

Flashman no royal treat

The British officer is a gentleman, brave, loyal and dedicated to duty, right? After you see *Royal Flash*, you'll see just how wrong that judgement can be.

If any of you saw the television version of "Tom Brown's Schooldays", you'll remember the evil and degenerate villain of rugby school, Flashman. That a drunkard and lecher of his depth might be accepted in an institute of higher learning may seem unbelievable to you, yet I assure you it happens. However, the pillars of the institute soon discover their error and kick Flashman out, facing him with the problem of finding an occupation suitable to a drinker and card-cheat. Since politics isn't open to him, he joins the army. Through a series of coincidences he becomes a hero despite the fact that he is a coward who would probably find it difficult not to kick a dying dog.

The movie opens with Flashman in a combined gambling and whorehouse. In the next hour and a half he is thrown into the company of Otto von Bismarck, the bed of a Queen and a duchess, and some of the most improbable and hilarious adventures this side of "The Three Musketeers."

The plot presents us with the same kind of union between Errol Flynn classics and The Three Stooges that Richard Lester used in his earlier versions of "The Three Musketeers." In one scene, Flashman duels with an improbable Hungarian, swinging from a chandelier until he falls off, only to have the chandelier fall on his head. In another, faced with a broken drawbridge, the leader of a group of soldiers

storming a castle orders one of his men to "form a bridge", after which everyone walks over him to enter the fort.

As slapstick, and as satire on the swashbuckling sagas of yesteryear, the movie is a delight.

Unfortunately though, like "The Four Musketeers", this movie is not quite as successful as "The Three Musketeers" in recreating this atmosphere. Despite the fact that the Lester version of Dumas' famous works, scripted by another of the Flashman series, owes as much to the spirit of the Flashman books as anything else, the movie version is

somewhat lacking. Perhaps it is impossible to transfer the insanity of those picturesque novels to the screen.

As well, the movie lacks some of the vitality of the first Lester effort. "The Three Musketeers" was a tour de force in the grand tradition, an original and entertaining interpretation of classic works. *Royal Flash* clearly owes much to the techniques of these early efforts, which simply are not as funny the second time.

Nonetheless, *Royal Flash* is a good movie. If you liked Lesters' earlier works, you'll probably like this one.

John Owen Robert Ferris

Reaney Day, Reaney week

James Reaney's widely acclaimed trilogy about the Donnelly tragedy will commence performance today by the NDWT Company in SUB Theatre.

Reaney has been with the company for years and is travelling with them on their eleven week tour. According to Suzanne Turnbull, a graduate of the U of A acting school and member of the company, Reaney wrote the plays for the company, first as a single work and then as a trilogy.

"People think that because it is a trilogy you have to see all three plays and see them in order," says Turnbull. "They don't have to be seen together - they're separate, complete plays in themselves."

Although the plays are individual works, she says that one of the problems the group has met with occurs when people wait until the end of the

week to catch a performance, and then are so impressed that they want to see the others as well. But, of course, by then it is too late.

For further details see the advertisement in this paper.

Guess what? Miss Chatelaine puts out

Prizes of \$500 and \$200 will be awarded to the winner and runner-up of the fifth annual Miss Chatelaine fiction competition.

The contest is open to young Canadian women and men under 26 on or before December 31, 1975. Manuscripts must be original and previously unpublished, excepting high-school and college publications.

Manuscripts must be typed, double-spaced, on paper no larger than 8½ x 11 inches. The author's name and address

must appear on every page (pages must be numbered and dated). Length should range between 2,500 and 5,000 words.

Entries must be mailed to Miss Chatelaine Fiction Competition, 481 University Ave., Toronto M5W 1A7, no later than November 30, 1975. With each entry, enclose an information sheet with your name, age, school or occupation, and address.

Judging will be done by Miss Chatelaine editors and honorary judges (Margaret

Neville have previously appeared together in Shakespeare poetry recitals in London and Cambridge. This is just a small part of Dame Peggy's career as she marks a half-century on the stage next year. She made her first professional appearance at 18 in *De Brutus*.

