

The good, the bad and the rest

By Don Strausburger

Well, the year has nearly drawn to a close and while running from store to store past many area movie theaters, I started to reflect on some of the best and worst movies made in the past year.

Here's a list of some of the best and worst movies, performances, and other interesting notes about the past year. The films listed below are in no particular order.

The Year's Best

"Beatstreet" -- one of the biggest surprises of 1984. There is more to a breakdancer's life than popping, locking and breaking.

"Terms of Endearment" -- The film takes three worthy actors and gives them a good script.

"Purple Rain" -- Prince may not be able to act, but the concert sequences ease the pain of not seeing his current tour.

"Gremlins" -- OK, this was not another "E.T.", but it was a lot of fun. And just think, Phoebe Cates can act!

"Hotel New Hampshire" -- How often have you seen Hollywood depict rape, lesbianism, incest and a racially mixed marriage and get an "R" rating for filthy language and not lurid sex scenes?

"Top Secret" -- The Zucker brothers, of "Airplane" fame, prove that the first hit was not a fluke.

"Star Trek III: The Search for Spock" -- a must for "trekkies" and a good film for all science fiction fans.

"Fannie and Alexander" -- This film is the finale for Ingmar Bergman and is as brilliant as any other film in his career.

"Sixteen Candles" -- An interesting character study of puberty and its strange effects.

"Revenge of the Nerds" -- if you have any character at all, you will see yourself in the characters of this film. This movie teaches all of those low-budget teen sex shows a lesson in good "clean" fun.

The Year in Movies

The Best Lines

"I've been slimed!" -- Bill Murray, "Ghostbusters"

"Can I borrow your underpants for 15 minutes?" -- question to Molly Ringwald in "Sixteen Candles."

"Are all nerds this good?" -- "Revenge of the Nerds"

"I make it a rule not to sleep with possessed women. Well, maybe a guideline." -- Bill Murray, "Ghostbusters"

The Year's Worst!

"Bolero" -- easily the worst film of 1984 and many other years. Bo Derek was more fun during the ending credits of "Tarzan" with the ape.

"Night of the Comet" -- the only believable characters, along with the movie, died in the first 15 minutes.

"Hardbodies" -- the film would have been much more effective if someone in this film could do more than wear or take off skimpy clothing.

"Blame It On Rio" -- don't, this movie is not Rio's fault. Blame it on the producer, director, cast...

"Where the Boys Are, '84" -- Was it necessary to remake the film so Lisa Hartman could try to remake the title song?

"Friday the 13th, The Final Chapter" -- the next movie will probably be "Saturday the 14th, The Day After." However, both of those titles have already been used.

"Rhinestone" -- If Sylvester Stallone can sing and Dolly Parton can act, Ronald Reagan will make another movie with Bonzo.

"Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom" -- should have been called the "Theater of Doom." Since when can you watch a heart get ripped out of someone's chest in a "PG" movie?

"Cannonball Run II" -- another meaningless car-race film from Burt Reynolds and his cronies or pack of has-beens.

"Footloose" -- John Lithgow almost saved this movie, but not quite! At least the soundtrack is good.

Best Performances

Jodie Foster as the insecure Frannie in "Hotel New Hampshire."

The mother's vengeance against the bad gremlins in the kitchen scene in "Gremlins."

