

What's up north

Playhouse offering 7 summer shows

The Cherry County Playhouse in Traverse City is putting the finishing touches on the 1977 season. Four of the seven shows are now set at Michigan's first star summer theater.

The playhouse will open June 28 with a two-week run of "Stop the World, I Want to Get Off." Arte Johnson, television and film celebrity, will star in the Anthony Newley-Leslie Bricusse musical.

"Stop the World..." is the story of Littlechap, a middle-class Englishman whose quest for wealth and glory is marked with romance, politics and fantasy. It is a one-man musical with Arte Johnson surrounded by a chorus of women in such numbers as "Once in a Lifetime" and "What Kind of Fool Am I." "Stop the World" will run through July 10.

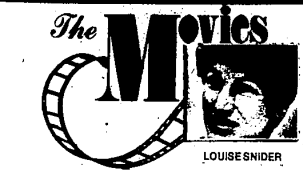
CCP producer Pat Paulsen is scheduled to make his annual appearance in the third spot on the bill. Paulsen will star in "God's Favorite" from July 19-31. Co-starring with Paulsen is the Neil Simon comedy to be Professor Irwin Corey.

"God's Favorite" will be followed by a one-week run of "Charley's Aunt" with Donald O'Connor, Aug. 2-7. O'Connor, star of numerous movie musicals, will don lace, cap and wig to create the role of Lord Babberley in the classic Brandon Thomas farce.

During the 1976 season, the Cherry County Playhouse broke all attendance records when it presented the stage debut of Tom Smothers. From Aug. 9-14, the playhouse will present another theater first when Dick Smothers appears in Neil Simon's "Prisoner of Second Avenue."

Performances at the playhouse are Tuesday-Friday at 8:30 p.m.; Saturday at 6 and 9:45 p.m.; Sunday at 7:30 p.m. and Thursday matinee at 2 p.m. Because of the events scheduled for the 1977 Cherry Festival, evening performances on July 6-8 will begin at 9 p.m.

For ticket information call (616) 947-9560 or write the Cherry County Playhouse, Box 661, Traverse City 19681.



LOUISE SNIDER

White buffalo quite a charge

Picture a stuffed, white fokati rug charging at you. Scared? Well, what if it has horns and a hump? "Just a bad dream," you say? That's what Bill Hickok thinks, until he sees it, in "White Buffalo" (PG).

Hickok (Charles Bronson), wracked by syphilis which has weakened his eyesight and begun to affect his mind, has repeated nightmares of a white buffalo attacking him. But, as they say in fantasyland, he dares "to make his dream come true." He heads for Sioux country to kill a white buffalo and, thereby, dispatch his nightmare.

Meanwhile, back in the hills (the Black Hills, that is), the white buffalo has rampaged through an Indian village. Among those killed is the daughter of Chief Crazy Horse (Will Sampson).

The chief cries out for his dead child and is reprimanded for his unmanly conduct and given the name of "Worm." Before he can return to his tribe and regain his true name, he must slay the white buffalo. His child will not be happy and whole in the great beyond until its body is wrapped in the robe of the buffalo which killed it.



CHARLES BRONSON

THUS HICKOK and Crazy Horse, each for his own personal reason, are out to kill the white buffalo. Against all odds, they join forces. When they finally confront the megabeast, Hickok prepares to withstand the charge with just one bullet in his rifle. He says, "It only takes one bullet," to do the job. Although Hickok has acted cool and savvy throughout the hunt, this statement leaves one wondering just how sick in the head he's supposed to be.

"White Buffalo" is a movie which scatters buckshot at numerous targets without a direct hit on any one. Man vs. man, man vs. nature, man vs. beast—these are epic themes of art and literature. But here the epic is reduced to the anecdotal.

Man vs. man is nothing more than the usual gunfights with a few red man-white man platitudes thrown in for social significance. Man vs. nature is some rough weather scenes, but who in Michigan hasn't seen worse? As for man vs. beast, the white buffalo of Hickok's nightmare and Crazy Horse's hunt is still just a stuffed fokati typed up with electronic music and sound effects. There are a few more platitudes about the demise of the great herds, and let the buffalo chips fall where they may.

Bronson plays a suave and determined Hickok, resigned to his syphilitic fate. Jack Warden is colorful as Charles Zane, his one-eyed buffalo-hunting companion. And Will Sampson is stalwart and dignified as Crazy Horse, alias Worm.

THEY'RE A FINE trio of actors but they lack substantive material to work with. The principal weakness in the film is the inadequate character development of Hickok and the absence of information about buffaloes. (This sounds funny, but is meant seriously. As in "Jaws," learning about the animal's habits increased the sense of danger and expectation.) The presence of both these elements would have created greater suspense and a sense of an inexorable confrontation.

Richard Sale, who wrote the screenplay based on his own novel, is no Herman Melville. Captain Ahab and Moby Dick have no rivals in Wild Bill Hickok and the White Buffalo.

Glimpses

NEW RELEASES

- ANNIE HALL** (PG). The best Woody Allen film yet. Truth and comedy go hand in hand in this touching, contemporary love story. Diane Keaton is also at her best as Annie.
- BLACK SUNDAY** (R). Sick killer of inflated terrorism from a blimp at the Super Bowl. Robert Shaw and Marthe Keller are the capable adversaries. Fine acting by Bruce Dern as the berserk pilot.
- THE CAR** (PG). A mysterious car with an unseen driver terrorizes a town. Does the EPA know about this?
- CITIZENS BAND** (PG). Just your average, everyday people next door, next lane, or next town, living each other on their piece of the electromagnetic spectrum.
- CROSS OF IRON** (R). Grimly realistic war drama of 1943 German retreat in Russia. James Coburn, Maximilian Schell and James Mason are the luckless Germans.
- THE GREATEST** (PG). Film bio of Mohammed Ali in and out of the ring as he decks opponents and stands firm against a draft-minded government.
- THE LATE SHOW** (PG). Comedy and suspense tangle in this melodrama about a kooky girl (Lily Tomlin), a missing cat (identity unknown), and an over-age private eye (Art Carney) who still knows a trick or two.
- ROCKY** (PG). Human warmth and exciting drama combine in this stirring film about a no-name boxer who gets a chance at a title bout. Acting accolades to entire cast and especially Stallone as Rocky.
- SINBAD & THE EYE OF THE TIGER** (G). Swashbuckling adventure-fantasy with Patrick Wayne (son of John) and Taryn Power (daughter of Tyrone).
- SLAP SHOT** (R). A comic and cutting look at the violence of professional hockey. Paul Newman as the amoral player-coach smiles beguilingly as he utters every obscenity in the book.
- STAR WARS** (PG). Serious sci-fi adventure about a rebellion of solar systems in a distant galaxy. Good time movie with laughs and special effects. Two robots steal the show.
- THREE WOMEN** (PG). Director Robert Altman's strange, provocative study of the merging relationships of three women and their alienation in a masculine world.
- WHITE BUFFALO** (PG). Charles Bronson in his 50th movie is Wild Bill Hickok chasing a nightmare vision. Western epic also stars Jack Warden, Will Sampson, Cing Walker and Kim Novak.

BACK AGAIN

THE STING (PG). Redford and Newman are the two gratifying con men who outcon them all in this fast, funny flick that won seven Academy Awards.

MOVIE RATING GUIDE

G - General audiences admitted.
 PG - Parental guidance suggested. All ages admitted.
 R - Restricted. Adult accompaniment person under 18.
 X - No one under 18 admitted.

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- ☆ **The Stylistics** —JUNE 27-JULY 2

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