



Lights, Camera, Action!

By DAN MERKUR

I went to see Bless the Beasts and Children the other day, and I enjoyed it. Like many of Stanley Kramer's films, it has the flaw of being a little too obvious a crusade to make such a big deal about crusading within the film's context.

Kramer is the man who made Inherit the Wind, the brilliant film of the play of the Scopes' Monkey Trial; the hilarious and marvellous It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World; the abysmal Ship of Fools, so ponderous I've never been able to sit through it; the delightful Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?; and last year's The Secret of Santa Vittoria, which I didn't bother seeing.

He's a man who understands that film, by virtue of its mass exposure, is a political tool and that it must therefore be used wisely. However, I'd just as soon have seen a good-time John Wayne oater by Howard Hawks as Bless the Beasts and Children.

The film deals with a bunch of problem kids, misfits, who are sent to a summer camp out west to have rugged do-it-themselves men made of them, but who find in their counselor, a man who gets his jollies sneaking booze and looking at girlie magazines and takes them to a buffalo shoot, a very sorry example of the redneck man's man. They go on a crusade to free a herd of buffalo that are penned so that hunters can take pot shots at them for the trophies of the head and the meat, at the cost of \$40 the licence, paid to the U.S. government which runs the operation. So the kids go on an odyssey at the end of their summer at camp, where they've learned only how to take other people's guff and fend for themselves privately, to free the buffalo, nature's misfits. A very pretty crusade, wot?

The portrait of the parents is frighteningly accurate. The portrait of the kids is frighteningly accurate.

very well made, polished in the old Hollywood school of polish out of which Kramer has come.

The cinematography is very very good. The script is polished but not tight enough. The action is slow in parts. It's a very good film: just a trifle slow moving and too bloody obvious.

Now, I like a good film that has something to say. My definition of a horror film is Ingmar Bergman's The Silence. I saw it once: I may see it again if I do a paper on Bergman. But I like an evening's entertainment out of a movie, and while Bless the Beasts and Children is a very nice movie, it isn't quite my cup of tea. I'd rather watch Bogey on the tube. Still and all, I'd recommend the film to those parents with problem kids, to those kids with problem parents who can't get over it by themselves, to conservationists to fuel their fervor, to people who like a good cry. Me, I like James Cagney and Gary Cooper, Bette

Davis, Paul Newman, Joan Crawford, Garbo, Dietrich, Lillian Gish, and the Marx Brothers.

It's being shown tonight on campus, at 7:30 in Lecture Hall Two-L and Stanley Kramer will be present to answer questions. See for yourself. It's for free.

X X X

Anyway, Toronto Film Society (128 Glen Road) has its winter series brochure in the mail. For the Silent series, they're showing The Cameraman, with Buster Keaton, which I found tedious for Keaton; Murnau's Faust, a brilliant film with Emil Jannings; Dawn; Lazybones, a famous one I've never seen; The Unholy Three, an alright Lon Chaney horror film made towards the end of his career, and remade by him as a talkie that was allegedly better but is now lost; and The Goose Woman, supposed to be very good. Tickets: \$7 for the series, \$5 for students.

Their main series includes Pabst's Don Quixote, which I'm very excited about seeing, as Pabst was an incredibly brilliant German director of the 30s; Max Ophul's masterwork, Lola Montes, with Martine Carol, Peter Ustinov, Oskar Werner, Anton Walbrook, a color film by the man who made Letter from an Unknown Lady; William Wyler's The Good Fairy, reputed to be very good fun; John Ford's My Darling Clementine, still the best film about the shoot-out at the OK corral, with Henry Fonda, Walter Brennan and Victor Mature as Doc Halliday; Jean Renoir's La Grande Illusion, made by Renoir in 1937 in the hopes of averting the Hitlerian war, about the tragedy of the first World War, a brilliant film; Carol Reed's Odd Man Out, supposed to be first rate; I Live in Fear, by Akira Kurosawa starring Toshiro Mifune and quite famous; and some other stuff I don't know at all. That's \$12 for the series, \$10 for students and I'm going to that. See you there.

Summer filled with repeats by favourite artists

In the five months that you have not been scanning the pages (musical or otherwise) of Excalibur, nothing startling has taken the musical world by storm. Perennial favourites such as Paul McCartney, James Taylor, the Moody Blues, Joni Mitchell and all, merely repeated themselves, and in the glut of summer releases there were few high points. Nonetheless, this re-review will survey records you probably have committed to memory by now — a backwards glance, or blasts from the past, if you like. RAM, Paul McCartney (Capitol). Assisted by his talentless wife Linda, McCartney serves up some trivial fluff in his own popular style. If Michelle was your favourite Beatles' song, this album is for you. Very embarrassing.

