



LOUISE SNIDER

## Commando raid retold thrillingly

"Operation Thunderbolt" (PG) is the Israeli account of the 1976 commando raid on Entebbe airport in Uganda where terrorists held captive the Israeli passengers of an Air France jet. With the passengers were the French crew members who elected to remain behind when the non-Israelis were transported from the others and flown to Paris.

The occasional voice of a narrator, explaining the situation and the political scope, is an unnecessary interference that dilutes the tension. Director Menahem Golan is most effective when he just lets the action and events speak for themselves. He builds up anticipation and suspense with crosscutting between the hostages at Entebbe and the Israeli commando units at home drilling in preparation for the raid.

Yehoram Gao, who portrays the actual leader and trainer of the special army unit, nicely underplays the dramatics and provides contrast to the high-pitched emotions of the terrorists and the hostages.

There have been two made-for-TV movies of the Entebbe raid, but the extraordinary feat is still exciting, even more so when seen on a large screen and without interruption.

The movie version does define the cooperation and complicity of Colonel Khadafi of Libya, of Yasser Arafat and Dr. Haddad, and of Idi Amin and his Ugandan troops.

At the end one feels like joining the celebration, not just because the captives are freed, but because a successful stand against terrorism makes the world safer for everyone.



Anthony Quinn as multimillionaire shipping magnate and Jacqueline Bisset as wife of the U.S. President, enjoy a Greek life vacation.

## Gossip mongered in 'Greek Tycoon'

"The Greek Tycoon" (R) is an exploitative movie designed to titillate all those who devour magazines with pictures of Jackie O. on the cover.

Jacqueline Bisset plays Lizzie Cassidy, the young, attractive wife of a young, attractive senator (James Franciscus) who becomes President of the United States and is then assassinated.

The widow, anxious to get away from her dominating in-laws, marries Theo Tomasis (rhymes with Onassis), a Greek shipping tycoon (Anthony Quinn).

Lizzie is haughty and cool. The Greeks older and vulgar. But he makes her an offer she can't refuse: A multi-million dollar marriage contract that spells out their financial and conjugal obligations.

This is Quinn's movie. As Tomasis, he's a lusty, brawling, cunning manipulator. He bounces back and forth between high finances and low lust. Finally, he fades out with a shameless rehash of his "Zorba, the Greek" routine.

The dialogue is flat and dreary, but the scenery's not bad. "The Greek Tycoon" is a dull Mediterranean travogue in which a few actors dropped in to play charades.

## Glimpses

### NEW RELEASES

**COMING HOME (R).** Powerful story of Vietnam era with Jane Fonda as officer's wife who falls in love with disabled vet. (Jon Voight).

**F.I.S.T. (PG).** Sylvester Stallone as union organizer in film that spans decades from early struggle and idealism to national strength and corruption.

**FM (PG).** Funny film about a rock 'n' roll radio station and the conflict between the disc jockeys and station management. **THE FURY (R).** Director Brian DePalma unleashes the special effects in gory film about secret government agency and two teenagers with strange psychic powers.

**HOUSE CALLS (PG).** Walter Matthau and Glenda Jackson in entertaining comedy about amorous adventures of widowed doctor and complications in hospital politics.

**I WANNA HOLD YOUR HAND (PG).** Beate hysteria of the '60s in story of six youngsters who go to New York to see the Beatles on the Ed Sullivan show Sound track of Beatles' recordings.

**THE LAST WALTZ (PG).** The last concert given by The Band, Thanksgiving 1976, is documented in this film by Martin Scorsese.

**1900 (R).** The rise of Italian Fascism provides the background for Bernardo Bertolucci's epic that parallels the lives of two boys, one born to a family of landowners, one to a family of farm workers.

**PRETTY BABY (R).** Red-light district of New Orleans in 1917 as seen by a child prostitute in lush, unromanticizing film by Louis Malle.

**RABBIT TEST (PG).** Joan Rivers directed this wild comedy about the world's first pregnant man.

**SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER (R).** John Travolta (of Kottler's sweatshops) is the main man in film with plenty of disco action.

**A SPECIAL DAY (R).** Sophia Loren and Marcello Mastroianni are excellent as two lonely individuals caught up in bombast of Italian Fascism AN UNMARRIED WOMAN (R). Jill Clayburgh in top form as woman who picks up the pieces after her husband leaves her, then finds there's more to life than Scotch Tape. Written and directed by Paul Mazursky.

### MOVIE RATING GUIDE

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

# Nothing dumb about Brenner

By ETHEL SIMMONS

All those dumb things you did, that happened to you, that you remember when you were a kid. This is the humor of comic David Brenner, who opened the Birmingham Theatre last week.

Brenner established a quick rapport with his audience, who packed the theater for full houses during his five shows. On opening night, Thursday, Brenner coped with everything from a dead mike to an intruding TV camera.

