

Children: Maritime movie magic

By KEN QUIGLEY

Children of a Lesser God reveals a silent porousness to anger, sensuality and elegance, choreographed masterfully around the misty ports of Saint John, New Brunswick.

This is a story of a speech therapist for the deaf who falls in love with an enigmatic and embittered beauty deprived of hearing since birth, and bears the scars of her disability.

The problems these two encounter circle around her resistance to what she perceives as his pygmalion efforts to change her.

Children of a Lesser God appears, from the start, to know where its going, unfortunately so does most of the audience. This movie is an aesthetic tapestry of insight and passion woven brilliantly around a decaying stump of a plot; one not unlike that applied to every *Love Boat* sequence seen over the past eight years: the meeting -- the confessions of unbridled love -- the conflict -- and the reconciliation.

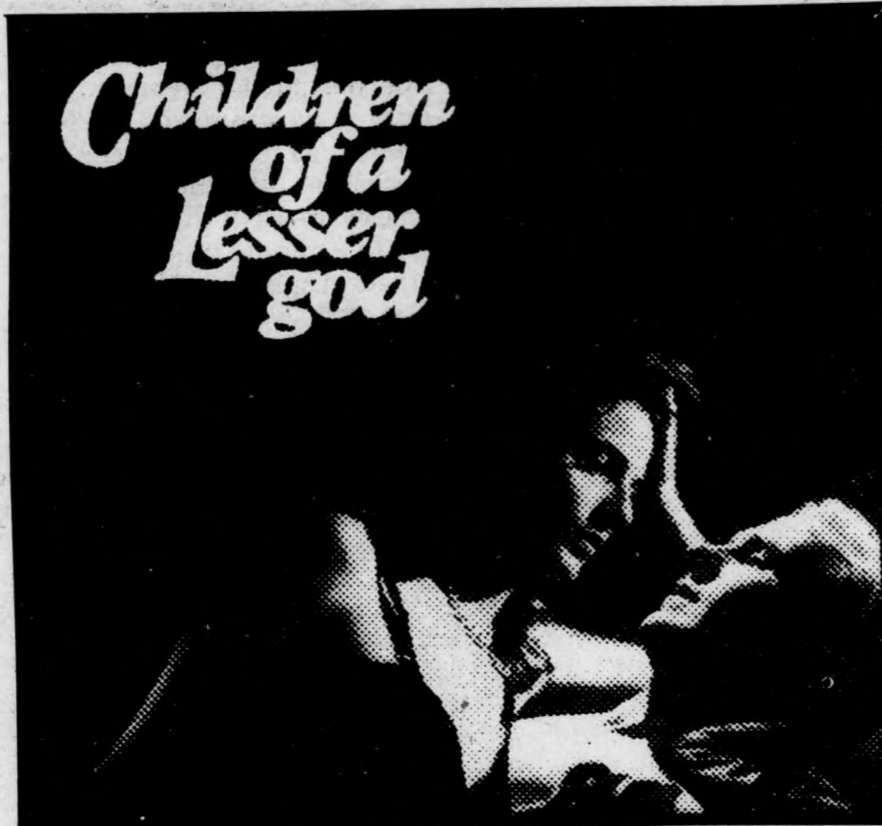
Furthermore, the preoccupation with the love scenario, hurts the movies continuity in other areas. The audience witnesses a talented teacher approaching his students in an innovative and effective way ... effective for all but one. He's an anathema the teacher does not deal with, and as a result, the movie suf-

fers accordingly.

But what it gives up on predictability and completeness, *Children of a Lesser God* takes back in its powerful individual performances,

goodness.

Marlee Matlin plays the object of his affection, and endears herself to all. She swept the audience off its feet, and with stunning clarity and



cinematography and underlying message.

William Hurt (*The Big Chill*, *Gorky Park*, *Kiss of the Spiderwoman*) turned in a moving and compelling performance as the love sick speech instructor trying to feel his way through a relationship. Hurt lends to the character and the movie an air of untarnished sympathy, humour and

sexuality, carried them through a myriad of tempered emotions.

