

Billy Crystal gets "Saturday Night Fever"

Jason Sandhaus
Capital Times Staff

Live from New York, it's "Mr. Saturday Night."

Billy Crystal certainly has come a long way since "Rabbit Test." Let's see, he's starred in "City Slickers" and "When Harry Met Sally," both quality films. And "Memories of Me" which, for lack of a better term, blew. What do you expect, Fonzie (Henry Winkler) directed it.

Then there's my personal favorite "Running Scared."

Now, Crystal is wearing a variety of hats in his latest release, "Mr. Saturday Night," which he co-wrote, co-produced and directed. The latter a first for him.

The film follows the life of comedian Buddy Young Jr. Young isn't a real comic, but lives in the mind of Crystal.

Young is an old man now and his career is winding down. His brother/manager, Stan (David Paymer) has decided to retire to Florida to paint and be with his grandkids. On top of that Buddy lost a booking on a cruise for the winter.

Young wants to get his career back to the way it was--when everyone loved him

and he was the talk of the town. He winds up going to an agent for work.

He ends up landing jobs that he thinks he is too good for and ruins every chance he has to get his life back.

His life is not all bad. His wife Elaine

MOVIE HAUS

(Julie Warner) still thinks he's the best thing on the planet. His daughter doesn't share her feelings. She can't stand him (but she's an alcoholic and recovering drug addict--so who cares).

The film jumps around from present to past and we see Young as a child entertainer and his rise to stardom.

When Buddy was a kid, he and Stan would entertain the family. By the end of the night, most of them were on the floor dying from laughter, especially their mother who was almost airborne because her chubby arms flapped so much.

Buddy excelled at jokes that picked on a person's appearance. He asked an elderly woman, "Who put your make-up on, Ringling Brothers?"

During a childhood flashback Buddy

remembers an amateur night where he and Stan are supposed to do the same act they perform at home. Stan gets stage fright, and Buddy must go on alone.

At first he bombs, until a heavy set man starts heckling him. Young asks the porker to stand and he promptly tells him, "You look like New Jersey in pants." It's the start of a brilliant career.

Crystal's directing debut was quite admirable. He did a better job directing than he did acting, but that's not his problem, it's in the script. He co-wrote the script, and it is obvious what parts he wrote. He supplied the jokes while his partners (Baboloo Mandel and Lowell Ganz) made the characters real.

But, of course, he is still funny. The supporting cast is what makes this an enjoyable film.

David Paymer (you may remember him from "City Slickers") plays Stan and is excellent. Julie Warner ("Doc Hollywood") plays Elaine, and she is mediocre at best. She really isn't given much to do, except gaze at Crystal for the entire picture.

There are other supporting actors who round out this fine cast: Helen Hunt, Jerry Orbach, Jerry Lewis. Basically, Crystal employed every Jew he could find. And since I'm Jewish, I feel I can say that.

Happy Yom Kippur.

Crystal's old man make-up is exceptional--he actually looks old. It's not like the horrible make-up job in "For the Boys." Bette Midler looked like she was stung by a swarm of killer bees, and lived.

If Crystal sticks to directing he could have a fine career. The cast said he knew exactly what he wanted to do. But acting is what got him here, and acting is where he should remain. Look for "City Slickers II" sometime next year. It's in the developmental stage right now.

Anyway, if you want to see a dramedy (comedy/drama) with a heart (the film is co-written by the team who did "City Slickers" and "Parenthood"), see "Mr. Saturday Night." I don't think you'll be disappointed. Just don't expect a laugh riot, because it's not.

See this one quick because Thanksgiving is coming up and the big boys are on their way. And on my four-star scale: ★★

In coming weeks, look for Clive Barker's "Candyman," Bram Stoker's "Dracula," directed by Francis Ford Coppola, and Benny (Larry Drake) from "L.A. Law" is "Dr. Giggles."

Flavors of Israel are featured in an international lunch

"In the U. S. we see 18 year-olds with guitars," said Patrick Kiblsky, graduate student in business administration.

"In Israel, 18 year-olds are seen with guns. This is the reality--guns and the contemplation of life and death--because at age 18, Israelis serve in the military or are

involved in some aspect of national pride," he said.

Kiblsky was the guest speaker at PSH's "Lunch with an International Flavor," which featured foods from Israel, in the Gallery Lounge, Tues., Sept. 24.

During his lecture about the lifestyle in

Israel, Kiblsky explained what it is like to live in a country at war.

that Israeli women carry on the race," Kiblsky said.

"Before 1975, women generally fought, but now they have the choice between combat and other work. It is important

Following the lecture, guests sampled Israeli foods such as falafels, pita bread, and humas which is a mixture of garlic and chick peas in a sesame paste.

Interested in working on
the PENN STATE
HARRISBURG
YEARBOOK?

Capitalite

An organizational staff meeting
will be held on

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19
12:30 p.m., Room 216

FOR INFORMATION, CALL THE
STUDENT ACTIVITIES OFFICE:
948-6273

Proof.

You can rely on Kaplan LSAT prep.

The Roman Numerals question format, sometimes called Triple True/False, has not appeared on the LSAT since February 1991. **Kaplan caught the change.** Not by accident, but because we have a team of professionals dedicated to analyzing the LSAT. **Kaplan updated all lectures, materials and sample tests.** So you'll spend every minute and every dollar getting ready for the test that you'll actually take.

Incriminating evidence.

Pick up the competitor's prep material. Look at it and see that they're still **encouraging you to waste time** on question formats that have not appeared on the LSAT in 18 months.

For more information on proven LSAT prep, call:

1-800-9 KAP-PREP

CLASSES AT WIDENER UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

KAPLAN
The answer to the test question.