Funniest Love Scenes

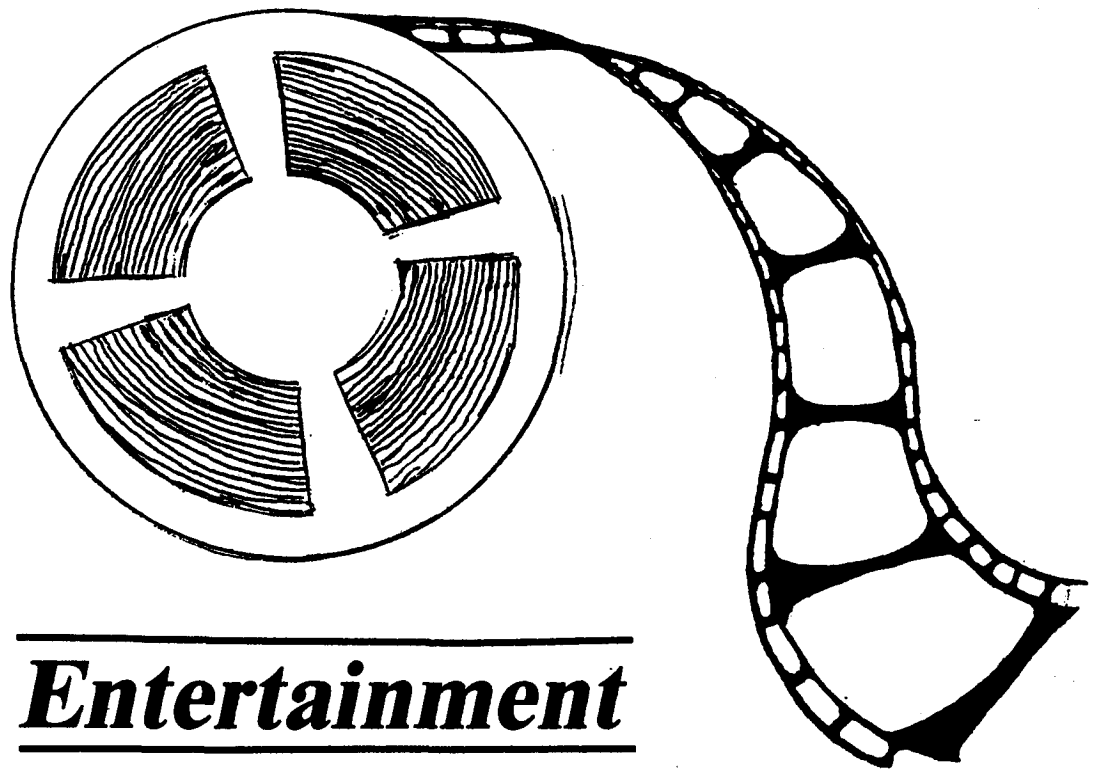
- Any love scene with Dudley Moore as one of the participants.

- Bo Derek and an entire country, an ape, Dudley Moore...

- Tom Hanks' attempted moment of passion at his "Bachelor Party"

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Entertainment

Letdowns

"Ghostbusters" -- great cast, unfortunately, the script was not as funny as the cast can be.

"The Natural" -- even a good make-up man could not make Robert Redford look young enough for this role.

"Streets of Fire" -- a relatively good idea but bad screenwriters did their best to destroy it. Also a good soundtrack.

"Police Academy" -- at least the commercials were good.

"Bachelor Party" -- the screenwriters forgot to put Tom Hanks in every scene.

"Breakin'" -- Was the attempt at acting necessary between the dance sequences?

"Irreconcilable Differences" -- if you ever need a pre-teen brat, call Drew Barrymore; Shelley Long can be happy that NBC likes "Cheers."

"Red Dawn" -- what a bad way to start a new movie rating (PG-13). Make sure you bring your flag to wave while watching this one!

Special notes

Better luck next year, Dudley Moore!

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Best Actors

Jack Nicholson - "Terms of Endearment"

Beau Bridges - "Hotel New Hampshire"

Sam Sheppard - "The Right Stuff"

Mr. T - "D.C. Cab" (just thought I'd play it safe)

Worst Actors

Prince - "Purple Rain"

Dudley Moore - "Unfaithfully Yours"

Dudley Moore (round 2) - "Best Defense"

Sylvester Stallone - "Rhinestone"

Ryan O'Neal - "Irreconcilable Differences"

Best Musical Performance

Prince performing "Purple Rain" in the movie of the same name.

The Sorels performing "I Can Dream About You" in "Streets of Fire."

The final production number of "Beatstreet."

Best Actresses

Shirley MacLaine - "Terms of Endearment"

Molly Ringwald - "Sixteen Candles"

Jodie Foster - "Hotel New Hampshire"

Best Special Effects

- the marshmallow man in "Ghostbusters"

- destruction of the Enterprise in "Star Trek III"

- the muppets taking Manhattan and the audience by storm

- the gremlin's Christmas party (deck the halls and walls and bar...)

- Kluge's gelatin dog in "Star Trek III"

Worst Special Effects

- the bathtub drill scene in "Body Double"

- the comet's approach in "Night of the Comet"

- the comet's end result in the same movie (the former people look like powdered cherry drink mix)

- heart surgery with no scalpel in "Indiana Jones"

It's Back!

Beginning Jan. 23, the Capitol Campus League is back at Middletown Lanes on Wed. at 9:15 p.m. Sign up as a team or individual at your athletic department or at Middletown Lanes. The league is open to all students and employees of the Capitol Campus.

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