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DECEMBER 1982

# MOVIES & VIDEO

THE CINEMA & HOME SCREEN MONTHLY

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# CINESCENE

## Coming Events

★The 1983 Royal Film Performance has been set for March 28 at London's Odeon, Leicester Square.

★A rich and varied programme has been assembled for this year's 26th London Film Festival, with over 100 titles from more than 30 countries scheduled to be screened from November 11 to 28. Among them are three films from the late Rainer Werner Fassbinder, and Australia's multi-award nominated *We Of The Never Never*. Other movies on offer are *The Trout* directed by Joseph Losey; Robert Altman's highly-acclaimed *Come Back To The 5 And Dime Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean*; *Creepshow* from George A. Romero; *They All Laughed* by Peter Bogdanovich and Barry Levinson's much talked-about, Fifties-set comedy drama, *Diner*.

Additional events include a special presentation by the National Film Archive of early colour films from the silent era, and a tribute to Alberto Cavalcanti. Following the overwhelming success of *Napoleon* in 1980 and *The Crowd* in 1981, 'The Thames Silents' (Thames Television's contribution to the festival) are now an established event. The silent features for 1982 are Clarence Brown's *Flesh And The Devil* (1926) with Greta Garbo

and John Gilbert, and King Vidor's satirical comedy of Hollywood manners, *Show People* (1928) starring Marion Davies and William Haines. Both films will have a live orchestral accompaniment composed and conducted by Carl Davis, and performed by the Wren Orchestra. They will each have three consecutive screenings at the Dominion Theatre, Tottenham Court Road, between November 25th-28th. Ticket prices start at £4.00, and bookings can be made at the National Film Theatre (01-928-3232) or at the Dominion Theatre (01-580-9562).

A third silent film represents a coup for the LFF, since it is a previously unseen Charlie Chaplin short called *How To Make Movies*. It was made in 1918 and is a behind-the-scenes "home movie" about Chaplin's studio. It will be shown in a double bill with *Show People*.

The London Film Festival is open to the public, although NFT members have priority booking and reduced seat prices. Tickets for non-members cost £3.75 and can be obtained from the NFT Press Office (01-928-4114).

## London Openings

**CREEPSHOW** (November 18). George A. Romero's episodic horror film comprises five different segments each bringing

to life tales depicted in issue 1 of a fictitious horror comic. Although the segments are fairly weak, good performances and the steady hand of the director make this a fun and entertaining movie. Look out for author Stephen King in the episode titled "The Lonesome Death Of Jordy Verrill."

**DINER** (November 18). Making his directing debut, Barry Levinson (who co-wrote *And Justice For All*) wrote the screenplay for this comedy-drama at the suggestion of Mel Brooks after hearing some of Levinson's personal nostalgic recollections over a lunch two years ago. Set in 1959 it focuses on five disparate young men looking forward to attending the world championship American football game between the New Giants and their home team the Baltimore Colts.

**THE EVIL DEAD** (November 18). Relentless and blood-soaked horror spoof about five college friends who make a fatal weekend trip to a densely wooded mountain cabin. When, by chance, they resurrect the spirits of the living dead, one by one they become zombies giving director Sam Raimi the cue for a really exploitative display of gruesome special-effects dwelling on blood, viscera, and decaying substances that will make you never want to drink milk or eat rice pudding again! Generally unoriginal, but there are some gruesome laughs along the way. Definitely for those with very strong stomachs.

**DEAD MEN DON'T WEAR PLAID** (November 25). Steve Martin stars as Philip Marlowe-type gumshoe Rigby Reardon in this spoof crime thriller set in the Forties. Old clips of Humphrey Bogart, Ava Gardner, Cary Grant, Bette Davis and Kirk Douglas are cleverly incorporated into the film; and by judicious editing these Hollywood Greats seem to be talking to Reardon and taking part in the current film plot. Rachel Ward plays the love interest and the movie is a must for all nostalgia buffs.

**GANDHI** (December 2). Richard Attenborough's epic portrait of India's most famous hero, Mahatma Gandhi, is an inspiring and moving tribute to one man's unshakeable belief in peaceful protest and religious tolerance. Wonderfully photographed and superbly acted, for anyone unfamiliar with the life of Gandhi, here is the best possible opportunity to get acquainted with one of history's greatest leaders.

**E.T. THE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL** (December 9). Steven Spielberg's magical story of an alien stranded three million light years from home, and his subsequent adventure on Earth in the home of three young children. Designed to appeal to the child in everyone, both kids and parents will be rooting for the tender and touching relationship between Henry Thomas and the bug-eyed, web-footed hero of the title. A gem of a movie.

