



# 'Bugsy Malone' just kid stuff

At the court of King Philip IV of Spain there were always several dwarfs in attendance to amuse the royal personage. Little people they looked and dressed and acted like full-size adults. It must have made the king feel a bit like Gulliver among the Lilliputians. But the Spanish court did not have Gulliver's humorists, and the royal dwarfs often were the victims of considerable jest and cruelty.

There is nothing cruel about 'Bugsy Malone' (G), but it does seem to be an enormous test. Consider that 'Bugsy Malone' is a late 1930's era musical comedy set to music filled with slapstick and started by an allied cast. Yes, that's right. The showgirls, the heads, the eyes, everyone. All the parts are played by children, average age 12.

This is a very clever movie. One marvels that it was done so well, but that anyone would want to do it at all. Among the concepts of the movie-makers, musical number, slapstick and comedy were made to be the most fun that any individual viewer could have. Yet, in the manner of Alan Parker who wrote and directed 'Bugsy', it is able to pull it together and make it both coherent and palatable.

Perhaps it was because the premise was so simple, it was pursued with such facility. The movie-makers when dealing with adult voices are used to the way the children cry, moan the words. But they do that with dancing, as much as they are called as any kind of was done, and using the music from the British National Youth Jazz Orchestra as the music. The first musical number was composed by Paul Williams. The excellent dance numbers were choreographed by Gail Kassin. Their combined success picks up the pace when the action is really taking place.

WHEN ABE BLOOMBERG appears in the screen, she also gets a little action. As 'Tallulah', she is a little girl. Her name is Tallulah, number is a sticky rhythm which she sings that she sings through with remarkable expertise. Julie is not a newcomer to movies. Her screen credits include 'Taxi Driver' and 'More Than Love Here'. 'More Than Love Here' was a very popular 13-year old girl with a very clever delivery.

Julie is one of many outstanding performers in 'Bugsy'. All the youngsters seem to have a sense of humor and a lot of appeal. Admittedly, you've got to take in bits with a little bit of each other with cream puffs and make their getaway in a pool drive car.

I suspect, however, that the degree to which one likes this movie depends on one's attitude for watching children play adult parts. The movie of children mimicking adult behavior wears off quickly. But if you ever enjoyed some Gable or Bette movie as a child and fantasized yourself into the action, here's your chance to see it through. The plot is not unusual.

Pat Sam, John Galt, a speakeasy owner who's branched out into several other businesses, like building a garage, a film club and his business for the longest of a time, is a war leader by the name of 'Marty'. Marty is the one who wants to take over Sam's operations. Marty is the one who wants to take over Sam's operations.

WHEN DANDY DUNS gang attacks Fat Sam's speakeasy in a final attempt, Bugsy and his boys are ready. The finale is a real triumph. An excellent 'Mack Sennett' style free-for-all fight with cartoonish gun and dramatic punting goes.

'Bugsy Malone' is a novel, but is that enough? Should we try a version of 'Aida' in the role of a battle film with all the soldiers in drag? I get my mind's eye about 20 pictures as they ended from the movie. The movie seemed to be to their great knowledge.

The reaction of the movie was a little disappointing to 'Galt'. Those who saw the movie without an inkling of its content or cast generally seemed to be disappointed. One person said unequivocally, 'The world is the live ever seen.' 'Bugsy' man. He must only see the top 10 every year.

Be forewarned. You'll either love the movie or have a bad case of the squirms.

**GLIMPSES**

**NEW RELEASES**

**ALEX AND THE GYPSY (R)** Jack Lemmon as a nasty Alex and Genevieve Bujard as the kooky gypsy in a flick that's supposed to be a comedy but is mostly mean. The actors deserve something better.

**CARRIE (R)** Sissy Spacek plays Carrie, a teenage girl with the power of telekinesis—the ability to move objects by psychic power. She exacts a terrifying revenge on those who offend her.

**COUSIN WENDIE (R)** A delightful romantic comedy enacted by a relatively unknown but sparkling cast. The mature lovers conduct their romance against a lively background of family action.

**CAR WASH (PG)** A day in the life of a car wash with a splendid cast, a few beat and a few laughs. The large ensemble includes Richard Pryor, the Pointer Sisters, George Carlin and Irwin Corey.

**THE FRONT (PG)** Woody Allen and an excellent cast including Zero Mostel, Herschel Bernardi and Andrea Marcovici recreate the idiosyncrasy and tragedy of the blacklisting era of the 1950s.

**MARATHON MAN (R)** A spy thriller which overcomes a terrific cast with a surfeit of blood and violence. Laurence Olivier, Dustin Hoffman, William Devane and Roy Scheider give it their best.

**THE NEXT MAN (R)** A suspense thriller of political intrigue with Sean Connery as an Arabian diplomat and Cornelia Sharpe as a member of the jet set. Assassins are after Connery and he's after Cornelia.

**OBSESSION (PG)** Suspenseful romance with Cliff Robertson as a man who falls in love with a woman who looks just like his dead wife. Some bizarre consequences are the result.

**PIPE DREAMS (PG)** Gladys Knight goes to Alaska to corral her wayward husband. A thin plot made tolerable by the affable personalities of Knight and Barry Haskenson. Gladys sings and wears mu. clothes.

**MOVIE RATING GUIDE**

G: General audiences admitted.

PG: Parental guidance suggested. All ages admitted.

R: Restricted. Adult material. No one under 17.

X: No one under 17 admitted.

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