

READER Reviews

The Reel World

SEEMS LIKE OLD TIMES

By Rick Morrison

"Seems Like Old Times" is a frantic comedy by Neil Simon which stars Goldie Hawn, Chevy Chase and Charles Grodin. Although this script does not rate as highly as some of Simon's other work, it is a good blend of the delights and frustrations of real life marriage, romance and comedy; but then again, almost all of his works deal with similar concepts.

Director Jay Sandrich (formerly of the Mary Tyler Moore Show and "Soap") makes a fine first effort at film directing. He should have more opportunities in Hollywood after this success with his first project in films.

Goldie Hawn is purely charming in "Seems Like Old Times." In her role she balances her altruistic professional life with her marriage to a district attorney (Charles Grodin), which is made quite chaotic because of her relationship to her former husband (Chevy Chase).

Goldie is finally shedding the dumb blonde image that has been with her since the days of television's "Laugh In," and her work in "Cactus Flower," "There's A Girl In My Soup" and other films. In a recent interview she admitted that she wanted the lead in William Styron's "Sophie's Choice," quite a dramatic role considering her past. She obviously wants to avoid type-casting herself strictly as a pretty leading comedienne, a role she plays very well in "Seems Like Old Times" and "Private Benjamin." Indeed, she deserves to develop her talent fully as an actress and even as a producer, a responsibility she relished in the making of "Private Benjamin."

In "Seems Like Old Times" Chevy Chase is an accused, fugitive bank robber with only one hope of avoiding the authorities. That hope is his former wife, the now irreverent lawyer Goldie Hawn. Chase uses his bumbling, pitiful, although sometimes witty personality to persuade Hawn to be his lawyer and harbor him from the police and the district attorney's office that is seeking to have him arrested.

Chase hides himself in a room above the garage at Hawn and Grodin's home. She manages to keep him hidden while thet scheme to keep him free from his impending arrest.

Chevy Chase should find some new roles for himself in Hollywood and develop other acting talents he has. His bumbling, simple comic personality is merely a tiring carry-over from "Saturday Night Live" and "Foul Play," a film made with Hawn a few years ago.

Charles Grodin, not a household name even in Movieland, is necessary in "Seems Like Old Times" as the straight man to Hawn and Chase. His character is about as bland as his off-camera personality, although it is necessary as a balance between Chase's antics and Hawn's irreverence.

"Seems Like Old Times" has an adequate supporting cast including a sometimes funny, sardonic, Mexican housemaid, some lazy, mooching, client-employees of Hawn's and a lovable assortment of dogs, especially a giant St. Bernard.

The music in "Seems Like Old Times" is somewhat disappointing. With the talented Marvin Hamlisch as musical director, the score could have had more importance in the film. But, alas, this is supposed to be more comedy than romance; the music could have developed this a little more if it had been done right.

If there is any reason to see "Seems Like Old Times" it is because Goldie Hawn is delightful. She is emerging as a very fine leading comedienne and it will be great fun to follow her career.

"Seems Like Old Times" is currently playing at the East Five Theatres at the Harrisburg East Mall and at the U.A. Theatres in the Capital City Mall, Camp Hill.

STIR CRAZY

By Shirley Stevens

Have you seen the latest male sex symbol? As sure as God didn't make little green apples, this time next year someone like Manwatchers of America or Us or People magazines or other well-informed observers are just bound to name Erland van de Jeude America's newest sex symbol. "But darling, who's this Erland van de what?" Mr. van de Jeude has become increasingly popular in pictures like "The Wanderer," "Pop-eye," and now "Stir Crazy." He stands approximately seven feet tall, and weighs (I would think) a quarter of a ton or so. And I shouldn't forget that, despite his formidable frame, this monstrous macho man has a sensitive tenor voice. Now with added exposure and the liberal tastes of the American public, I feel confident that someone will step forward proclaiming this bald actor/wrestler/singer our latest male sex symbol.

What has all this to do with Gene Wilder and Richard Pryor? Well, the trio becomes cellmates in a federal penitentiary. Wilder and Pryor are incarcerated for a bank robbery they did not commit. They were actually promotion executives on-location. (They dressed up in bird costumes during banking hours and did a song and dance act for the customers in order to promote business.) While on their lunch break, two impostors don the bird outfits and rob the bank-and Wilder and Pryor are imprisoned. The movie centers around the plan and execution as their escape. Wilder as the wistful writer and Pryor as the pragmatic prisoner are a droll combination.

You can see this picture at the UA Theater in Camp Hill.

