

Wants to make comedy

Dullea adopts drawl to escape "neurotic" roles.

By WARREN CLEMENTS

During the past 12 years, Keir Dullea has played a New York delinquent in *The Hoodlum Priest*, an emotionally disturbed boy in *David and Lisa*, a deranged neurotic in *Bunny Lake is Missing*, and the infamous Marquis in *De Sade*.

He wants to make a comedy.

"I'd like to do something very outlandish, very slapstick," he said in an interview on the weekend. "I'd love to do a Neil Simon."

"Up to now I couldn't get arrested for a comedy. Because *David and Lisa* was so successful and because it was my second film, it typecast me badly as the all-American, neurotic, introverted kid — very intense."

He thinks he has succeeded in shaking the image in his latest film, *Paperback Hero*, a Canadian production. Dullea is cast as a superstar, self-appointed "marshall" of a small Prairie town, and a man whose lifestyle is in danger of being rendered obsolete.

"It wasn't a sensitive young man role," he said. "It was a more physical character, an interesting way of exploring a growing disillusionment with the great North American myth — and his ability to say, okay, the myth's better. I'll go out being a myth."

Dullea pulled out all the stops to get the part. "I didn't shave for several days, my hair was longer than it is now, and I wore an old pair of ratty jeans and an old shirt."

"I went up to (producer) John Bassett's office and said — breaking into a midwestern drawl — 'How are ya, John? Good to see ya. Listen, boy, tell you I wouldn't have hired me neither, read this shit. You got a beer?'"

"I was worried afterward that I might have overdone it a bit."

But Bassett liked the routine, and Dullea was told to expect a phone call from him. "I didn't know when they'd call, so every time the phone rang I would say, Hiya! A lot of my friends didn't know what was happening."

"I hadn't had to go after a role like that in a long time. When you're established as a name — that doesn't mean a superstar, but in a way that you're offered films — usually there's enough films you want to do. This one I went out and got on my own, because I figured I would never be cast that way normally — they were looking for a Robert Redford or a young Steve McQueen."

Dullea's career started in the late 50s when, fresh out of acting school, he played in daytime television religious dramas.

"All young actors get their first experience with the film world there. You can fall on your face and nobody will know, except your family because you told them to watch."

He filmed a series pilot in Venice as one of three leads, with the actor who played Lieutenant Masters in *Rin Tin Tin* and "the guy who was in one of those Beach Bongo pictures." It didn't sell.

Finally his agent saw him play a tough guy on one serial and put him on to *The Hoodlum Priest*, in which he played second lead to Don Murray. In 1962 he won the lead in *David and Lisa* after the actor originally cast — Robert Walker, Jr. (Ensign Pulver) — left to go to Hollywood.

Since then he has made everything from an Italian film (he was dubbed) to Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey* (1967), in which he played the astronaut who had to cope with computer HAL.

"Kubrick was an extraordinary director, very gentle with his actors. He had such control. The usual commercial demands of a big studio production never touched you."

"As far as my role goes, I'm like the woman who posed for the *Mona Lisa*. I think she'd think it would be groovy to be hanging there, but she'd give full credit to the artist."

In his only successful Broadway outing to date, Dullea created the role of the blind boy in *Butterflies are Free* — which prompted the question, why



Sitting in his Rosedale home, actor Keir Dullea, star of *2001* and *Paperback Hero*, says his ambition is to make something "very slapstick".

wasn't he picked for the film?

"I don't know. I'm 37, and I was playing 26, 27 on the stage. I think they thought I was too old for the film."

"I think also — this would be a guess — that it was bought as a vehicle for Goldie Hawn. And if you buy something as a vehicle, you cast her in a certain way, which throws the whole play off. Because to work, it must be an ensemble piece. There's no star."

Dullea moved to London, England a couple of years ago, "married an English girl, inherited two little girls", and lives in the secluded forested district of Hampton Heath ("I'm a very private person").

He is currently renting a magnificent house in Rosedale while he shoots the *Starlost* series. Ten of the 16 episodes have been completed (each takes a week to shoot), and they may stretch to 24 if the sponsors pick up the option.

"It seems to be successful," Dullea said. "I don't think it's the kind of thing I would watch, but the kids love it. It's not a *Star Trek* by any means —

I'm a little disappointed, I think it tends to be a little bit soap-operish."

