Celluloid fluffery not very filling

Jewel of the Nile
Twentieth Century Fox
Capitol Square

review by Dean Bennett

The Jewel of the Nile falls short of its goal of innocuous escapism because it can't make up its mind — is it a romance-adventure or is it a parody of one?

The original movie, *Romancing the Stone,* suffered from the same malady. *Jewel* seems to want to have its cinematic cake and eat it too. By vacilating between two genres it never allows the audience to indulge in one without the other rudely interrupting. The end result is that after a while you just don't care anymore.

Jewel chronicles the further adventures of writer Joan Wilder (Kathleen Turner) and friend Jack Colton (Michael Douglas). In this adventure Wilder and Colton help someone called the "Holy Man" (Avner Eisenberg) unite the tribes of the Nile and concomitantly defeat the autocratic aspirations of one Sheik Omar (Spiros Focas).

The problem with the parody in this film is twofold: it interrupts the flow of the action and it goes for the short term laugh at the long term expense of the movie's believability.

The jokes deal primarily with the Americanization of foreign cultures. For example, when Jack and Ralph (Danny DeVito) first arrive in Africa they are met by a band of renegade nomads. At first they look like ordinary dirty bedouins, but underneath their dirty robes they have ghetto blasters and walkmans.

These jokes eradicate any semblance of tension in the movie. The film isn't taking the story seriously so why should you? As a result, though, you never worry if Jack and Joan will "make it out alive". It's now a light comedy.

Since the script has been rendered useless you sit back and wait for the funny moments in the film, and there are a few (Joan's publisher tells her that Jack's favorite author is probably the guy who wrote 'Pull Tab to Open"), but they can't carry the film.

Jewel of the Nile also suffers from a common Hollywood malaise called the "Bigger is Better" syndrome. There are many action scenes in the film (the last two thirds is actually just one long banal chase scene) and most of them involve some sort of hand-to-hand combat. But instead of offering us something new in the climax we just get one more fight scene — only bigger than its predecessors. It's overkill and since the ending is never in doubt the end of the movie can't come soon enough. *Jewel* overstays its welcome by at least three quarters of an hour.

The film is simple celluloid fluffery, visually appealing but not very filling. Cinema for the sweet tooth.

The Jewel of the Nile

Musical PURSUIT

by Don Teplyske

Welcome to the second year of Musical Pursuit.

This year our sponsor is once again Auracle Records, that dynamic little shop at 10802 - 82 Ave. Musical Pursuit winners will receive five dollar record tokens redeemable at Auracle.

This week's column has no focus, being a grab bag of questions that have accumulated over the past two months. Contestants can drop their answers off at the Gateway, Room 282, SUB until Saturday. The winner will be selected by a random drawing of the entries with the most correct responses.

1. Recently, Nick Lowe had a Much Music hit with I Knew The Bride, a song he wrote several years ago. Who originally recorded the song in 1977?

2. Thin Lizzy's Philip Lynott died Saturday in London. What was the title of his first solo album, released in 1980.

3. List, in order of release date, the seven singles from Bruce Springsteen's *Born In The U.S.A.*

4. A true one hit wonder, he hit #16 in July, 1979 with "Born to be Alive". Who is this singer?

5. In 1977, the Brothers Johnson released a single in a sleeve that smelled of strawberries. What was the title of this hit?

6. In 1983, who recorded the Top 100 hit "Jukebox" that contain these lyrics: "Don't put another dime in the jukebox, I don't want to hear that song no more."?

7. Who produced Prefab Sprout's second album *Steve McQueen — Two Wheels Good*?

8. What record label has released R.E.M.'s three albums?

9. From what bands do the members of Love and Rockets ("Ball of Confusion") originate?

10. Another Nick Lowe question. What granddaughter of Mother Maybelle Carter did Nick marry?

Answers will be printed next week.

QUIZ: Transportation 500

Please answer the following multiple choice questions.

1. What is a Student Pak??
  a) Four monthly transit passes (January - April) sold for $122.00
  b) Something available only to post-secondary students.
  c) A package only sold three times a year (September, January, May)
  d) All of the above

2. How does a Student Pak save you money?
  a) Allows unlimited travel, not just to classes.
  b) Buying monthly passes individually would cost more ($136.00).
  c) You never need pocket cash to take a transit trip.
  d) All of the above.

3. Where is a Student Pak available?
  a) The Bookstore, SUB
  b) Campus Drugs, 8623-112 Street
  c) Churchill LRT Station, 99 Street/102A Avenue below Sir Winston Churchill Square
  d) All of the above

4. What is the right choice for student transportation.
  a) Use Edmonton Transit.
  b) Buy a trimester "Student Pak".
  c) Save as much extra cash as possible.
  d) All of the above.

Answers: If you've answered 'd' for each question congratulations, you've passed the test!

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