catchy, and appealing to a young teeny-bopper media, their album, because of its repetitive structure, could only appeal to a sub-culture of half-witted morons intent upon training their pet parrots to utter nonsense.

The main lyrics of their single (Na Na Na Na, Na Na Na Na, Hey Hey Hey, Goodbye) set the pace for the rest of the album. (While not opposed to AM radio, I do begin to wonder what the qualitative level necessary for air time is.)

The lyrical variety of Steam is evident with songs as Love and Affection with the lyrics following Na Na Na Na, Na Na Hey Hey, Love and Affection or I've Cried a Million Tears with its Na Na Na, Na Na Hey Hey, I've Cried a Million Tears.

Although there is the possibility that Steam will be successful with their first album and may even be back with another one at some time in the future, I feel it is fairly safe to make a rather rash conclusion based upon my exposure to their present material: I don't think Bob Dylan had any influence on the group's writing. — S.G.

Radio York's Underground Fire

Monday-Thursday: 8:30 am — 1 am.

Friday 8:30 am — Sunday 6 am.

NEWS: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 12:30 pm, 3:30 pm, 5 pm.

Radio York's public affairs department presents a documentary history of Israel today at 3 pm. This one-hour show will concentrate on the development and growth of the Jewish community in Palestine-Israel from the turn of this century, as described by the actual participants. The program will include tapes of actual radio broadcasts immediately preceding and during the 1967 Six Day War.

Elvis Presley, Bobby Vee, Dion, Del Shannon, the Everly Brothers, Jerry Lee Lewis, Bobby Darin and all the stars of the rock era will be on Radio York on Tuesday. Hear all the music of the 1950s and early 1960s from 8:30 am to 5 pm.

The Radio York news department will also do a special presentation that same day. "That's the way it was" will feature news headlines of the past and will bring you up-to-the-minute news of yesteryear.

A new feature is soon to be added to Radio York's schedule. A one-hour open line show is now being planned. Station manager Steve Harris will act as Radio York's Larry Solway.

Classical music can now be heard in the 5 pm to 7 pm period. This is in addition to Barry Gringorten's Nocturnal Emissions on Sunday mornings from 2 am to 6 am. The Monday slot at 4 pm which until now was reserved for classical music, will revert to Jazz.

For requests, call 635-3919. News department, call 635-3311

Amnesty International has issued an urgent appeal for donations of jerseys and trousers for South African apartheid prisoners. For more information call 924-6592.

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