



Dreamy car turns on teen

Mark Hamill, who was so bland in "Star Wars," he couldn't outact a couple of robots, has gone full tilt in the other direction.

He now belongs to the "intensity" school of acting. At least, "Intensity" best sums up his characterization in "Corvette Summer" (R).

The intensity doesn't derive from passionate concern about people, politics or saving the gray whale. Its focus is a car, a Corvette Stingray.

As Kenny Darday, Hamill plays a graduating high school senior who has wracked a wrecked Corvette that he saved from a junkyard crusher.

When the car is stolen, he goes in search of it. After a tip that it's in Las Vegas, he starts hitching.

On the way, he gets a lift from Vanessa (Annie Potts). Vanessa drives a customized van with a waterbed in it.

She's a neophyte hooker going to Vegas to bolster her career.

The two fall in love with each other. She hopes to become a high-priced call girl; he hopes to retrieve his car.

However, Vanessa would like to practice with Darday, who seems to be more interested in fiberglass bodies than real ones. She finally manages to quell Darday, although, the Corvette is clearly his first and virginal love.

THE MOVIE then is punctuated by lovers' spats and Corvette sightings. Darday singlehandedly goes after the heaves—a gang of organized car thieves.

He can't remember his car's license number; still, he's sure that he's more capable of locating the Vette than the police.

Meanwhile, Vanessa is trying to launch her bumpy career. Annie Potts as Vanessa is a natural. She has a talent for it and looks that it's difficult to recognize her from one scene to the next.

We just have to go with Darday and assume his instincts are correct and that he recognizes her probably some detail in her trim.

"Corvette Summer" clearly is a film aimed at the youth market, but parents with subtlety who want to see this PG-rated movie might think twice about it. The sex scenes aren't explicit, but references to Vanessa's career ambitions are.

The tone is glib and noncensuring, as if she were studying to become an engineer or a teacher. Many people will find this moral laxity off-putting, especially since it is wrapped in cuteness.

Hamill is a hunk, he is so boyish and so devoted to his car.

Potts is cute because of the bumbling way she goes about her trade.

Together they are cute because they appear as not-too-bright but very earnest young people.

And if they get married and have a sequel, you can bet it will be even cuter.



They're 'animals'

John Belushi (left) seems to be trying to look a gift horse in the mouth as he greets Stephen Furst, a pledge of the "animal house" fraternity, as wacky a bunch of misfits as ever graced a college campus, in "National Lampoon's Animal House," a Universal release at Detroit area theaters.

Glimpses

NEW RELEASES

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.

CORVETTE SUMMER (PG). Boy chases stolen Corvette and catches car and girl, Mark Hamill and Annie Potts get in gear.

THE DRIVER (R). Attempts to artfully develop melodrama about rivalry between a professional getaway driver (Ryan O'Neal) and the cop (Bruce Dern) who hunts him.

THE END (R). Black comedy about misadventures of an about-to-die guy, Robert Reynolds and Dom DeLuise star.

EYES OF LAURA MARS (R). Suspense about fashion photographer (Faye Dunaway) haunted by terror.

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

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

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.

HOOPER (PG). Burt Reynolds is the "greatest stuntman in the world" who has to go one better than his young up-and-coming rival (Jan Michael Vincent). Entertaining.

NATIONAL LAMPOON'S ANIMAL HOUSE (R). Outrageous and raunchy comedy about life at Delta Fraternity House, the bottom-of-the-barrel fraternity on a small college campus in the early '60s.

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.

SEPTEMBER 20, 1978 (PG). Richard Thomas stars in wistful reminiscence of the '50s set at time of James Dean's death.

WHY STOP THE RAIN (R). Taut suspenseful movie of pursuit.

Nick Nolte, Tuesday Weld and Michael Moriarity attempt to evade capture and unload two kilos of heroin smuggled from Vietnam.

MOVIE RATING GUIDE

G General audiences admitted.

PG Parental guidance suggested. All ages admitted.

R Restricted. Adults must accompany person under 18.

X No one under 18 admitted.

Youtheatre announces events

Theater

For 34 weeks, beginning Oct. 7, Youtheatre will present its 14th "Something Every Saturday" season of live, professional musicals, puppet shows, specials and 25-cent movie matinees in the Detroit Institute of Arts auditorium.

Youtheatre's hour-long performances are designed for young people of specific age levels to ensure maximum enjoyment and appreciation of the live stage presentation.

On any Saturday at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. until the end of May 1979, families may see musical versions of "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer," "The Story of Harriet Tubman," "The Orphan Princess," "Hansel and Gretel," "Pinocchio" and three other stories.

The eight puppet shows will include "Dance Feathers," performed by Chicago's Melkin Puppet Theatre.

"Witches' Brew" by fulltime airline pilot and part-time professional puppeteer Jim Gamble. "The Mysterious Masks of Africa" and "Peter Rabbit's Easter" to name a few.

SCHEDULED for Youtheatre's "Specials" are "David of Siam" Saturday, the Lhaghi Family of West Africa, Spanish actress Olvera and del Moral who are back for a second season by popular demand, and the award-winning Little Theatre of the Dead.

Focusing on classic heroes and heroines as only Hollywood can present them, the "Two-Bit Matinee" will show Errol Flynn's "Robin Hood," "Beau Geste" with Gary Cooper, "Gunga Din" and more.

