

Bland but worth a peek

The Big Chill Odeon II

Review By Sally-Ann Mowat

The *Big Chill* is described in its promo material as "the feel-good movie of 1983." I don't think the copy man saw the show.

This movie has its moments. It made me laugh, and it made me cry; its opening shots were intriguing, and it offers a sensitive — if not exactly original — portrayal of the gulf between the hopes of youth and the achievements of maturity.

On the whole, however, *The Big Chill* is sadly tepid. I suspect that there may be, somewhere, an original screenplay of better quality, but that too many conflicting interests were allowed a say during production; the result is an unsatisfying compromise between social statement and entertainment of the non-thought-provoking variety.

The plot reunites, for one weekend, eight friends attending the funeral of one

of their number. In common, they have only the past, its ideals and optimism — and this is what they proceed to talk about. The subsequent intervention of life has led each of the eight in a direction unimagined then. Essentially, *The Big Chill* is about their realization of, and reaction to this fact.

Some of these characters are more three-dimensional than others. Most are believable at some point. The big let-down is a sense that either the writer could not reach a conclusion, or commercial interests dictated a specific conclusion be reached. Toward the end of the film, the characters begin to make decisions incongruent with their behavior up to that point; and the ending itself feels forced. Ah, well.

If you're a mature student, *The Big Chill* might touch some tender spots, but you're not in for any new insights. If you're still young and idealistic, you will probably think this movie overly sentimental. Would it be contrary of me to add that it's fair entertainment value all the same?

Up and Coming

EXHIBITIONS

Lawrence Christmas: Canadian Coal Miners — Photographs, Edmonton Art Gallery until Oct. 30.

Walter Darby Bannard — Paintings and clay relief, Edmonton Art Gallery until Oct. 30.

Galapagos: Born of the Sea — Wildlife photographs by Feodor Pitcairn, Provincial Museum until Oct. 16.

Campbell Soup Tureens — From the Campbell Museum in Camden, New Jersey, at the Provincial Museum until Oct. 23.

Inuit Art World — Photographs by John Reeves, Photography Gallery, Centennial Library until Oct. 31.

Bird Cage Series: Helen Zenith — Mixed media, Foyer Gallery Centennial Library until Oct. 28.

Gary Olson — Recent work, Graphica Art Gallery until Oct. 22.

Sharon Visser — Photography, Shadows Art Gallery until Oct. 21.

Silversmiths — works by Karen Cantine, Anthony Derby and Ian Medland, Beaver House Gallery from October 15 to Nov. 19.

Cynthia Short/Moy Mah — Sculpture and video, Latitude 53 Society of Artists from Oct. 12 to Nov. 6.

Joseph Bueys — Graphic Work, Ring House Gallery until October 23.

Swiss Posters — From the Swiss Embassy in Ottawa, Ring House Gallery until Oct. 30.

Painter's Country — Paintings by Gabor Nagy, LeMarchand Gallery until Oct. 19.

Winnipeg West: Painting and Sculpture 1945-1970 — Post-war art development, 83 selections at Edmonton Art Gallery until Oct. 30.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Pro Coro Canada — Choir and Chamber Orchestra, Bach: Magnificat, D-Dur, and Handel: Dixit Dominus, at St. Joseph's Cathedral, 8 pm, Oct. 16. Tickets 420-1247.

Edmonton Symphony Orchestra — Claude Frank, piano, Uri Mayer, conductor. Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 3, and Bruckner: Symphony No. 7 at Jubilee Auditorium, 8 pm, Oct. 14 and 15. Tickets 433-9390.

Edmonton Symphony Orchestra — Andras Schiff, piano, Uri Mayer, conductor. Mendelssohn: Fingals Cave, Mozart: Piano Concerto No. 20, and Symphony No. 41, Jupiter, Jubilee Auditorium, 8 pm, Oct. 20. Tickets 433-9390.

Claude Frank Masterclass — Piano, Con-Hall Arts Building, 1 pm, Oct. 15. Tickets U of A Department of Music. 432-3263.

The University of Alberta Symphonic Wind Ensemble — Fordyce Pier, director, Con-Hall, Arts Building, 8 pm, Oct. 16. Tickets U of A Department of Music. 432-3263.

Nicholas Arthur Kilburn Memorial Concert — Featuring pianist Shura Cherkassky, Con-Hall, Arts Building, 8 pm October 18. Tickets U of A Department of Music.

The Paderborn Cathedral Choir — 100 voices from West Germany singing a capella, Gregorian Chant and more. St. Joseph's Cathedral, 8 pm, Oct. 13. Tickets BASS.

Piano and Violin Recital — Helen Buick and Hugh Davies. Mozart: 'Sonata K 301,' Prokofiev: 'Sonata Opus 94,' and Beethoven: 'Sonata Opus 47 Kreutzer.' Provincial Museum, 8 pm, Oct. 16. Free.

THEATRE

The Lark — By Jean Anouilh at Citadel's Shocter Theatre evenings at 8 pm, Matinees at 2 pm, until Oct. 22. Tickets 425-1820.

The Supporting Cast — By George Furth at Stage West Theatre until Nov. 20. Tickets 484-0821. No performances Mondays.

