

Nuclear free seas - Halifax?

by Munju Ravindra

Although you may have known this, most Haligonians are not aware that Halifax frequently welcomes nuclear-powered and nuclear-armed submarines into our harbour. The presence of GREENPEACE in Halifax this past week has hopefully opened people's eyes.

A GREENPEACE benefit was held last Tuesday at the Flamingo Cafe and Lounge, with all proceeds going to the Coalition for a Nuclear-Free Harbour. Performers included Lennie Gallant, a singer from P.E.I. who put on a great show with his sometimes lively, sometimes laid-back folk and celtic-inspired music. He was followed by a hilarious skit by three local actors about two fishermen who find a nuclear missile in the Halifax harbour, and the official incompetence they encounter as they attempt to return it to its rightful owner — the U.S. Navy. Concluding the

evening were the Spindoctors, a local reggae band who got the audience moving with lively renditions of old favourites.

In addition to the benefit, GREENPEACE made its presence known in other ways. On Friday, a direct action was done by GREENPEACE members and several local activists. Floating 'No Parking' signs were placed in front of the Shearwater jetty where nuclear submarines are frequently stationed. Two of the activists were arrested on charges of trespassing on Department of Defense property and have a court date scheduled for later this month.

The MV GREENPEACE, the largest ship in the GREENPEACE fleet, was visiting Halifax last weekend as part of their international Nuclear Free Seas campaign. The boat was open to the public on Saturday and Sunday, and volunteers distributed information to an average of 500-700 visitors a day. The next stop



photo: Greenpeace

The M/V Greenpeace, once the organization's Antarctic expedition vessel, will be touring the Eastern seaboard this summer, in the Reclaim the Coast campaign, highlighting environmental problems plaguing the coast.

for the MV GREENPEACE is Newcastle, N.B., where they intend to confront the issue of pulp and paper pollution. From there, the MV GREENPEACE will continue on its quest for nuclear- and pollution-free seas.

by Sandy Mackay

Dear Eric,

You are an actor, maybe you can tell me, what makes a film Canadian? I ask because I went to see a screening of *The Outside Chance of Maximilien Glick*. It is nominated for a Genie Award.

This film is about Max, a twelve-year-old Jewish kid, getting ready for his Bar Mitzvah. But the rabbi dies, so Max's grandfather hires a new rabbi, sight-unseen, to speed poor little Max through the process. Of course, the new rabbi is an orthodox Jew, a Hasidic with the fore-locks and the hat. He stands out a bit in beautiful Beausejour Manitoba. The real crux of the show is that Max doesn't really like being Jewish, because of prejudices from both sides of the fence. This movie is really about racism in a multicultural society.

It is a notably Canadian movie because everyone is after advice of sorts and everyone gets the best advice from someone outside her or his own culture.

While having tea with a Japanese woman and a Brit piano teacher, Max hears the zen-like "never let other people's limitations become yours." The Hasidic Rabbi Tritelman gets this one from a dour scottish granny, "fresh air into musty corners" (she was talking spring cleaning, he was thinking old dreams and stagnant traditions). Only in Canada eh?

MAX GLICK



The good camera effects are worth mentioning as well. The actors acknowledge the camera every so often, and I like that; it shifts the pace of the movie a little. When Max is stressed out, they shoot his point-of-view through a fish-eye lens, creating a kind of horrific vision. Max stands ready to put a christmas angel on the top of a tree while his ancestors howl sacrilege and guilt

in his ears. The Ukranian family stares down at him, waiting.

There are some excellent big prairie sky shots, sheets of music against that wide empty space, not contrived scenery footage. And editing mistakes! I like these especially: they remind the viewer of the techi who has been holding that boom mike for god knows how long, and movies just aren't made without those people.

What else did I like about this movie? The Music! Great clanging noisy Klezmer stuff, the traditional Jewish Hora-dancing music! Fiddles and accordians and clarinets all wailing away in minor keys. I love it!

So why is this a great movie? It is another Canadian movie about a little person who solves his problems through discussion, not gun fights or car chases. It pokes fun at everybody, but not maliciously; it is about morality but nothing is pushed in your face. It is gentle, but it's not Walt Disney syrup. It reminded me a little of *I've Hear the Mermaids Singing*, because both movies deal with the personal politics of someone who is not beautiful, rich, strong, crazy, a cop... just someone.

Anyways, you should go see this movie if you get a chance. If you don't like it, write me back and tell me and I'll send you \$5 for your trust. Say 'HI' to Nance for me.

Peace, Sandy.

The *Outside Chance of Maximilien Glick* is playing at the Wormwood Cinema on Gottingen St. until Sept. 14.

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