## Going the Rounds



Gene Wilder defends himself

**HANKY PANKY.** Slightly complicated comedy thriller starring Gene Wilder and Gilder Radner, involving a stolen tape which reveals top secret information about a new US nuclear weapon. Sidney Poitier directs at a frantic pace while the humour, which is distinctly American, is likely to leave most British audiences standing. The best performance comes from Richard Widmark, whose menacing villain is a delightful reminder of those he used to play early on in his career.

**AUTHOR! AUTHOR!** Al Pacino gives a marvellous performance as playwright Ivan Travalian for whom life becomes one big headache when his wife (Tuesday Weld) threatens to walk out on him and their five children, as he simultaneously prepares to stage his first major Broadway production amid countless script re-writes. Further problems arise when the star of his show (Dyan Cannon) moves in during their blossoming affair. Good light entertainment with some really funny one-liners.

**THE SWORD AND THE SORCERER.** Blood and gore drip endlessly throughout this myth and fantasy adventure about the power of darkness and good over evil in medieval days. Forget King Arthur — this evil king is named Cromwell! Plenty of swash and buckle and laughs albeit unintentional.

**AMITYVILLE II: THE POSSESSION.** Despite the critical mauling it has received in some American publications, this follow-up to *The Amityville Horror* continues to attract large box-office crowds in the States. The house of the original movie is once again the centre of attention, but the unseen forces this time terrorise a family headed by parents Burt Young and Rutanya Alda. James Olson plays the reverend called in to exorcise the property.

**HAMMETT.** Set in San Francisco during the late Twenties, this is a fictionalised story depicting the kind of detective mystery that author Dashiell Hammett (played by Frederic Forrest) has become world famous for. Marilu Henner, Peter Boyle and Roy Kinnear co-star in this drama concerning the whereabouts of a missing girl.

**PARADISE.** Desert-set adventure yarn about two children (unknowns Willie Aames and Phoebe Cates) searching for an idyllic existence which is constantly disrupted by a menacing slaver known as The Jackal (Tuvia Tavi). After pursuing them relentlessly, he finally catches up with them for a fight to the death.

## Books

by Sally Francis

### NO TURN UNSTONED

Compiled by Diana Rigg  
Published by Elm Tree Books  
£6.95

● If you want a really good laugh, turn to any page of this collection of awful theatrical reviews. No one escapes unscathed, not even the super stars like Lord Olivier, Dame Peggy Ashcroft and Glenda Jackson. Writers, directors, sets and overall performances all come under fire...

Richard Attenborough's performance in *Brighton Rock* brought this comment from Leonard Moseley in the Daily Express: "Mr. Attenborough's Pinkie was about as close to the

real thing as Donald Duck to Greta Garbo."

Ian McKellen's Hamlet at the Cambridge Theatre earned this remark from radio reviewer Harold Hobson: "The best thing about Ian McKellen's Hamlet is his curtain call."

Reviewing *I Am A Camera*, Walter Kerr wrote: "Me no Leica."

A lovely fun book to keep you entertained for hours.

### BARBRA

By Donald Zec and Anthony Fowles  
Published by New English Library £1.95

● Now in paperback this is the biography of Barbra Streisand, the superstar who by the age of 27 had won all the top awards in entertainment. Includes pictures.

### STARS OF THE AMERICAN MUSICAL THEATRE

By Stanley Appelbaum & James Camner  
Published by Constable £7.50

● This book has 361 vivid portraits of over 400 stars from 1860 to 1950, and it captures the atmosphere of the American Musicals. A portrait gallery of pure nostalgia — a very youthful

Fred Astaire with his sister Adele, the Marx Brothers at their peak, Bob Hope, Jessie Matthews, Beatrice Lillie and so many stars whose names have become part of showbusiness history. How fashion changes, not only in clothes, many of those early stage beauties were beautifully plump!

### THE J.D. FILMS

By Mark McGee & R.J. Robertson  
Published by Bailey Bros & Swinfen Ltd. £11.15

● J.D. in this instance means juvenile delinquents. This is a detailed study of the young rebels in movies and looks at films such as *Angels With Dirty Faces* starring James Cagney (1938); Marlon Brando and Lee Marvin in *The Wild One* (1954); Glenn Ford and Sidney Poitier in *Blackboard Jungle*, James Dean and Natalie Wood in *Rebel Without A Cause*, (both 1955); *West Side Story* with Natalie Wood and Richard Beymer and *The Wild Angels* (1966) with Peter Fonda and many more including *Saturday Night Fever*.

The book is illustrated with pictures and posters and contains a filmography.

Rather expensive for a paperback.

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