The Winter's Tale — By William Shakespeare at Walderdale Theatre until Oct. 15. Tickets BASS or 427-6530.

Sister Mary Ignatius Explains it all for You, and The Actor's Nightmare — By Christopher Durang presented by Phoenix Theatre at Walter H. Kassa Theatre, Jubilee Auditorium until Oct. 23. Tickets BASS or 433-2531.

Les Fourberies De Scapin — By Moliere presented by Theatre Francais d'Edmonton at Faculte St. Jean Auditorium from Oct. 15 to Oct. 22. Tickets 469-0829.

The Good Doctor — By Neil Simon presented by Studio Theatre, University of Alberta at Corbett Hall from Oct. 20 to Oct. 29. Tickets Room 3-146, Fine Arts Centre or 432-2495.

Surprise, Surprise — By Michel Tremblay presented by Nexus Theatre at Centennial Library Theatre (Box Lunch Theatre) and Sid's Fine Foods Restaurant (Late Night Theatre) from Oct. 18 to Nov. 6. Tickets, times and info 439-3476.

How I Got that Story — By Amlin Gray at Citadel Rice Theatre until Oct. 28. Tickets BASS and 425-1820.

In Deo — An Indian Musical at SUB Theatre Oct. 18 and 19. Tickets BASS.

FILM:

Casablanca — 1942 USA, SUB Theatre 8 pm Oct. 13.

Monty Python's The Meaning of Life — 1983 Great Britain, SUB Theatre 8 pm Oct. 14.

Sophie's Choice — 1983 USA, SUB Theatre 8 pm Oct. 15.

The Draughtsman's Contract — 1982 Great Britain, comedy-mystery set in the 17th century. An artist makes an unusual bargain: 12 drawings for 12 sexual favours. Edmonton Film Society International Series, SUB Theatre 8 pm Oct 17.

Seduced and Abandoned — 1954 Italy, a black comedy about an innocent girl made pregnant. Edmonton Film Society Foreign Classic Series, Tory Theatre 8 pm Oct 19.

The Consequence — 1977 Germany, a 40 year-old actor is put in prison for homosexual acts. National Film Theatre 7:15 pm Zeidel Theatre Oct. 12.

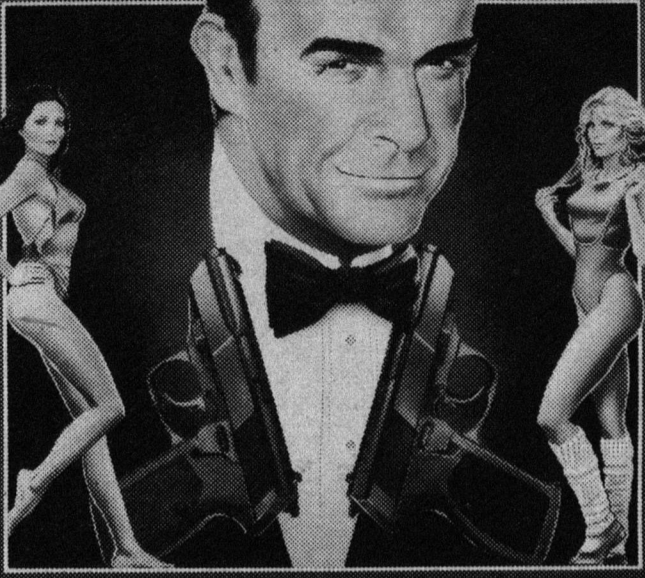
Il Bidone — 1955 Italy, a fat, middle-aged petty crook spends his life digging small sums of money out of poor and ignorant dupes. Fellini. NFT 9:15 Oct. 12.

Hamlet — 1969 Great Britain, with Nicol Williamson. NFT 7 pm Oct. 13.

You're a Big Boy Now — 1967 USA, Coppola's second film about a young man determined to learn about life and sex by leaving home to explore the bizarre world of New York City. NFT Oct 13 and 14 at 9:15 and Oct. 15 at 7:15.

Slave of Love — USSR, follows the feeble struggles of a little film company bravely and blindly trying to produce cheap melodrama movies in the midst of the post-World War I revolution. NFT Oct. 15 9:15 and Oct. 16 7:15.

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In accordance with local custom.

EINE KLINE NACHTMUSIK

Draft beer by the stein 10 oz.	\$1.00
Nurenborg Hot Chocolate	\$1.25
Lowenbrau	\$2.50
Bernkastler Kufurstlay 6 oz. glass/bottle	\$2.00/\$10.00
Wintertanz 6 oz. glass/bottle	\$2.00/\$10.00
Burg Layer Schloss Kapellea 6 oz. glass/bottle	\$2.00/\$10.00
German Rye Bread by the Basket	\$1.50
Sauerkraut Soup	\$2.50
Berlin style potato pancakes	\$4.50
Bavarian Sausage	\$5.50
Brandenberg Smoked Meat	\$5.50
Bigos	\$5.50
Rhineland Saurbraten	\$9.00
Wiener Schitzel	\$12.50
Black Forest Cake	\$3.00
Hamburg Chocolate Ice Cream	\$3.00

RESERVATIONS SUGGESTED 432-7275

Sunday Brunch 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM