

# Reelspiel

By GERRY LASKEY  
Staff Writer

How can you review *Star Trek - The Motion Picture*? A generation grew up with the TV show and has, for 10 years eagerly awaited its on again-off again return. Rumors and announcements have flown over the years; a new TV series, a movie, Leonard Nimoy will/will not play Mr. Spock (the REAL star of the show to most fans as the series ran), until after several years and \$50 million (and a yes from Nimoy) *Star Trek* has finally come back as a feature length movie. It is the top grossing movie in North America right now and the theatre here is selling out. At least everyone's curiosity has been aroused. Many have been disappointed-I was not.

I think *Star Trek* was a good picture and I advise you to go see it if you have any interest. I think whether or not you enjoy the movie depends largely on the expectations you take into it. In the years between the TV show and the film the phenomenon of ST cult followers, the "Trekkies" has developed. I suspect most of these will be disappointed with the film-mostly because they have created a myth around ST, making it something much more than it really was.

Basically it is a typical episode of the TV show stretched to two hours and put on the big screen. Many are bored by the "catching up" with the crew and Enterprise. Some have said it will lend itself better as a start for sequels. My guess is that a new TV series is more likely. The TV series has three more or less basic formulas. There were the 1) space battles with Klingons and/or other aliens and monsters. 2) exploration of alien planets and/or cultures (trips to Vulcan etc) 3) the encounters with mysterious forces or intelligences, usually in deep space. The movie is a type 3 story.

A mysterious incredibly destructive gas cloud is heading rapidly for Earth. The USS Enterprise is re-activated to intercept it. The film is largely taken up with the Enterprise entering the centre of the cloud and discovering the intelligence that controls it. Some (maybe most) will find this dull. I found it a skillful building of suspense-not in a "thriller" way,

but in the representation of man's quest for knowledge and his awe at the size, beauty, and mystery of the universe. Of course this is not high drama, but IT IS the way the TV show was-the type 3 story-lines were usually my favorites as a kid. Although not a classic of sci-fi as *2001: A Space Odyssey* it is similar in its theme of man discovering that all his technology and logical knowledge only brings him his origins, still a child and reaching out. There is even a scene very reminiscent of the "Star Child" scene of 2001 at the end of *Star Trek*.

For those who enjoy the look at alien cultures type show there is some of this, and what there is, is good. An episode of a monk-like Spock undergoing the Vulcan Kalinahr discipline adds to the story. The Vulcans and Klingons speak their own languages with English sub-titles-an interesting touch. "Scottie" the engineer and "Bones" the doctor are back and provide comic relief-with Bones acting as Spock's anti-logical foil and Scottie constantly telling Capt Kirk "the engines won't take it Captain"-although not exactly in those words.

Some of the effects and sets do not look as real on a movie screen as on TV (especially the terrible Earth scene back-drops). The immense sense of size is great on the big screen and most of the special effects are very good-particularly a transporter-beam accident and a "worm-hole" accident as the ship attempts to reach 'WARP SPEEDS'

All in all, *Star Trek* is a movie worth seeing for those who like the TV show, but try to remember that the TV show for all its good mystery and suspense wasn't as profound as Trekkies have made it and some of the monsters etc were downright silly. The motion picture is a good episode, not as good as 2001, but definitely a cut above *Star Wars* and the like, with their gratuitous and predictable "zap-zap" violence. The *Star Trek* film will make a good jumping point for the inevitable TV series revitalization to come. Just one thing bothers me. Why do we spend so many millions on any film, much less pure fantasy like this?

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THE BRUNSWICKAN 15

# Hamm tours N.B.

HALIFAX-Ken Hamm, a folk hero from Thunder Bay, will be touring southern New Brunswick and the Annapolis Valley. A veteran of folk clubs and coffee houses in western Canada, Hamm has been called a "superb blues artist" and the "musical wizard of strings."