Every Picture Tells A Story, Rod Stewart (Mercury)

Including the hit Maggie Mae, Every Picture is Stewart's most schizophrenic album yet. Alternating from great, gutsy hard rockers (notably the Temptations' I'm Losing You) and trite folk ballads, this is Stewart's most popular release to date.

Sticky Fingers, the Rolling Stones (Rolling Stones Records)

The problem with these guys is that they believe their own publicity. They are far from being the world's greatest band (their own words), and with this album the Stones come in at number twenty-two (just above the Bee Gees). Moonlight Mile is very good, but... To be fair, most of this album was recorded two years ago and is merely a collection of leftovers. I'll wait until the new album (to be released before Christmas) to pass judgement. Who's Next, the Who (Decca)

Great. Great. Great. Now, this is more like it. Excellent musicians combined with intelligent material, make this probably the Who's best so far. Buy this one!

Tapestry, Carole King (Ode)

For some reason this album is especially popular with Jewish girls. Tapestry is a pleasant album but, I feel, vastly over-rated. Having worked in a record store all summer and hearing Carole at least five times a day, six days a week, she does tend to get on one's nerves. Looking On, the Move (Capitol).

The Move could put out an album of polkas and I would like it. Far from Frankie Yankovick, and in a heavier vein than Shazam, Looking On is their best so far. It includes their high energy non-hit Do The Brontosaurus and six others. Buy this one and force your friends to listen to it.

If you have spent the summer at Great Slave Lake or some similar outpost absent of the big beat, you will be interested to note that the average record has increased in

price from a dollar to a dollar and a half more. The record companies explained that, like everything else, the production costs have risen and the economy blah blah blah.

Fort Worth police bust galvanized trash can

By JAY GAULDING

Jim Kuhlman manager of the Studio Five Theater in Fort Worth is trying to get his trash can out of jail.

The trash can became a menace to society after Jim placed it in a loading zone outside his Main Street movie house. The can was supposed to reserve the parking space he rents for \$18 a month until he could move his car into it.

Fort Worth police officer King spied the errant container "blocking a public thoroughfare" and promptly issued it a parking ticket.

King placed the trash can under arrest and carried it off to jail.

This brings up a number of legal questions. Did King advise the trash can of its civil rights and was it allowed to call a lawyer? No one seems to know for sure. Can you imagine what an arrest sheet for a trash can looks like?

Galvanized Male, 3ft. tall, stocky build, weight 25 lbs., sparse matted hair, one handle missing. Suspect was uncooperative.

A city-wide day of protest is being planned. Round metal objects from every walk of life will gather to see that justice be rendered. Save Kuhlman's trash can. Free all political prisoners!

The Beth Tzedec College of JEWISH STUDIES

Monday evening courses:

- 1. ISRAEL:** the image and the reality, as seen by various writers.
Rabbi Michael Brown. 7:30 - 8:20
- 2. TALMUD:** (conducted in Hebrew): selected topics.
Rabbi Michael Celniker. 7:30 - 8:20
- 3. THE DIASPORA DIMENSION:**
France, Germany, Russia, from Emancipation to the present.
Dr. Arnold Ages. 8:30 - 9:20
- 4. WORKSHOP:**
in structure and change in the Toronto Jewish community.
9:30

Wednesday evening courses:

- 1. MIDRASH:** its world-view and today's world.
Dr. Emil Fackenheim. 7:00 - 8:15
- 2. HUG IVRI:** (for advanced Hebrew students).
Rabbi Yehuda Lebel. 8:20 - 9:10
- 3. BIBLE:** different approaches to understanding the narrative portions.
Rabbi Ben Hollander. 8:20 - 9:10
- 4. WORKSHOP** in contemporary educational trends and the Jewish school.
9:15

The semester will open Monday, Sept. 27th at 8 pm with a student - faculty symposium on

"WHERE ARE WE NOW? -- RELIGION AND LIFE IN 5732"

All interested students are invited to participate.

1700 Bathurst Street, Toronto 349

Tel. 787-0381

festival 71

... is coming October 15 - 16



Hundreds of Poplin, Nylon, Leather, Melton, Corduroy Jackets, Slopp® & Sweat & T-Shirts

CRESTED POPLIN JACKETS \$12.95

Free \$7.50 Chenille School Crest with every jacket order of \$25.00 and over.

CRESTING WHILE UWAIT

Canadian Novelty Shirt & Sportswear Co.

2462 Yonge Street Telephone 486-0997 486-0999