

The best and worst of 79

## The Year in movies

### Bill Beard

#### 10 BEST MOVIES (alphabetical)

1. *The Brood* (David Cronenberg)
2. *Dawn of the Dead* (George Romero)
3. *The Deer Hunter* (Michael Cimino)
4. *Escape from Alcatraz* (Don Siegel)
5. *The In-Laws* (Arthur Hiller)
6. *The Innocent* (Luchino Visconti)
7. *Manhattan* (Woody Allen)
8. *Old Boyfriends* (Joan Tewksbury)
9. *Providence* (Alain Resnais)
10. "10" (Blake Edwards)

#### HONOURABLE MENTIONS

The Human Condition: *Autumn Sonata*, *The Lacemaker*, *Padre Padrone*, *The Tree of Wooden Clogs*.

Third-World Adventures: *Apocalypse Now*, *Cuba*. The Horror, The Horror: *Alien*, *When a Stranger Calls*, *It Lives Again!*

Delicatessen Specialties: *The Glass Cell*, *Angi Vera*, *Pourquoi Pas?*, *The Turtle On Its Back*, *The Shout*.

#### BETTER LATE THAN NEVER (belated first appearances)

*Une Femme Douce*, *Aguirre — the Wrath of God*, *The Enigma of Kaspar Hauser*, *Celine and Julie Go Boating*, *Dersu Uzala*, *Effi Briest*, *Days of Heaven*, *The Duellists*, *Killing of a Chinese Bookie*.

#### 10 WORST MOVIES (alphabetical)

*Bloodline*, *The Fish That Saved Pittsburgh*, *Just You and Me Kid*, *The Main Event*, *Mourir a Tue-Tete*, *Prophecy*, *A Purple Taxi*, *Same Time Next Year*, *The Shape of Things to Come*.

With special nostalgia raspberries to: *Movie Movie*, 1941.

#### INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Best Actress: Talia Shire in *Old Boyfriends*. Runner-up: Lisa Eichorn in *Yanks*.

Best Actor: Burt Reynolds in *Starting Over*. Runner-up: Alan Arkin in *The In-Laws*.

Best Supporting Actress: Meryl Streep in *The Deer Hunter*. Runners-up: Meryl Streep in *The Seduction of Joe Tynan*; Meryl Streep in *Kramer vs Kramer*.

Best Supporting Actor: Dennis Hopper in *Apocalypse Now*. Runner-up: Tony Teckley in *When a Stranger Calls*.

Best Performance by a Child: Cindy Hinds in *The Brood*.

Best Ensemble Acting: the cast of *Manhattan*.

Best Direction: Alain Resnais for *Providence*.

Best Screenplay: Woody Allen for *Manhattan*.

Best Cinematography: Gordon Willis for *Manhattan*.

Runners-up: Robby Muller for *The Glass Cell*; Sven Mykvis for *The Hurricane*.

Best Design: Michael Seymour for *Alien*.

Best Musical Score: Miklos Rozsa for *Providence*. Runners-up: Jerry Goldsmith for *Star Trek*; John Barry for *The Black Hole*.

Best Sound: *Apocalypse Now*.

Best Editing: John Victor Smith (i.e. Richard Lester) for *Cuba*. Runner-up: Ralph Winters (i.e. Blake Edwards) for "10".

Best Special Effects: Peter Ellenshaw for *The Black Hole*.

Most Over-rated Film: *Norma Rae*. Runner-up: *Get Out Your Handkerchiefs*.

Most Under-rated Film: *It Lives Again!* (nobody even saw it). Runners-up: *The Brood*, *When a Stranger Calls*.

Most Depressing Experience: *The Life of Brian*.

Most Loveable Mediocre Film: *The Hurricane*. Runner-up: *Moonraker*.

### John Charles

79 was not a great year for movies. The really memorable movie experiences for me were seeing much older films for the first or second time. *Yanks* was a likeable if self-conscious movie, but after seeing a 1943 tear-jerker *Since You Went Away* which was unabashedly and sincerely sentimental, and also extremely moving, *Yanks* seemed to recede to nothing. The tiresome trend toward technological wows and special effects, and the thin, cynical manipulation of 79's sentimentality (of the *Slow Dancing-Rocky II* variety) did nothing to make 79 movies more enjoyable.

