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Movie Reviews

1941

by John Raiz

Steven (Jaws) Spielberg's most recent project, **1941**, gives **Star Trek** a "run-for-the-money": it cost almost as much to produce; making it the most expensive Hollywood comedy ever made. A total of 16 miniature prop makers are listed among its unending credits. The film is one long demolition derby—houses collapse, airplanes ignite, bridges explode, etc.

rows heavily, and poorly, from a dozen other sources, including Martin and Lewis, Three Stooges, Laurel and Hardy, and himself. During an overly drawn-out dance number, he lifts a brilliant slice of choreography from Gene Kelly, who, of course, engineered Danny Kaye's famous walk - up - the - wall routine for **Singing In The Rain**. The unabashed plagiarizing from other comedies only demonstrates that Spielberg is totally unsuited to direct a wild comedy.


the "next" Pearl Harbor.

The cast employs about a dozen recognizable newcomers and oldtime Hollywood character actors in a wide range of roles. In no particular order, we get: Warren Oates as a certified looney army captain; John Belushi plays a cigar chewing P-51 Pilot who is determined to record the first downing of a Japanese plane over the continental U.S.A.; Christopher Lee plays a German officer who tries to convince Toshiro Mifune that his plan to bomb Hollywood is insane; Slim Pickens plays a local yokel who swallows a Crackerjack compass to prevent the submarine commander from locating Hollywood; Ned Beatty and Lorraine Gary play a couple whose house is leveled while attempting to defend our

coastline.

The picture actually begins with a rousing promising start. A shapely blonde slips off her Polar Bear Club robe and plunges into the December surf. As we listen to John William's score warning us of the impending underway danger and enjoy photographer William A. Fraker's undertoned shadings, we are vividly reminded of a similar opening sequence in **Jaws** when a lovely blonde was devoured by a shark. This time around the blonde is lofted twenty feet into the air by the periscope of a Japanese submarine. The visual double meaning between the two pictures is truly funny.

1941 is now playing at the Wonderland 3 theater in Lancaster.



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This insane farce manages a visual laugh or two in its relentless quest to be funny. As several critics have already pointed out, **1941** most resembles Stanley Kramer's **It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad, World**, and, because of John Belushi, **Animal House**. Furthermore, Spielberg bor-

The movie uses a little known incident about World War II as the basis for its custard pie-comedy. The alleged historical footnote involves the pandemonium unleashed upon the residents of Southern California when they convince themselves that Los Angeles is

The Jerk

By John Raiz

Steve Martin's performance in Carl Reiner's **The Jerk** is a flawless failure. It has even fewer funny

moments than **1941**—even adjusting for its shorter running time. Any film that contains that hoary comic bit about a hitch-hiker who accepts a ride for 75 feet has

to be straining for laughs. The plot gimmick is completely mindless. Martin plays the adopted son of illiterate Black Mississippi farmers. During the course

of the inept story, Martin goes from rags-to-riches and back again.

The Jerk is playing locally at the Eric Twin theater, Lancaster.

Roller Boogie

by John Raiz

Roller Boogie is exactly what you expect from its title. It takes the music out of the disco halls and moves it to the roller rinks. Linda Blair, unattractively overweight, plays a wealthy Beverly Hills teenager who dreams of winning a roller-boogie contest before she

moves on to Julliard to study the flute. David Winters, who staged the musical numbers, begins the film with a Pied Piper roller boogie line that attracts kids from whatever they're doing—including making love. After more than a half hour of non-stop disco music, roller dancing, and numerous close-ups of nubile

rumps in scanty shorts, I waltzed up the aisle and into

the lobby to regain my sanity.



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Mount Joy Welcome Wagon to bowl at Clearview Lanes

The January board meeting of the Mount Joy Welcome Wagon was held on January 2nd at the home of Ann Bernard.

The Borough Hall will be the site of our next meeting on Wednesday, January 16th. Mrs. Thomas Cox will present a slide presentation on the history of Mount Joy.

Lunch Bunch will be held on Friday, January 18th, at the Watering Trough. The social for the month will be bowling at Clearview Lanes on Saturday, January 26th.

To receive a Welcome Wagon visit, contact our hostesses Cherie Dillow, 653-1609, or Sue Binkle, 653-4895.

—Ann Bernard

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