

Film Festival Comes to Charlottetown

The critically acclaimed film *Jesus of Montreal*, directed by: Denys Arcand, will be the premiere offering in a new series entitled "Sunday Afternoon Cinema" scheduled to begin on October 29th and playing every Sunday through May of next year at the Price Edward Cinemas in downtown Charlottetown.

Jesus of Montreal was awarded the special jury prize at this year's Cannes Film Festival in France and recently was named best film at the Atlantic Film Festival. The film seems sure to be favored for the major prizes in Canada's Genie Awards and is a leading candidate for a nomination

in the Best Foreign Film category of the American Academy of Motion picture feature, "The Decline of the American Empire", received world wide recognition.

The Sunday Afternoon Cinema series will continue with a program of critically praised and award winning feature films from around the world and including Canada. Canadian films "Speaking Parts" by Atom Egoyan, "Bye Bye Blues" by Ann Wheeler, "I've Heard the Mermaid Singing" by Patricia Rozema join such outstanding international films as "Salaam Bombay", winner of the best first feature category at Cannes in

1988 for director Mira Nair; Bette's Feast directed by Denmark's Gabriel Axel and winner of the 1988 Academy Award for best foreign film; "High Hopes" by Great Britain's Michael Leigh, "Do the Right Thing"; a controversial and exciting film by New Yorker, Spike Lee; and "Sex, Lies, and Videotape", certainly the most talked about American release these days and winner of the top prize at Cannes in 1989 for best film, the prestigious Palme d'Or award.

Series organizer Peter Richards says "It is a real pleasure to be able to present first quality Canadian and inter-

national feature films to a PEI audience. Islanders have missed out for too long on the opportunity of viewing films of world class distinction. The Sunday Afternoon Cinema series should be a welcome remedy for this situation."

This series is presented by the Island Media Arts Co-op

in co-operation with the Linda Joy Busby Media Arts Foundation, Wormwood's Dog and Monkey Cinema, Halifax and Empire Theaters. The films are scheduled for Sunday afternoons at the Price Edward Cinemas on Grafton street in Charlottetown. Doors open at 2:00 pm and the show starts at 2:30.

Movie Reviews

Red Scorpion.

Red Scorpion is based in Africa and centers on the communists and the Cubans destroying the native people and their village. The communists send out one of their best Special Forces Officers to kill the head priest of the rebel movement. The officer intentionally gets himself thrown in jail with one of the rebels. Then he proceeds to help the native and another man escape. He follows them back to the village which by this time is in ruins, and tries to kill their leader. Fortunately, the leader is too smart and the officer is deposited on the road, badly beaten to await his comrade's arrival.

What a bastard! you might say, but what this Russian lacks in personality he makes up in form. This is the guy who just might be Shwarzenegger's match.

Later in the movie the Officer realizes what the Russians are doing is wrong and he joins the natives for real this time. Together they destroy the prominent Russian and Cuban personalities and the former officer become of the tribe of the Red Scorpions.

This movie is full of action and violence, but it centers on a good plot.

Red Scorpion is definitely worth seeing and I give it three panther paws out of five.

Cyborg

Cyborg is base in New York City in the future, during a time when the plague has spread all over the planet. Civilization has collapsed, and anarchy and genocide prevail. The last scientists are working on a cure for the plague but there are those who would like stop them.

A woman, actually a cyborg, has information for the scientists in Atlantis which will help them find a cure for the plague. A band of pirates capture her and try to prevent her from going to Atlantis with the information. A cyborg is a human being who has undergone surgery and has become in a sense, a machine, and has no recollection of their former life.

One man and a young girl fight to save this woman so the

scientist may get the information she carries. Interestingly enough the man has had a relationship with the cyborg before she underwent the surgery which she has absolutely no memory of.

This movie is full of action and emotion, and is definitely worth seeing. The ending is rather sad, even though the world may be saved. *Cyborg*, starring Deborah Richter, Dayle Haddon and Rolf Muller. I give four out of five panther paws.

Night of the Demons.

If you are looking for a good movie to rent for Halloween don't get this one. The story starts out like all the rest: a group of high school students decide to party in an abandon haunted house on Halloween night. The original plan is to scare the other people by telling them there are spirits in the house. Only the spirits were not pretend, they were real. We find out later that the Indians were afraid of the site as the ground was not clean (sounds like Pet Cemetery to me). So, the ground was haunted even before the house was built. The demons in the house possess one girl who then kills someone else. Then this person becomes a demon as well and so on. Only two people get out of the house alive and barely. The plot in this movie is weak and the acting is not much better. The whole movie centers on the students' desire to have sex with whoever is willing.

The movie ends with the death of a man who had put razor blades in the apples he gave out on Halloween. The man's wife had intentionally baked a pie for him out of the remaining apples. This may be seen as a sort of poetic justice. If you want to watch a movie about sex, demons, and haunted houses, with little or no story line, bad acting, and lack of originality this may be the movie for you. If not you may want to fall back on some of the old faithfuls like *Halloween*, or *Friday the Thirteenth Part 25*; you won't find them any worse than this one.

I give *Night of the Demons* one panther paw out of five.

OCT 29 JESUS OF MONTREAL

Dir: Denys Arcand, Canada, 1989. Winner: Special Jury Prize, Cannes Film Festival 1989. French, subtitled. Arcand's hero plays Christ in his own unorthodox version of the Passion Play, staged on the bluff overlooking Montreal. Inevitably, reality begins to echo drama; but what is less predictable is both the range the film manages to cover (religious humbug; media humbug; the amazing behavior of audiences; the fumbling and bumbling of bureaucracy in the run down city over which the mountain serenely floats) and the humor and sheer energy of Arcand's script.

NOV 5 SALAAM BOMBAY

Dir: Mira Nair, India/France/Great Britain, 1988. Winner: Best First Feature, Cannes Film Festival. Hindi, subtitled. Shooting in the crowded streets and alleys of Bombay, Nair paints a remarkably authentic portrait of life on the streets. The acting by both amateurs and professionals is flawless. This is life portrayed with all the restless violence of wasted youth, where emotional deprivation, anger and aggression are relieved by a few subtle moments of tenderness.

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