#### TEN BEST (in random order)

- The Deer Hunter* (director: Cimino)
- Manhattan* (Allen)
- Days of Heaven* (Malick)
- Winter Kills* (Richert)
- Picnic at Hanging Rock* (Weir)
- Nosferatu* (Herzog)
- The Brood* (Cronenberg)

### Stephen Scobie

Most of the best films shown in Edmonton in 1979 weren't actually made in 1979; they were showing up here a few years late, as usual, and mainly at the Varscona. Indeed, the revamping of the Varscona as a "fine arts theatre" was the most important event of the year for the Edmonton film scene, just as the major question for 1980 is, how long can the Varscona continue without a popcorn machine?

Thus, far and away the best movie shown in Edmonton this year — or, for that matter, any other year — was Werner Herzog's *Aguirre, Wrath of God*. Also high on the list would be Wender's *The American Friend*, Forsetta's *The Lacemaker*, Chabrol's *Violette Noziere*, Olmi's *The Tree of Wooden Clogs*, and Herzog again with *Nosferatu*.

The Princess is another bright spot on the film scene, with its varied and imaginative programming, closing off the year on an especially bright note with the ambivalent delights of Bernard Blier's *Get Out Your Handkerchiefs*.

There weren't many American films which will even bear mention in the same company, except possibly Terence Malick's glorious *Days of Heaven*. This film also features my nominee for the Best Actor of the Year, an award that goes to the Province of Alberta for its brilliant performance as the State of Texas.

Best Actress of the Year goes to Sally Field for *Norma Rae*, though it would be nice to give it to Jill Clayburgh for something. *Starting Over* was certainly one of the most engaging films of the year.

The Robert Bresson Memorial Award for extracting the maximum Spiritual Significance out of the minimum Physical Action goes to Don Siegel for *Escape From Alcatraz*.

The Woody Allen Silver Clarinet for the Best Film Criticism of the Year goes to Diane Keaton for her devastating put-down of Ingmar Bergman in *Manhattan*. Too bad Woody Allen doesn't really believe it. *Manhattan* also wins the New York City Chamber of Commerce Award for its magnificent black-and-white photography and for its romantic insistence on the possibility of watching the dawn come up over the Hudson River without getting mugged.

The Heinz Tomato Ketchup Award for the Most Appetizing Meal shown in a film in 1979 goes to *Alien*, for obvious reasons.

And the annual Robert Altman Award for the most under-rated film of the year goes to Robert Altman for *Quintet*, with a very close runner-up being Robert Altman for *A Perfect Couple*.

Finally, for schizophrenics only: the Best Half of a Film for 1979 to Francis Ford Coppola for *Apocalypse Now* and the Worst Other Half of a Film for 1979 also to Francis Ford Coppola for *Apocalypse Now*.

Froggies Go Home: *A Purple Taxi*, *Love on the Run*, *Dear Inspector*, *La Cage aux Folles*.

— And Take Your Friends With You: *A Little Romance*, *French Postcards*.

Most Pleasant Surprises: Ali McGraw in *Players*; Marsha Mason in *Promises in the Dark*.

Most Unpleasant Surprises: Alan Bates in *The Rose*; Martin Sheen in *Apocalypse Now*.

Best Canadian Movie: *The Brood*.

Worst Canadian Movie — Pretentious: *Mourir a Tue-Tete*.

Worst Canadian Movie — Incompetent: *The Shape of Things to Come*.

Kitchiest Performance by a Peer of the Realm: Sir Laurence Olivier in *A Little Romance*. (Sir Laurence has now won this award four years running, and it is hereby presented to him in perpetuity.)

*Escape from Alcatraz* (Siegel)

*Autumn Sonata* (Bergman)

*Providence* (Resnais)

#### WORST

*The Purple Taxi* (Boisset)

*Opening Night* (Cassavetes)

*Time after Time* (Meyer)

*Quintet* (Altman)

*Apocalypse Now* (Coppola)

1941 (Spielberg)

#### OTHER GOOD MOVIES

*The Innocent* (Visconti)

*Cuba* (Lester)

*The In-Laws*

*Breaking Away* (Yates)

*Pourqui Pas*

*The Killing of a Chinese Bookie* (Cassavetes)

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## Thursday Thursday

### CINEMA

Tory Lecture Theatre, Edmonton Film Society

Jan. 21, 7 pm *Notorious* starring Cary Grant and Ingrid Bergman. Bergman is required to marry a Nazi leader for the good of Grant's cause, in this, one of Alfred Hitchcock's most suspenseful thrillers. Admission is by subscription.