When the mike went dead, Brenner quipped, "God made the world in seven days. I bet he couldn't put in a sound system." He had jokes to cover every contingency, and he'd probably faced most of them before.

However, at one point during the show, the bright lights of a TV camera show blinded the eyes of the audience and Brenner, too. "Where are you

## Review

from?" he asked. "Channel 4," was the reply.

CHANNEL 4 went right on filming. "What's it, a slow night for news?" Brenner asked. "I feel like I'm living a Fellini movie!"

The camera crew turned the TV eye on the front rows, to catch the audience laughter. Brenner was obviously stunned and annoyed, although he kept his comic cool.

Gary Deeb, one of the theater owners, came down the aisle to move the camera crew. ("That's a violation of Brenner's contract," he said later.)

Brenner resumed his act, saying, "I'm going to follow this by telling you something dumb!" That's one of his

lines, the dumb things we do, and see around us.

Obviously, that was the dumbest. "That's a first," he declared. "In 8,000 shows, that's a first!"

Channel 7's Bill Bonds introduced the show, the first live entertainment under the new policy of concerts and stage productions reopening the Birmingham Theatre.

VOCALIST Edna Lev, who explained in an accented voice that she is from Israel, opened the show with a session of songs, in an upbeat Vegas style.

Brenner's turn followed a brief intermission, and he came out dressed in a striped navy velvet suit and vest, with ruffled shirt, looking impish.

He appeared natural and relaxed, despite a bad back which kept him pacing the stage in long strides instead of using a high stool that had been set out. His long curly hair, framed twinkling eyes, a sloping nose that was the

self-degenerative subject of many of his jokes, and a yard-wide grin.

He also joked about his skinny body, likening it to the floor mike.

Brenner's show was designed for a family audience, and the word S-E-X hardly mentioned. According to Brenner, he and the rest of the guys in South Philly were pretty naive kids.

But it was a tough neighborhood, and there were jokes about the tough guys on the block, including some brothers who were so tough Brenner was scared of their perch.

AS A KID, Brenner hated school. His teachers called him a destructive element. One long segment in his long stage stint was about a classroom arithmetic test.

It struck a responsive chord in the audience. Like most of Brenner's material, it reminds you of half-forgotten memories of teachers, peers, sibling rivalry, embarrassing moments and youthful revenge.

## Shakespeare Festival play emphasized

For the fifth year Dr. Philip J. Traci will share his insights into works of William Shakespeare to be performed at the Stratford, Ont., Festival.

Titled "Three for Stratford '78," the series starts June 1 at 8 p.m. at the Grasse Pointe War Memorial, Grasse Pointe Farms.

Series is sponsored by University Courses in Adult Education (Wayne State University, College of Lifelong Learning—The University of Michigan Extension Service).

Dr. Traci, a member of the WSU English Department since 1969, is a Shakespearean critic. He has written and lectured extensively on Shakespeare and his plays. Currently, he is writing a book with Prof. Marvin Fel-

heim of the University of Michigan on Shakespeare's comedies.

Dates subjects and titles of the lectures are:  
June 1 Julius Caesar: "Power and Virtue in Ancient Rome"  
June 8 Macbeth: "The Source of Evil—Self, Wife or the Witches?"  
June 15 The Winter's Tale: "What's It All About, Willie?"

Dr. Traci's lectures will focus on the plots, historical background, language and possible interpretations of each play. Ample time is allowed for questions and answers.  
Fee is priced for the series or for single lectures.

## Brel show lives

Jacques Brel, France's ranking composer-interpreter of modern songs in the tradition of Piaf-Brel, is living ("very well, thank you") in Paris.

Unknown still to many Americans, he is being brought to the attention of the American public via "Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris." The musical revue of some 24 of the author's songs first opened at the Village Gate in New York in 1968 and is currently offered at Vittorio's Dinner Theatre, 3320 Plymouth and Farmington roads, Livonia.

Brel's explosive songs include a variety of moods, from cynical irony to warm compassion. They're lusty, abrasive, desperate, boisterous, wrenching, salty, an emotional excessive that doesn't fall flat.

Phil Marcus Esser, Charlie Latimer, Barbara Bredius and Mary Ann Paquette are the voices in the cast.

BEFORE THE show, Vittorio's serves a buffet dinner featuring Steamship Round of Round Beef, Golden Fried Chicken, Beef Lasagne or Mostaccioli as well as relish trays, jello molds, cole slaw, potatoes au gratin, green beans almondine and fresh fruit.

Following the performances, Creme de Menthe parfait dessert is served. Audiences are then encouraged to join the merriment with disco dance music.

Performances are every Tuesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday night, with dinner at 7 p.m. and curtain time at 8:30. Sunday dinner is at 8 p.m. and the show starts at 7:30 p.m.

For those who want to attend the show only, the price is separate.

For further information and reservations, call 425-8244.

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