

feature

Screen talk

by T. McGee
Collegian Contributing Writer

As the unquestioned champion of the cinematic box-office, Steven Spielberg has thrilled thousands with his fun adventure filled extravaganzas.

In the past decade Spielberg has been responsible for the most popular and profitable films in movie history, beginning with 1975's *Jaws*. You know the list from there, *Close Encounters*, *Raiders*, *E.T.*, etc.

Though he began as a director, recently Spielberg has shifted to the role of producer, choosing to direct only occasionally, which is not to say that any Spielberg production is without his indelible stamp. It almost appears that he has directed these films anyway. This summer, two Spielberg productions have made their way into local theaters and I must say, each film made a completely different impression on me.

First, the good news. *Back To The Future*, directed by Robert Zemeckis, is the fast paced story

of Marty McFly, a high school student who takes the ride of his life when an offbeat scientist offers him a DeLorean that doubles as a time machine.

The bad news is *The Goonies*, directed by Richard Donner. This is Spielberg's noisy tale of a group of children's search for a buried treasure. While both of these films embody the whimsical spirit Spielberg fans are accustomed to, only *Future* succeeds as a positive venture.

And succeed it does! With an excellent cast led by television's Michael J. Fox and a script that boasts hundreds of laughs and edge-of-your-seat suspense, *Back To The Future* is truly a gas. As the time travelling teenager, Fox's laconic wit and self-assured style help him to create a hero whom the audience can feel true concern. Though most of his activities are hilarious, tension runs high during the moments of truth. Add Fox's performance to a zany script that is not overshadowed by outrageous special effects (a frequent Spielberg device), and you've got a sure fire recipe for enjoyment.

Also to be commended is director Zemeckis, whose able command moves the film along at a brisk pace without blurring any of the details. Additionally, actor Christopher Lloyd (Jim, from the old *Taxi* series) is as brilliant as the scientist who makes time travel a reality. All in all, *Back To The Future* is a rare find on movie screens today. It forces you to leave the theater feeling good.

On the other hand, and facing a nearly polar direction, is *The Goonies*. This, in my opinion, is the worst film Spielberg has ever been involved with. Forgetting the fact that the story is a rehash of old Spielberg plots, and that the special effects are nearly identical to those used to his other films, I still can't say a good word about it.

The story concerns a bunch of outcast children—goonies, if you will—who find a treasure map in the attic of one of their homes. These kids are so obnoxious and loud that we can easily see why they are outcasts. They scream over each other's lines as if trying for some type of verbal intensity award. Working on the set with

Tony Elliot takes over Studio Theatre

by Sue Nathans
Collegian Staff Writer

Technicolor Dream Coat. Responding to the subject of his latest acting performance Elliot replied, "I act every day during every one of my productions. A director must be able to act a character in order to direct that character." Elliot does some forms of acting for his theater classes everyday. His last professional acting job was in 1982.

Elliot attended the Indiana University of Pennsylvania majoring in Educational Communications and went on to do his graduate work at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Elliot is not a new comer to Penn State, he taught for the past two years at the Penn State York campus. While in York, Elliot worked as Artistic Director and Chief Administrator at the York Little Theater. He produced six to seven shows per year while organizing fund raisers and public relations projects.

Elliot received his Actors Equity entrance into the actors union in our nations capital with the production *Joseph's Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*.

them must have been incredibly nervewracking.

By the end of the film, we don't even care if the kids find the treasure, we just wish the film would stop being so hokey. (Per-

sonally, I hoped they would find the treasure—gold plated muzzles for each of them.)

Well there you have it *Back To The Future*, 10, *Goonies*, 0. Go see Michael J. Fox.



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