THE ELEPHANT MAN

By Keith N. Gantz

This film attempts to explore the realities of brotherly love and man's inhumanity to man in regard to the fact of human nature that we are all repulsed by and fearful of that which we do not understand. It manages to portray the truth of reality as well as film can.

It is filmed entirely in black and white, lending a sense of realism to the time period of the narrative. This, together with the attention to detail evident in the sets contributes to the feeling of a documentary. The narrative, the film, is based on a true story.

The film's director is to be commended for a superb job of adhering to the principles of drama put forth in Aristotle's Poetics. Frequently, scenes in this film evoke overwhelming responses of pity and fear in the viewer. The lighting relates a sense of European film, with light and dark areas and shadows all included in the same shot.

In my opinion this is one of the best films of this decade. I would recommend that everyone see this film. Keep in mind, it asks a dual question--How do you feel about ugly people? and--How do you feel about being ugly?

ACROSS

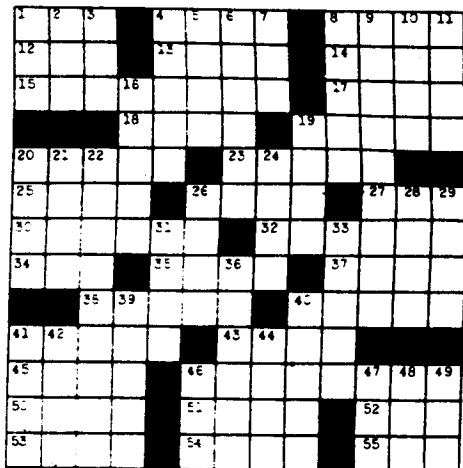
1. Edict
4. Charley horse
8. Jolly Roger
12. Noisy quarrel
13. Before long
14. Western "separation center"
15. Lumber defect
17. Math word
18. Unite by heat
19. Freightless
20. Go ahead
23. "Tannhäuser" for one
25. Kiln
26. Synonym of 13-Across
27. Up-to-the-minute
30. Abhor
32. Unnecessarily extreme
34. Historical period
35. Multitude
37. Facility
38. Word in bridge
40. Slipped up
41. Retinue
43. Too bad!
45. Breaks the 8th Commandment
46. Icing
50. Out of a job
51. Wight or Man
52. Pasture sound
53. Look intently
54. "The McCoy"
55. In support of

DOWN

1. Place of refuge
2. Antonym of 55-Across
3. Zvez
4. Pallid
5. Unfriendly
6. Wait a minute! 2 wds.
7. Compass point abbr.
8. Monk
9. Listen carefully: 3 wds.
10. Poker player's stake
11. Thug
16. Strong string
19. Smooth, as breathing
20. Be an omen of
21. Perpetually

22. Within reach
24. Put up (a notice)
26. Fissionable particle
28. Irish Gaelic
29. Dandelion
31. Avoid
33. Russian measure of length
36. Meager
39. Vertical pipe
40. Artist's item
41. Stumble
42. Ridiculed persistently
44. Actress Albright
46. Cone-bearing tree
47. Gremlin
48. Hide — hair
49. Sticky substance

CROSSWORDS



For Women Only

The Harrisburg Women's Center, located in Room 305 of the YWCA, Fourth and Market Streets, Harrisburg, is here to serve you. The purpose of the Women's Center is to encourage and foster open communication, understanding, and mutual respect among the women of the Harrisburg area.

Toward this end, some of our most important services are information and referral services including counseling, employment, finance and credit, medical and psychological health services, child care, housing, separation and divorce, legal services, educational/career services, and other organizations created specifically to serve women's needs. The Women's Center is staffed Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to answer your questions and refer you to the proper organization. We also have an answering machine to insure that all calls will be returned whether or not someone is here to answer your call.

If you drop in at the Women's Center, you will find a job board with listings of available jobs in the Harrisburg area, particularly from those employers who are concerned with compliance with Affirmative Action regulations. We also have extensive resource files with in-

formation on all kinds of women's interests and concerns and a large collection of pamphlets and newspapers from women's organizations across the country. Should you not find what you are looking for, we can tell you who to call to obtain that information.

Another major project of the Women's Center is the **Harrisburg Area Women's News**, a monthly feminist publication covering local, state, and national news and issues of concern to women. Subscription price is \$6.50/year. By sending a check to HAWN, c/o Women's Center, you can insure that you will be on top of the latest happenings for women.

The Women's Center also sponsors consciousness-raising and support groups. Currently, we have an older women's support group and a lesbian support group, and are planning to begin a women-in-transition support group for women going through a separation or divorce. If there is a support group you would like to participate in, give us a call at 233-4004.

If you have a question or would like to meet other feminists in the area, call or drop in any time. **WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU!**