

Reel Reviews

Spies, Spies, and more Spies!

By TIMOTHY LETHBRIDGE
Brunswickan Staff

Invasion USA

"Invasion USA" has a very improbable plot, and only makes a couple of points that are worth thinking about. It is just another "strong-man-hero" type of film.

Chuck Norris plays *Matt Hunter*, a former member of an intelligence agency (a cross between FBI and CIA), who is called back to action to prevent his arch-enemy *Rostov* (played by Richard Lynch) and his band of mercenaries from terrorizing the inhabitants of Miami.

The title "Invasion USA" implies the need for millions of men; *Rostov*, however, aims to destabilize the "American system" by isolated acts of terrorism. People, for example, become hostile to the police after *Rostov's* men pose as police officers in the perpetration of barbarous acts.

This film causes us to wonder how prepared we are for terrorism in our own continent. One also wonders about the consequences of the lack of trust a certain proportion of the population has in the authorities? One problem which disturbed me was the perpetuation of the idea that the Russians may at any given point suddenly decide to invade the U.S. If people really believe this it does not bode well for the prospects for arms

control or detente.

The plot as a whole had a large lack of credibility as did many of the scenes. It is inconceivable to think that the system could actually be destabilized by such a group, especially since they act overtly and are relatively few in number. If we were to stretch our imaginations one could visualize a successful version of this escapade in one city, but it could never spread throughout the country as this film suggests.

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"Invasion USA" was written in part by Chuck Norris himself (he teamed up with James Bruner.) I would suggest that Norris stick to acting in the future. The acting overall in this film was moderate.

Although this was supposed to be an action movie, I found even that category to be weak, "Invasion USA" was directed by Joseph Zito.

Target

This is another film in which a retired intelligence agent comes back into action to confront an enemy from his past. The comparison of "Target" and "Invasion USA", however, stops there.

Gene Hackman plays *Walter Lloyd*, and Matt Dillon plays

his son *Chris*. *Walter's* wife is kidnapped while on a vacation in Europe forcing her husband to come searching. *Chris*, a recent college drop-out, tags along and (against the wishes of his father) takes an important role in the action.

The character of *Chris* shows marked change that is prompted both by the new situations he encounters and by gradually drawing together with his father as he finds the truth about his father's past.

"Target" has an intriguing and suspenseful climax that answers questions raised in earlier action. The level of suspense throughout the film is good, and we are never able to guess what will happen next.

RATINGS OF RECENT FILMS

Film	Cinema	L	Y	G	S	E	S	N	T	Y	Y
Target	Plaza	A-	A-	A-	A-	B+	B	A-	A-	A-	B-
Sweet Dreams	Na'sis	B+	A	A-	B+	B-	A-	B	B+	A	B
Back to The Future	Plaza	B-	C	B-	B-	D	B	B+	B-	C	B
Invasion USA	Na'sis	D	C	B-	B-	D	B	B	D	F	B

Throughout the film we are introduced to the deep secrets and unwritten rules of interna-

tional espionage-the film is very timely given the current state of spy scandals and double-agent defections

Bartlett Fine and Mellow

by Karen Mair
BRUNSWICKAN STAFF

Although The Woodshed is supposed to be a form of "alternative entertainment", the performer last weekend was anything but. Friday and Saturday night Andrew Bartlett sang and provided guitar accompaniment to his own music and the show was as good as, if not better than any other show elsewhere in Fredericton.

I was suitably impressed with his performance. In fact, I was surprised that I had not heard of him before because he has been around awhile and his music is well known. I went to The Woodshed to do a little work and I ended up listening



to some excellent original tunes of Bartlett's.

Bartlett did not have any fancy trimmings, nor did he need them. His smooth voice and guitar skills were enough.

I hesitate to describe his music and style as mellow yet, he was at times slow and certainly relaxing. Bartlett was never boring as some performers tend to be if they are playing stuff that they wrote themselves.

A wide range of style became apparent when in the second set Bartlett "pulled off" a waltz.... it was... I'm not sure, but I think that the name of it was *Sunday Waltz*. I have never seen a solo guitarist perform a waltz of their own composition.

Bartlett obviously had a large repertoire and from it he chose songs that the audience could relate to and understand. Songs about cigarettes, parties, summer pubs in the SUB and even one titled *School Boys* were well recieved by the small but appreciative crowd at The Woodshed.

Overall, I really enjoyed Andrew Bartlett's show. His music is slow and then driving he never tries the listener. With catchy guitar picking and stylish lyrics there is rarely a dull moment. Bartlett enjoys playing and that really comes through in his work. I intend to keep my ears open for his next show - why don't you?

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