He said the videotape method of filming makes effective action sequences difficult to stage, and as a result the series relies on "talky" scenes. "And it's got to be good talk, which I think is where the script falls down. You can only get away with lines like 'Hey, get out of here, I'll kill you' when you have action, and the scene is mainly visual."

He reported that the archaic costumes of the three leads are gradually being phased out as the stars come into contact with more sophisticated biospheres.

"I don't know when Garth (Robin Ward) is going to lose his bow and arrow, which he brings on in every sequence and never seems to use. Robin always hopes to leave it behind one day."

"He tries to find places in the story to put it down temporarily, and you never see it again."

He said the three of them have become fast friends, and work as a

team, "but there's always the danger of becoming the Pod Squad."

The *Starlost* is Dullea's fifth venture in Canada. He shot *Pale Horse*, *Pale Rider* for Eric Till in 1963 for CBC Festival, D.H. Lawrence's *The Fox* (in Kleinburg, Ontario) in 1967, *The Firing Squad* for CBC Anthology in 1971 (shot partly at Glendon), and *Paperback Hero* this year — the latter in freezing Prairie winds.

"I could hardly twirl the gun," he recalled. "In fact, I couldn't feel the gun on my trigger finger, my hand was so numb."

He sees *Paperback* as a very "universal" film, and compared it to Lindsay Anderson's first feature, which introduced Richard Harris. "This *Sporting Life* was to England as *Paperback Hero* is to Canada. It wasn't soccer, and it isn't hockey — you could substitute baseball."

"If I could keep on doing films like *Paperback*, I'd work for one-third or one-quarter of what I could make working elsewhere. I would just love to do that kind of film."

On Campus

Events for On Campus should be sent to Dawn Cotton, Department of Information and Publications, N817 Ross. Deadline is Monday, 12 noon.

SPECIAL LECTURES

Thursday 10 am — Physics Seminar — "The Earth's Core" by Professor J.A. Jacobs, Killam Memorial Professor of Science and Director of Earth and Planetary Physics, University of Alberta (Edmonton) — 317, Petrie

1 am — Guest Speaker (Sociology) "Crime and Punishment: a Criminal's Perspective" by a convicted criminal, now a member of the Fortune Society — I, Curtis

4:30 pm — Guest Speaker (Faculty of Education) "Scholastic Skill Training" by Carl Bereiter, Professor of Applied Psychology at O.I.S.E. — Room E, Curtis

Tuesday 2:45 pm — University of Toronto-York University Joint Program in Transportation — "A Transportation Policy for Northern Canada" by Mr. M.G. Hagglund, Administrator, Arctic Transportation Agency, Ministry of Transport, Ottawa — Senate Chamber (S915), Ross

4:30 pm — GERSTEIN LECTURE SERIES — "Liming with Biological Evolution" by Dr. Theodosius Dobzhansky, Department of Genetics, University of California (Davis) — Moot Court Room, Osgoode

FILMS, ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday 12 noon — 12 pm — Beer Lunch — JCR, Stong
4 pm — 6 pm — Film (Humanities 390) "Gentleman's Agreement" — extra seating available — I, Curtis

6 pm — Plays (Faculty of Fine Arts) the National Theatre School's bilingual touring company will perform "Gammer Gorton's Needle" and "An Absurd Review" — general admission \$1.00, students — 50¢ — Burton Auditorium

8 pm — Play — "Story of a Dead Woman" (by John Kirkpatrick) — admission 75¢ — Pipe Room, Glendon
9 pm & 10:30 pm — Cabaret Theatre — 004, Vanier

Friday 6 pm — Plays (Faculty of Fine Arts) the National Theatre School's bilingual touring company will perform "L'affaire de la Rue Lourcine" and "Le Mariage Forcé" — general admission \$1.00, students — 50¢ — Burton Auditorium

7 pm — Films (Winters) "Beguiled" (Clint Eastwood) — admission \$1.25 — I, Curtis

8:30 pm — Classical Concert — with the "Oriole Trio" featuring Carolyn Gundy — Old Dining Hall, Glendon

8:30 pm — Hallowe'en Horror Film Festival (Winters) "Big Night Out", "I Walked with a Zombie", "The Seventh Victim", "The Oblong Box", "The Conqueror Worm" and "Don't Look Back" — general admission \$2.00; free snacks at 2:00 am — JCR, Winters

