



Burt Reynolds plays stuntman, courts danger

Movie Critic Louise Snider is on vacation this week, and a production story on "Hooper" appears instead of her usual review.

"The more money they pay you, the less work they let you do," complains Burt Reynolds of the fact that studios and their insurance companies expressly forbid him to risk danger during the filming of a movie.

"But we cheated a little on 'Hooper,' he brags, speaking of his newest film, a Warner Bros. release directed by the legendary stuntman Hal Needham.

"I did a lot of stunts in my early acting days, partly because I wasn't a very good actor and, also, it was a good excuse to get paid a lot of money," Reynolds admits.

"But as my acting improved and my salary got bigger, the stunts got smaller. Now, sometimes they want to call in a stunt double if I have to brush my teeth. I might damage my gorgeous gums!"

For "Hooper," which also stars Jan-Michael Vincent, Sally Field and Brian Keith, Reynolds engaged in a big brawl with football star Terry Bradshaw and jumped from a helicopter, plus other assorted physical feats. "It was nothing compared to what I did a few years ago, but it was refreshing," Reynolds says.

"When I did a TV series called 'Hawk,' I tried to do at least one stunt every episode. The one I remember best was a jump from a boat into New York Harbor, a fall of about 70 feet.

"It was night and they had to spray the water so I could see the surface. The jump didn't terrify me. It was swimming in the water that was frightening. You can catch all kinds of diseases playing around in New York Harbor."

Many stunts that look easy are potentially dangerous, he says. "It doesn't take a great deal of athletic ability to jump three feet from, say, a horse to a moving car. But if you miss, you get ground up pretty good. Personally, I find fire goes the fastest. In a picture called 'Fuzz,' they set me on fire and it got out of hand real quick. I didn't know where I was and I couldn't breathe.

"STUNT PEOPLE are trained not to lose their heads, so I just listened to the stunt suffer, who told me which direction to walk, how much time I had and when to lay down and roll in the water. It looked terrific, but I'm not wild about working with fire. Jan-Michael and I have a fire gag in 'Hooper' which I didn't particularly enjoy.

"One reason I became so identified with movie action," the star reveals, "is that I worked in a lot of bad pictures with very boring scripts. So every now and then I'd say, 'Wouldn't it be interesting if I jumped out of a window about now?'"



Sonny Hooper (Burt Reynolds) receives an encouraging word from girlfriend Gwen (Sally Field).

Glimpses

NEW RELEASES

BAD NEWS BEARS GO TO JAPAN (PG). Scraggy action with the Bears, their scheming agent Tony Curtis and a Japanese wrestler, not to mention the ball game.

CAPRICORN ONE (PG). Hoax about a space shot is the gimmick in this flick with lots of action and lots of loopholes.

THE CHEAP DETECTIVE (PG). Peter Falk and terrific cast click in Neil Simon's comical take-off on the Bogart movies of the '40s.

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

CONVOY (PG). Kris Kristofferson leads convoy of angry truckers in movie expanded from hit record.

DAMEN: OMEN II (R). The nasty kid from "The Omen" is now 13 and he's back to kill more people as the world heads for Armageddon.

THE DRIVER (R). Explores the state of the professional getaway driver (Ryan O'Neal) and the detective (Bruce Dern) who hunt him.

THE END (R). Black comedy about misadventures of an about-to-die guy. Burt Reynolds and Dom DeLuise as union organizer in film that spans decades from early struggle and idealism to national strength and corruption.

FOUL PLAY (PG). A romantic comedy-thriller with a goodly number of laughs albeit many of them are "crowded" from other films.

GREASE (PG). Broadway musical about the funky '50s is translated to film with John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John.

HARPER VALLEY PTA (PG). You heard the song in the '60s, now see the movie as Barbara Eden and Nanette Fabray thump the hypocrites.

HEAVEN CAN WAIT (PG). Warren Beatty's successful and distinctive remake of humorous fantasy, "Here Comes Mr. Jordan." Football player goes to heaven and returns to earth as business tycoon. Fine performances.

INTERNATIONAL VELVET (PG). Sequel to "National Velvet" (1944). The faces are new and the social relationships contemporary, but the story is an old favorite comprised of a girl, a horse and a race.

JAWS 2 (PG). Unimaginative recap of original "Jaws" as another shark with a case of overbite and a taste for teens terrorizes beach resort.

REVENGE OF THE PINK PANTHER (PG). Peter Sellers is superb as the idiotic but successful Chief Inspector Clouseau. A fine addition to the "Panther" series.

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.

Senior students do plays

Cranbrook's outdoor Greek Theatre is the setting for two comedies and a drama when Cranbrook Summer Theatre School senior students aged 14 through college present "And Come the Spring," Aug. 1 and 2; "The Family Man," Aug. 4 and 5; and "The Young and the Fair," Aug. 8 and 9.

All productions—grand finales of the summer season of theater study—are at 8 p.m. in the amphitheater at 400 Lone Pine Road. An admission is charged.

The comedy of Marjane and Joseph Hayes, "And Come the Spring," is the brightly humorous story of the Hartmans, a typical American family whose young daughter is romantically—and hilariously—stirred by spring and thoughts of love. Midge manages to upset family, busi-

Theater

ness, friends and strangers in her determination to catch a boyfriend.

"The Family Man," by Benjamin Zavin and Carl Lee, is also a comedy about a charming family. In this story, husband and wife—Bill and Ellen Cahill—are reluctantly obliged to exchange roles when professional baseball player Bill breaks a leg. What happens to each is not only timely, but it's funny.

THE DRAMA "The Young and the Fair" by N. Richard Nash is set in a fashionable junior college for young women. The story is about blackmail, a twisted and jealous girl, the college director who faces compromising her standards of right and wrong, a hard-headed board of directors and an intelligent alumna and her student sister who have the courage to fight deceit.



Graveyard is a scary scene in "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer."

'Tom Sawyer' takes to music

The National Theatre Company will present "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" on Friday, Aug. 4, at the Birmingham Theatre.

This musical adaptation of the Mark Twain classic has had five successful

seasons of touring.

Richard Stockton's witty script has been coupled with a country-rock score by composer Sheldon Markham and Lyricist Annette Leiston. The production has been hailed as "one of the

finest versions of the old-produced tale" and has been anthologized in Lehman Engel's book, "Their Words Are Music."

"The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" can be seen at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

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COMING EVENTS: Thurs. Aug. 10 Detroit Symphony Orchestra, NEVILLE MARRINER, conductor. • Sat. Aug. 12 piano • Fri. Aug. 11, CHICK HADGONSON • Sat. Aug. 12 piano • Sun. Aug. 13, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, ARTHUR D'SO, NEVILLE MARRINER, conductor. • CLAUDIO ARANI, pianist • Sun. Aug. 13, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, ARTHUR D'SO, NEVILLE MARRINER, conductor. • ROBERT MISSEL, pianist. • The concert series at Trumbull Terrace for information, call 377-9010. Ticket services at Hudson's, Sear's, Ward's, Gurneys and Meadow Brook Box Office. Phone: 377-2010

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