Children of a Lesser God reminds us that it's the product of disabilities, rather than the disability itself that destroys people; and that pursuing understanding of those disabilities can yield wonderful rewards.

I give it an A-

By JOHN ADAM

At first thought of going to see *Children of a Lesser God*, I felt very negative. Not because of the actors or story, but because I had been "filmed to death." Being in Saint John while the production crews were filming, I couldn't avoid hearing about the film, over and over again. I had an added problem; Parents who often had to visit Rothesay Collegiate School.

At the same time, I felt intrigued by *Children of a Lesser God*. I wanted to see how they would make a place as dismal as Saint John, look "filmable."

As the movie was playing, I came upon a feeling for the Saint John area that I had never had before. Seeing the river made me long for the return of last summer; I spent a long time out on the river exploring Minister's face and other forms of land. Maybe I was caught up in movieland, but when I return there, I will always have the vision that the movie created in my head. I also experienced a thrill in observing the transformation of Rothesay Collegiate School. The dining hall I saw in the film looked real; the dining hall I saw the last time I was at the School looked more like it was a reconstruction of a Dicken's hall in one of his novels.

Aside from these thrills, and I steal this description from a friend who also saw the movie, I noticed a sense of true feeling in William Hurt's acting. I saw

true emotion in his face while he was at the dance, and throughout the movie. The film also reflects that there is still a lot of ignorance toward deaf people in our society; but it (the film) does not spend time preaching to the audience about what people should do.

The romance between Hurt and his counterpart (who's name slips my mind at the time) is tastefully portrayed as a realistic, warm, relationship. Once again, the scenery is another asset to the film, Saint John/Rothesay actually looked romantic!

When I came out of the film, I was so deeply moved, that I felt I needed some time to quietly reflect on what I had just seen. In my opinion *Children of a Lesser God* is a worthwhile film to see. One thing that amazed me was the fact that no one in the audience moved, until the credits had all rolled by. The people of Saint John and Black's Harbour really scored big with this film. Hopefully, other film companies will take advantage of the lower production costs, and "filmable" landscapes of Canada, and create films like *Children of a Lesser God* in the future.

Are they that tough?

By BLUE MOTHER GOOSE
Brunswickan Staff

Well, I guess it's best to start this review off by saying that *Crocodile Dundee* is a rather popular movie. I arrived at the theatre (admittedly a bit late) and found that the "Croc" had sold out. So, I waddled on over to see *Tough Guys* instead. It turned out to be a pleasant surprise.

Burt Lancaster and Kirk Douglas play a couple of ex-cons who have spent the last thirty years of their lives in prison for taking things that don't belong to them. For example, a train. The two buddies are still remarkably fit for their respective ages of 64 and 72 and it comes as a surprise to

them to find that the "old gang" (which they try to revive for a bank heist) are now the old "old gang", (wheelchairs, hearing aids, and canes do unfortunately enforce some limitations when it comes to robbing banks.)

The storyline is not incredibly challenging; it's about on par with the spaghetti westerns and, taken as such, is satisfactory. There are some good scenes, situations, and dialogues, but what makes the movie worthwhile is the appropriateness with which Burt Lancaster and Kirk Douglas play their tough guy roles. There is a sense of both chivalry and impish mischievousness about the two misfits that adds almost a

depth of character to the typically flat, impassionate tough guy role. A good job by both of these veteran actors.

As much as I despise classifications and ratings, I suppose they must perform some useful function, so here it is in a golden goose egg:

Rated PiG - which either means Pretty Good or rated by a swine.

Classification - action/comedy or comedy/action.

Appeal - broad i.e. girls will like it. (Bad punmanship)

On a scale of a flounder to a salmon -- halibut (B+)

Your Corner

Marie-Paule...

Cradled in my heart are memories... of your soft grey eyes staring, quietly, on my face while I pour my soul to you... and of your loving arms around my shoulders as I face rebelliously, the ocean wind, in tears ... and of your warm smile when I yet managed to come up with a senseless idea... and of your laughter when I know I really did it... and of a small bird nest... and of popcorn and of my dearest friend.

P.S. Happy Birthday to my best friend M-P. How does it feel to be a fifth of a century young?

Luo
Carole-Marie
xox