Saturday 8:30 pm — Boite A Chansons — avec Les Conta —

entre 75¢ — Old Dining Hall

8:30 pm — Film (Bethune) "What's Up Doc" (Ryan O'Neal, Barbara Streisand) admission \$1.00 — I, Curtis

Sunday 7 pm & 9 pm — Film (Film Society) "Twelve Chairs" (admission by subscription only) — 204, York Hall, Glendon

8 pm — Film (Winters) "Beguiled" — admission \$1.25 — I, Curtis

Monday 4 pm — Canadian History Films (History Department) "Question of Identity" and "The Jolifou Inn" — A, Stedman

8:30 pm — Performing Arts Series (Faculty of Fine Arts) featuring Ravi Shankar and Company (note: this series is sold out) — Burton Auditorium

Tuesday 12 noon — w pm; 7 pm — 9 pm — Films (Faculty of Education) the following films present an animated, unconventional look at science — "Evolution", "Overture", "The Animal Movie", "The Sun in Action" and "Continental Drift" — N833, Ross

4 pm — 4:30 pm — Film (Humanities 179B) "Athens: the Golden Age" — extra seating available — I, Curtis

4:35 pm — 5:55 pm — Film (Humanities 180) "Nobody Waved Goodbye" — extra seating available — I, Curtis

Wednesday 12 noon — 2 pm — Noon-Hour Concert (Music Department) featuring Greg Waters, teacher, conductor, composer performing jazz — Canadiana — F, Curtis

7 pm — Film (English Department) "Rachel, Rachel" — no admission — L, Curtis

4:14 pm — Films (Humanities 373) "The Champion", "Shanghied", "The Vagabond", and "The Immigrant" (all feature Charles Chaplin) — 129, York Yall, Glendon

8:30 pm — Hallowe'en Dance — Featuring "Bear Mother" — no admission charge to those wearing costumes; 75¢ for all others — Old Dining Hall, Glendon

CLUBS, MEETINGS

Thursday 11 am — 2 pm — York Homophile Association — members are available at these times for information and counselling each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday — call local 3632 — 216, Vanier Residence

1 pm — Y.U.S.A. General Meeting — L, Curtis
12 noon — Graduate English Forum — initial meeting for all interested graduate students and faculty — S872, Ross

4 pm — Bethune/Calumet Outdoors Club — general meeting; all members of the York community interested in hiking, skiing, canoeing, etc., are welcome — Lounge (phase 1), Atkinson College

4:30 pm — Monthly Meeting of the Senate — due to space limitations, tickets must be obtained from S945, Ross — Senate Chamber (S915), Ross

Monday 7 pm, 8 pm, 9 pm — Hatha Yoga — JCR, McLaughlin
7:30 pm — Bridge Club — Vanier Dining Hall

ATHLETICS, RECREATION

Friday 4 pm — Skiing-Women's Racing Team & organizational meeting; all interested women skiers welcome — Classroom, Tait McKenzie

8:15 pm — Men's Hockey — York Yeomen vs. Alumni — Ice Arena

Sunday 3 pm — Scuba Diving — all members of the York community are welcome to attend these classes (no fee charged) — Room 50 (5th floor), Scott Library

Monday 12:15 pm — 12:45 pm — Conditioning for Men & Women — each Monday, Wednesday and Friday — Tait McKenzie

Tuesday 8:15 pm — Men's Hockey — York vs. University of Waterloo — Ice Arena

MISCELLANEOUS

Saturday 3 pm — SPECIAL CONVOCATION, OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE FINE ARTS PHASE II BUILDING — for further information, see the "university News Beat" section

COFFEE HOUSES, PUBS

For days and hours open, please call the individual coffee houses:

Absinthe Coffee House — 013, Winters (2439)

Ainger Coffee Shop — Atkinson College (3544)

Argh Coffee Shop — 051, McLaughlin (3506)

Buttery — Founders (3550)

Cock & Bull Coffee Shop — 023, Founders (3667)

Green Bush Inn — T.B.A. (3109)

Just Another Coffee Shop — 112, Bethune (3579)

Open End Coffee Shop — 004, Vanier (6386)

Orange Snail Coffee Shop — 107, Stong (3587)

Osgoode Pub — JCR, Osgoode (3019)

Pizza Pit — 124, Central Square, Ross (3286)

Tap'n Keg Pub — JCR, Bethune (6 pm — 12:30 am, Wed.)