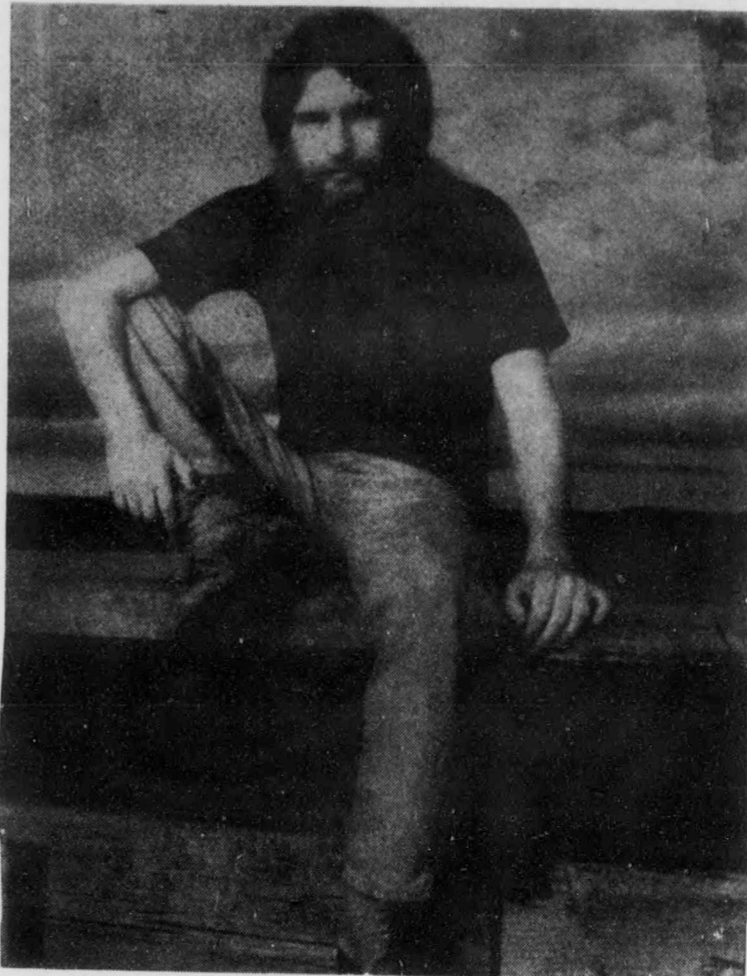
Hamm's tour comes close on the heels of two other Canadian folk acts, Rodney Brown and Pied Pear, all of which have been organized by Sandy Greenberg's record company, Three Fathom Productions. She and Three Fathom partner Patrick Purcell have started to bring the Maritimes some of the top folk talent from other regions.

"When folk singers travel, it's a good thing for artists and audiences alike" says Greenberg. "The artists get a chance to polish their performances, see other parts of the country and come in contact with other musicians. The audiences get a glimpse of the life and concerns in other parts of the country-much as people did from travelling troubadours."

Three Fathom Productions have found that their efforts have been much appreciated. "The Harbourville Community Centre never had it so good" (Blue Sky Journal) and "the show was thoroughly enjoyable and well worth seeing" (Dalhousie Gazette) are just two of the many favorable comments they received on the Pied Pear concerts. Rodney Brown, the country folkie from Thunder Bay, thrilled audiences in Fredericton and Saint John on his way to Halifax to tape a CBC Country Road program.

Sandy Greenberg, having returned from her third cross Canada tour in July, accompanied the Pied Pear in several of their appearances as well as singing harmony with Rodney Brown on the CBC taping. As the Blue Sky Journal reports of the Harbourville concert, "The evening began with Sandy Greenberg, a petite Halifax lady with a guitar slung over her shoulders. Her tunes were from the heart of a woman, with glimpses of the Canadian mosaic."

"Northern Ontario's...Hamm plays a sharp set of classic blues tunes accompanying himself on a vintage metal and wood body



PETER MROWIEC Photo

If you missed Ken Hamm at the Woodshed this week, catch him Jan 18 at the Folk Collective Coffeehouse

guitar," comments the wensound Sun Times on a live performance. Ken Hamm has also released an album, recorded at Kolossal Studios in Winnipeg. The album called Ken Hamm and Friends, has received favourable reviews from all over North America including one in the highly prestigious American publications "Guitar Player Magazine". A portion of that review reads, "Here's an album by a young Canadian acoustic guitarist who plays and sings the blues like he was born and bred in the Mississippi Delta during the 20 or 30's. He flatpicks, plunks, and slides his way through the LP's 12

selections.

In Fredericton, Hamm plays the UNB Woodshed Coffeehouse last week and the College Hill Folk Collective on Friday, Jan. 18. In Saint John, he will appear at Keddy's Motor Inn on Sunday, Jan. 13 and at the Saint John Folk club on Thursday, Jan. 17. In the Annapolis Valley, he will be playing a house concert in Bear River, a concert at the Somerset Community Hall on Friday, Jan. 11 and an engagement in the Wolfville area on Saturday, Jan. 12.

After his brief stay in the Maritimes, Ken Hamm will be moving west again.

## Literature students take note!

Haworth Parsonage, where the Bronte sisters wrote their novels and poems, is one of the places which will be visited by students at an English Literature summer school next year.

In this three week course, works of the Brontes, D.H. Lawrence

George Eliot, Byron, Shakespeare, Jane Austen, Wordsworth, Coleridge and Ted Hughes will be studied, in connection with the surroundings which influenced them.

Students will see a performance at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre

at Stratford, and will see the half timbered house where the poet was born as well as the early home of D.H. Lawrence in the mining village of Eastwood, and Newstead Abbey, the magnificent Gothic family home of the Byrons.

The organizers of this summer school have arranged a full program which will interest serious students of English Literature, teachers and all those who wish to gain a deeper knowledge of English life and culture than can be normally gained on a holiday. The seminars will be conducted by lecturers in English literature from Sheffield University. Previous students have used the course for accreditation purposes.

Within five minutes walk is the university with its extensive library and union facilities. The Peak National Park, famous for its stately homes and as a climbing and caving center is a ten-minute drive away.

Places are available in June, July and September, 1980 and the cost, including accommodation, food, tuition, visits and theatre tickets is £340. For further information, write to Avril Meakin, 10, Victoria

Road, Sheffield, S10 2DL, England or telephone 0742 660766.

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