However, it wasn't until she was 40 that Dame Peggy escaped to ingenues to character roles, then she astonished audiences with her portrayal of Hedda Gabler in 1954. There has been no "pattern" to her work as she continues to explore new works by Harold Pinter and Samuel Beckett. Dame Peggy is an associate artist and director with the Royal Shakespeare Company in London.

Atwood, Margaret Laurence and Alice Munro). Winners will be announced in the Spring Fashion Issue 1976, on the newsstands in February. Winning entries will be published in *Miss Chatelaine* in 1976.

Entries will not be returned unless accompanied by a large stamped self-addressed envelope. All manuscripts will be kept until after the winners are announced. Every precaution will be taken with entries but Miss Chatelaine is not responsible for lost manuscripts.

Expose Yourself to CBC Radio



with Judy Lamarsh

JUDY

The kind of program that makes your morning complete — refreshing, provocative informative and just plain fun. weekdays 9:13 to 12 noon



Barbara Frum
"voted best public affairs broadcaster"

AS IT HAPPENS

The world is an instant newsmaker... strange, catastrophic, mystifying and laughable. AS IT HAPPENS takes you there direct. weeknights 6:30 to 8:00
"voted best program in Radio broadcasting"



Harry Elton, host

CROSS COUNTRY CHECK-UP

If you have something worth saying, why not tell everyone!

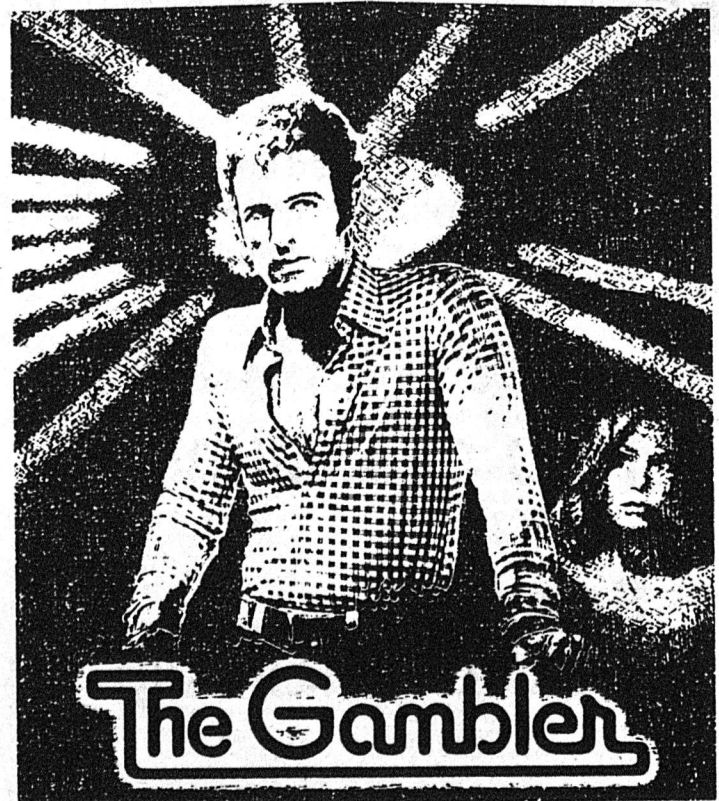
"Canada's only national open-line, phone-in program."
Sundays 3:10

CBC Radio 740

CBC RADIO SCHEDULE IN OCT. 31 EDITION OF THE TV TIMES.

students union

Cinema



SUNDAY, October 26

ADULT, NSFC

Two shows nightly
Doors open 6:30 - 9:00 pm
Complete showing 7:00 - 9:30 pm

SUB Theatre

Tickets at the door \$1.50
Students' Union members advance tickets \$1.00
Tickets available at the students' union box office HUB Mall
*Assoc. members-advance tickets \$1.50