

Canadians produce intelligent teen-flicks

Ups and Downs
West Mall, Rialto

review by Ninette Gironella

Ups and Downs bears a passing resemblance to *Porky's*; they both deal with adolescence and are Canadian. However, the resemblance ends there. In its gentle depiction of the problems of high school students, *Ups and Downs* possesses the same realism and understanding as the critically acclaimed *Gregory's Girl*.

The film deals with the students of a private school and the changes they undergo. Filmed at St. Michael's University Preparatory School in Victoria, the film uses not professional actors, but real students

and teachers to depict the characters. Director Paul Almond coaxes excellent performances from these ordinary people which adds to the realistic effect of the film.

Anyone who has ever tried to diet will empathize with the not-so-fat girl as she endeavours to lose 10 pounds for the school play. Then there are the two senior boys who are determined to break every school rule before Thanksgiving. Naturally there are students who don't quite fit in: the overprotected girl who is the brunt of practical jokes, the shy musician who feels alienated by his peers, and the rugby player who gets kicked out of the game for losing his temper at the referee. There is also the rich snob, who believes herself heiress to everything she wants. However, don't let

these simplistic descriptions lead you to believe the characters are stereotypes; there is a complexity to each person that makes them real. You believe in the existence of these characters and feel for their heartaches and triumphs.

Ups and Downs is the kind of movie the Canadian film industry should aim for -

it develops local talent and has a national base. Australia and Scotland have moved in this direction with great financial and

critical success while avoiding the glitz of Hollywood. *Ups and Downs* deserves to be seen, not just as a Canadian movie, but as an excellent film.

Ring House solicits your support

One of the U of A's best kept secrets is the fascinating array of collections housed with various faculties and departments. Most major universities have a variety of collections which are an integral part of the teaching and research programs, either in museum situations or as teaching collections in departmental laboratories.

The U of A does not have a major museum associated with the campus, nor does it have a major art gallery facility such as the Nickle Art Gallery at the University of Calgary. The collections at the U of A, however, are very large and significant. They are world-wide in scope and include natural history specimens, man-made artifacts, and art objects.

For many years, the problems associated with caring for these collections have been a concern of the University as a whole. In partial answer to these concerns, the University Collections Centre was formed in 1977 as a central service facility for all the collections. Care and preservation, display and interpretation, adequate storage, registration and documentation are some of the duties of the central staff who are housed in the Ring Houses numbers One and Four. These activities are also carried out within specific departments and faculties housing major collections.

Ring House One is the public exhibition venue for the University Collections Centre. As such, it is most inadequate for this purpose and the University recognizes this as a fact. There has been a major effort to raise private funds in an attempt to improve the physical facilities for the care of the University Collections.

The "Friends of the University of Alberta Museums" has recently been

formed and hopes to develop a separate, sustaining society to support the various goals of the University Collections. Organizers invite you to become a charter member and hope you will be able to join them at the inaugural meeting which is to be held at the Faculty Club, the University of Alberta, in the Papachase Room, at 4:30 PM on Thursday, March 8, 1984.

The organization will give interested individuals the opportunity to become more intimately involved with the collections on campus. There also will be exciting volunteer work available in the areas of research, documentation, various departmental collections, and tour-guiding, so that people can work in the areas of their choice. The activities of the "Friends" organization will ultimately aid in the raising of funds to support the collections on campus.

The initial membership fee to join "Friends of the University of Alberta Museums" organization is \$10.00. For this the group will keep you informed of all collections activities, arrange for tours of restricted collections, invite you to become closer to the activities of your university.

Plus, every member will have the knowledge that his or her support helped to keep the University Collections and the Ring House Gallery operating. By becoming an inaugural member of the "Friends of the University of Alberta Museums" you will also have the opportunity to help decide the specific activities which interest you, personally, the most.

After the short inaugural meeting, there will be a cash bar. The Ring House Gallery is open on Thursday evenings, and the exhibition of recent acquisitions will be available for viewing.



Valdi conducts singalong in SUB Theatre Feb. 18

photo Bill Ingles

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