



Hobbit Here With Hutsah

J.R.R. Tolkien's fantasy, **The Hobbit**, will be presented on April 10, 1980, at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium. The Hutsah Puppet Theatre will bring dwarfs, elves, and trolls to life as part of the two-hour prelude to Tolkien's trilogy, **The Lord of the Rings**.

The six-member Hutsah Puppet Theatre will manipulate more than 30 almost-life-size puppets. Rusty Steiger, an actor and musician, directs the troupe. Steiger composed the musical score and built most of the puppets for the show.

The troupe has also performed a series of television

commercials and "Singing through the Trees," a children's musical. **The Hobbit**, however, was chosen because of its popularity among college students.

"I think it's a shame that fantasy is often set aside in adolescence in the name of growing up and being cool. Why is it appropriate for a kid to watch a puppet show or a cartoon or play kick-the-can, but not an adult?" says Steiger.

All ages can enjoy **The Hobbit** as performed by the Hutsah Puppet Theatre. The public is invited to attend. Admission for the show is \$1.

Movie Review

Have You Been There?

By Shirley Stevens

Have you ever imagined what it would be like to live secluded with television as your major source of sensory input? And then after 40 years to be forced out into society? This is the premise of "Being There," a new release starring Peter Sellers, Shirley MacLaine and Melvyn Douglas.

If humans learn behavior by watching other humans, then it should come as no surprise that Chauncey Gardiner (Sellers) is a one-dimensional character, who regards the activities of real humans from a spectator's point of view. His relationships with real people on the outside are at first separated by a symbolic screen that does not transmit or receive emotion. Chauncey Gardiner's literal interpretation of the world around him is at once regarded as eclat by the outside world, which rushes in to

impose meaning on it. His discourse is always botanical-orientate. His job during seclusion was that of a gardener, and consequently, gardening is his only field of expertise.

To prove his knowledge and gain employment, he never misses a chance to bring gardening into the conversation. But his discursive attitude only predisposes others to believe that his ramblings are prophetic. The growing season, as explained by Chauncey Gardiner, is even paraphrased metaphorically in the President's speech to the nation to palliate discontent over the worsening economy.

As Chauncey Gardiner makes an impact on the outside world, so does the world change Chauncey Gardiner's life. The glazed spectacles through which Chauncey Gardiner views life's events eventually come off. If fear is first learned during the

trauma of birth, the C.G. has learned fear through expulsion from his lifelong home and exposure to a harsh environment. Yet he has also found joy through human interaction. And finally, perhaps most humanizing of all, he has learned pain through loss of a friend. For the first time there is some indication, in his reaction to his friend's death, that C.G. is just a plain man, a gardener - not the learned man, speaker of eight languages and holder of degrees in law and medicine that the world thinks him to be.

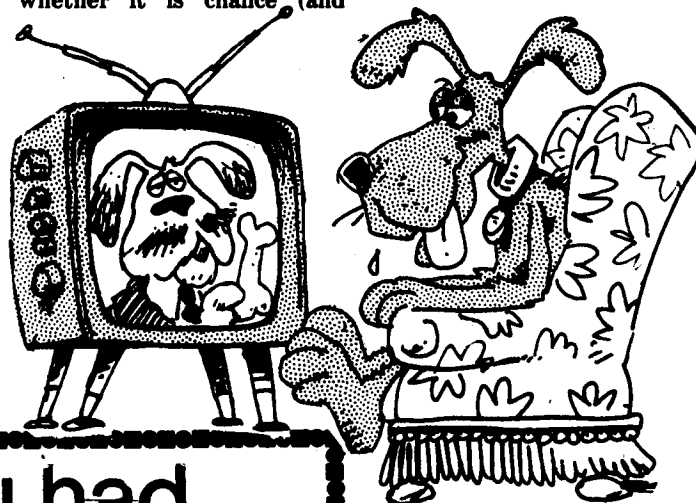
Melvyn Douglas was superb as C.G.'s friend Ben Rand. Perhaps because he is old, his appearance lends genuineness to the characterization. Yet whether he's portraying as ailing mind in a healthy body (the dotard in "Joe Tynan"), or a healthy mind in an ailing body (Ben Rand dying of bone cancer), his performances are so natural you're inclined to believe

he's portraying himself, which is testimony to his ability as an actor.

This movie can be categorized as entertainment or "think" material. Apparently some viewers even thought it was a comedy. It is one of the better movies, regardless. Perhaps not so much while you're sitting watching as later, when you play it back - as you inevitably will.

Have you ever had occasion to wonder, for example, whether it is chance (and

Gardiner's real name is Mr. Chance) or your own strength of will that determines your fate? Or a combination of both? Or neither? If your placid nature has enjoyed the distinction of remaining free of such vexing arguments until this late in life, then perhaps you don't want to see this picture. If you want a mild stimulus for an evening of dialogue and elbow bending, this film is a starting point.



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