

Bancroft and Hopkins: a quiet romance comedy



Anne Bancroft as Helen Henff unloads another case of books from across the Atlantic.

84 Charing Cross Road
Columbia Pictures
Westmount 1

review by Naomi Pabst

Although *84 Charing Cross Road* was not the most climactic and action-packed screenplay of the 1980's, it was somewhat enjoyable. Based on the autobiography of Helene Henff, this true story illustrates a love affair that is based on a writing correspondence. Virtually the whole plot is unfolded through the writing and reading of these letters.

Helen Henff (Ann Bancroft), a writer and avid reader of English literature is unable to get second hand books to her satisfaction in her native New York. Therefore she writes away to London requesting the books of her desire from a romantic little second hand bookstore at 84 Charing Cross Road. She receives a replying letter as well as the books, from the store owner Frank Doel (Anthony Hopkins). This marks the commencement of a beautiful lasting long-distance relationship.

Due to Henff's positive affect on Frank Doel, their relationship not only blossoms, but she gains the friendships of other people who are important and influential in his life. These are the other bookstore employees and Doel's family, some of whom she comes to correspond with regularly as well. She brightens up many lives in London through her quick-witted writing talents, and her dream throughout the movie is to visit London and her friends there.

The story begins in 1949 and progresses right into the 1970's. The cinematography is

well done and adjusts to the various time periods quite successfully. The clothing, cars, appearance and behavior of the people is authentic as well.

Because the correspondence is between New York City and London, the picture bounces from one city to the other. You can't help noticing the vast cultural differences between the British and American way of life. The satires on British culture are particularly humorous. For example, contrasting the British crowning of Queen Elizabeth II with the American World Series, or take-out Chinese food with Yorkshire pudding.

The characterization was perfect. Not a better or more convincing actor or actress could have replaced either of Ann Bancroft or Anthony Hopkins. Both were suited perfectly to their roles, and they were perfect for each other. It would be difficult to imagine the real Helen Henff (who wrote the book) after the great acting displayed by Bancroft. Such is also the case with the handsome, kindhearted yet professional Frank Doel (Anthony Hopkins).

It is an original film. The lack of the cheap and tacky love scenes plaguing so many of today's movies, especially romance movies, is a breath of fresh air.

Director David Jones did a fine job of this romantic comedy film. It's a movie that can make you both happy and sad if you can manage not to fall asleep. It is comparable in quality to the book, unlike most movies. It is not an extremely eventful plot, not geared toward a youthful, restless and energetic crowd. It can not be denied, however, that it was truly entertaining.



THE ULTIMATE IN EAST INDIAN CUISINE

An authentic Indian chef offers dishes favored by eastern Emperors and Queens. Rediscover how food can be an adventure.

THE NEW ASIAN VILLAGE

7908 - 104 St.

433-3804 FULLY LICENSED

Open 7 days a week

LUNCH: Mon. to Fri. - 11:30 am. - 2 pm.

DINNER: Sun. to Wed. - 5:00 pm. - 10 pm.

Thurs. to Sat. - 5:00 pm. - 11 pm.

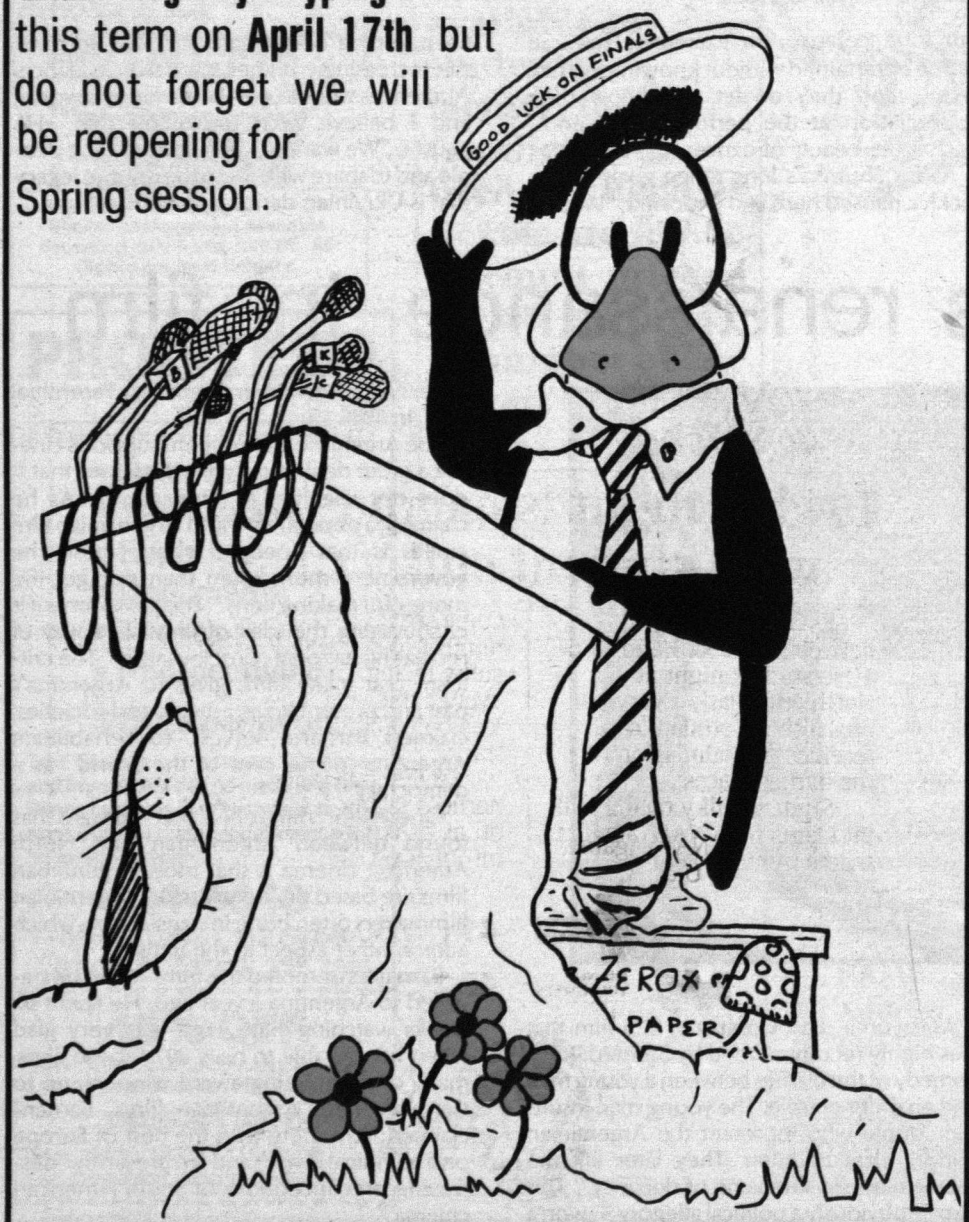
Asian Lunch Special: \$5.95

TRY OUR

COMBINATION PLATE

consists of 7 exotic items

We are here to announce that the last day for ordering old exam papers at the Exam Registry is **April 10th**. We would also like to tell you that the **Exam Registry/ Typing Services** will close for this term on **April 17th** but do not forget we will be reopening for Spring session.



NOW OPEN



copy cats

PHOTO COPIES

IN THE
SUB GAMES AREA
S.U.B. Basement

NO WAITING !!!

COIN-OPS & FULL SERVICE

- LAMINATING
- BINDING
- STAPLING
- REDUCTIONS
- ENLARGING
- COLLATING

EVEN LOWER RATES FOR MORE THAN 100 COPIES