### THEATRE

Auditorium of Faculty St-Jean, 8406-91 St., 469-0829

Jan. 18 - 20, 25 - 27, 8 p.m. Theatre Francais d'Edmonton presents *Des Pommées Pour Eve* by Gabriel Ariout from Tchekhov's tales.

Theatre 3, 10426-95 St., 426-3394

Jan. 16, *Damnee Manon, Sacree Sandra* by Michel Tremblay. The play is about two teenagers who meet again "ten years later." One remembers, the other doesn't quite as they find themselves in adjoining apartments.

The Citadel Theatre, 9828-101 A Ave., 425-1820

Jan. 16 - Feb. 10, *Hey Marilyn*, a musical biography by Cliff Jones - Shoctor Theatre.

Jan. 17 - Feb. 8, *Pinocchio* by Carlo Collodi, adapted by Brian Way. Performances are daily at 12:30 and 2 p.m. in Zeidler Hall.

Jan. 23 - Feb. 10, *Billy Bishop Goes to War* by John Gray. This musical about the WW I flying ace will take place in the Rice Theatre.

### MUSIC

SUB Theatre, Edmonton Chamber Music Society, 434-6970, 483-5870 or 437-2379

Jan. 23, 8 pm. The Fine Arts Quartet from the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee perform works by Bartok, Arriaga and Mendelssohn. Admission is by season subscription.

#### Convocation Hall

The Department of music presents two concerts at 8 pm.

Jan. 21, The University of Alberta String Quartet.

Jan. 24, Lethbridge Baroque Ensemble.

#### Espace Tournesol, 11845-77 St., 471-5235

Jan. 19, 8 pm Espace Tournesol presents avant-garde jazz saxophonist, Erich Stach from London, Ontario. Stach has been an active member of the avant-garde jazz scene since the early 70's. From 1971 until 1976 he founded and led the London Experimental Jazz Quartet giving concerts and educational music seminars in clubs and schools across Canada and Europe. Stach has toured Europe and released two albums, *Invisible Ensemble* and *Erich Stach-Fruit From Another Garden*. Appearing with Stach will be percussionist Dennis Brown. Tickets are \$3.50 and are available at the door.

Edmonton Public Library, 7 Sir Winston Churchill Square, 423-2331

Jan. 18, 8:30 pm. The latest reincarnation of Stringband; Bob Bossin, Terry King and Nancy Ahern, the newest member of the group, bring you Canadian folk music at its best. Tickets for the concert, \$6 for adults and \$4 for students, are available at Woodward's and the door. Call 426-0990 for further information.

### READINGS

#### SUB Theatre

Jan. 18, 12 noon, Tom Wayman will be reading his own work. Also included will be works by Edmonton poet Doug Bentley, read by Kelly Graves. The reading is free and is part of a regular schedule of readings sponsored by the SUB Gallery.

### RADIO

#### CJSR, 432-5244

*Rendezvous*, Thursday, 9:10 p.m. CJSR's weekly music special featuring new releases, record reviews, profiles, live performances and interviews with recording artists in the music business.

Jan. 24, Ray Davies of the Kinks talks about *Low Budget*.

Jan. 31, a profile of Canadian guitarist Pat Travers.

*Science Magazine*, Saturday, 5 p.m. The latest news from the world of science and medicine courtesy of the BBC.

*Campus Sports*, Sunday, 1:30 p.m. Campus, amateur and professional sports.

*Probe*, Sunday, 4 p.m. CJSR's weekly newsmagazine takes a look at campus, local, national and world news.

*Tempo*, Sunday, 5 p.m. Classical performers and composers are featured.

*Around the Town*, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 5 p.m. A guide to entertainment, events and recreation activities in Edmonton.

*Golden Bear Hockey*, CJSR presents live coverage of all Golden Bear home and away games.

Jan. 18 and 19, 7 p.m. Bears vs. Saskatchewan Huskies.

Jan. 25-26, 7:30 p.m. Bears vs. UBC Thunderbirds at Varsity Arena. All these CJSR programs can be heard on 1580 AM in the Lister Hall Residence Complex and on 99.1 Capital FM and 90.9 QC Cable F in the city.