The line-up for the season is composed of:

Oct. 7 "Sox Before Shoes" (live) The fun of growing and doing, performed by Boston's Living Poem Theater. For ages 5-10 years.

Oct. 14 "Witches' Brew" (puppet show) Airplane pilot Jim Gamble celebrates Halloween with a few puppet friends, for ages 5-adult.

Oct. 21 "Captain Blood" (film, 1935) Errol Flynn first starring picture. No age restriction.

Oct. 28 "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" (live, musical) Mark Twain's classic adventure story.

For ages 6-adult. Camp Fire Boys' Boarding School.

Nov. 4 "Hush Diddle Diddle" (live) The favorite rhymes of Mother Goose set to music by New Orleans' Everyman Players. First "Wiggle Club" show for ages 3-8 years.

Nov. 11 "Dragon Feathers" (puppet show) Chicago's Melkin Puppet Theatre and "Pull," the Rehearn one, for ages 5-adult.

Nov. 18 "Look in the Stars: The Story of Elizabeth Blackwell" (live) Her sense of humor helps America's first woman doctor triumph over the dark ages of the 1800s. Performed by New York Performing Arts Repertory Foundation. For ages 6-adult. Girl Scout/Brownie Salute.

Nov. 25 "Beau Geste" (film, 1939) Gary Cooper and Susan Hayward star in the P. Wren classic. No age restriction.

Dec. 2 "A Jazzy Holiday" (live) Detroit jazz stars Bess Bonner

and Joe LaDucca perform for a young audience. For ages 6-adult.

Dec. 9 "Santa's Magic Circus" (puppet show) Washington's Bob Brown Marionettes visit the old boy just before the holidays. "Wiggle Club" show for ages 3-8 years.

Dec. 16 "Hansel and Gretel" (live) Humperdinck's famous music, costumes, and operatically-trained artists/actors in a new production of a classic.

For ages 6-adult.

Dec. 23 "Adventures of Robin Hood" (film, 1938) Errol Flynn out-smart the Sheriff of Nottingham in Sherwood Forest. No age restriction.

Note: shows Dec. 30

Jan. 6 "Gunga Din" (film, 1939) Judy Garland's classic with George Raft, David Niven, and Don Ameche.

For ages 6-adult. No age restriction.

Jan. 13 "The Little Theatre of the Deaf" (live) Internationally acclaimed, Tony Award-winning company in a program of visual music, humor and language. For ages 7-adult.

Jan. 20 "Freedom Train: The Story of Harriet Tubman" (live)

The saga of this great American

lady to music and ventriloquism.

For ages 6-adult.

Jan. 27 "Mysterious Masks of Africa" (puppet show) Detroit's own Atlantis Expedition explores Africa in the medium of black light theater. For ages 7-adult.

Feb. 3 "As Eye See It" (live) New York's Jack Hill in a three-part show of magic, mime and ventriloquism. For ages 6-adult.

Feb. 10 Susan Linn and Her Puppets (puppet show) Direct from Mister Roger's Neighborhood ventriloquist/puppeteer Susan Linn is joined by her friend Audrey Duck and Cat-A-Lion. "Wiggle Club" show for ages 3-8 years.

Feb. 17 "The Blue Planet" (live) A musical space comedy in which everyone and everything is blue, except the Space Princess. From New York's Maximillion Productions. For ages 6-12.

Feb. 24 "Journey to the Center of the Earth" (film, 1959) Pat Boone and James Mason, good and bad guy respectively, battle it out in the deepest, the deepest.

March 3 "Dances of the Latin World" (live) From Spain and south of the border come Paschal Olivera and Angela del Moral in a whirlwind of fiery music and nonstop dance. For ages 6-adult.

March 10 "Beauty and the Beast" (puppet show) In full view of the audience, Kathy Piper creates all voices of the Beast and the Princess. For ages 6-adult. Girl Scout/Brownie Salute.

March 17 "Gone and the Detectives" (live) Eric Kastner's classic spring to life as Errol and his friends bring the bad guys to justice. For ages 6-adult. Boy Scout/Cub Scout Salute.

May 5 "David of Simeon Street" (live) Direct from TV's award-winning "Simeon Street" (Northern Callaway Club, Callaway's son) appears live on stage and the audience singing many favorite songs. A "Wiggle Club" show for ages 3-8 years.

May 12 "The Magical Land of Oz" (puppet show) Cleveland's Poppinjay Puppets bring to life the magical land of Oz for ages 5-10 years.

May 19 "The Wizard of Oz" (film, 1939) Frank Baum book to life. For ages 5-10 years.

May 26 "Dr. Cyclops" (film, 1940) Mad Dr. Thornel perfectly perfects the atomic ray that shrinks living things. No age restriction.

May 31 "The Sea Hawk" (film, 1940) Errol Flynn challenges the authority of the Queen of England in this full-color adventure film. No age restriction.

April 7 "Sara Crewe, The Orphan Princess" (live) A rags-to-riches musical based on the classic novel, performed in the style of Broadway's "Annie."

For ages 6-adult. Girl Scout/Brownie Salute.

April 14 "Peter Rabbit's Easter Basket" (puppet show) The Melkin Puppets return with Peter and a host of other Beatrix Potter characters to help the Easter Bunny Mother celebrate the holiday with the "Wiggle Club."

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