



Disguised as guards, Tony Pino (Peter Falk) and Sandy Richardson (Gerald Murphy) swipe some money from an armored truck in "The Brink's Job."



LOUISE SNIDER

## Blink your eyes at unlikely events in 'The Brink's Job'

Somewhat, seeing is not believing when you view "The Brink's Job" (PG). The "crime of the century," variously tabbed as a robbery of \$1.5-\$2.7 million, was executed by a loopy gang of two-time losers who look about as dangerous as the seven dwarfs.

Bungling and bungling go hand in hand for this gang of small-fry crooks led by an ex-con who steals neckties and fences radios and underwear.

The ignorance and ineptness of these retrained are rivaled only by those same qualities in the FBI. J. Edgar Hoover is certain the Brink's job was perpetrated by communists to discredit American institutions and finance subversive activities.

Peter Falk plays the mastermind of these looney tunes. He ambles along, a comic figure in rumpled clothes and an oversized coat. He's not too unlike Columbo, but instead of a smart cop acting dumb, he's a dumb crook working at being smart.

The best scenes are the early ones with Falk and Gena Rowlands as his understanding wife who, nevertheless, likes to see the receipt for everything he brings home.

FALK is exuberant in a restaurant scene where he enthusiastically tells Rowlands his thoughts about robbing Brinks. In animated conversation he personifies the elements involved: the building is a "dumb" building, and the money is calling to him to let it out.

Falk is the knight-clown who will rescue the money — not from evil but from smug stupidity in the shape of a building with fewer security measures than a street corner news stand.

Any old-time crooks watching this film probably are fighting back tears of nostalgia at the thought of "the good old days," in this case, the days before sophisticated systems of sensors and surveillance devices. (Come to think of it, art thieves aren't doing poorly against today's electronic systems.)

In going for laughter, rather than suspense, director William Friedkin has eschewed one of the major components, and a vital one at that, of the big-caper film. When we get to the robbery itself, there is no suspense. From then on, the film rapidly loses its charm. The laughs are gone; the suspense was never there.

Warren Oates, as "Specs" O'Keefe, a shell-shocked World War II vet, is the only actor to convey any definition of character. His crack-up seems the only "real" thing in this misadventure.

PAUL SORVINO, on the other hand, never fits in. He plays a smooth, well-dressed bookie who originally falls in with the gang for thrills. Thrills, not laughs, even though the gang's biggest heist before Brinks is \$13 from a botched job at a gumball factory.

The simulation of a dingy lit, 1940s and '50s-era Boston is impressive, but not enough to carry the entire film.

## Glimpses

### NEW RELEASES

**AUTUMN SONATA** (PG). Acting fireworks from Ingrid Bergman as concert pianist estranged from Liv Ullmann, her less talented daughter, as they meet and pour out their feelings. Ingmar Bergman directed.

**BRASS TARGET** (PG). Accident that killed General Patton was no accident, according to suspense film with George Kennedy and Sophia Loren.

**CALIFORNIA SUITE** (PG). Neil Simon's comedy of four episodes about guests at the Beverly Hills Hotel. Starry cast includes Jane Fonda and Walter Matthau.

**EVERY WHICH WAY BUT LOOSE** (PG). Country-western-style action comedy with Clint Eastwood, Sandra Locke and Clyde, the orangutan.

**FORCE 10 FROM NAVARONE** (PG). High-powered thriller with Edward Fox and the late Robert Shaw on a team whose target is a vital bridge.

**ICE CASTLES** (PG). "The Other Side of the Mountain" meets "Slow Dancing in the Big City" in teen romance of skater who overcomes handicap.

**INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS** (PG). Remake of chilling sci-fi thriller about alien invasion in the form of plant pods.

**KING OF THE GYPSIES** (R). Three generations of gypsy life in America are chronicled in film of best-selling novel. Sterling Hayden is the patriarch and Shelley Winters the queen.

**LORD OF THE RINGS** (PG). Hobbits and the creatures of Middle Earth are energetically recreated in Ralph Bakshi's animated version of J.R.R. Tolkien's classic fantasy.

### 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.

# St. Louis Jazz Quartet plays concert

The jazz interpretations of a fresh new group will be heard March 31, in a St. Louis Jazz Quartet concert at Oakland University near Rochester.

The musicians, who have gained a wide following in tours of college and university campuses, will present a single concert starting at 8 p.m. in Varner Recital Hall.

The quartet features Jeanne Trevor, vocalist, Terry Kippberger, bass and bass guitar, Ed Nicholson, keyboard instruments, and Charles Payne, percussionist.

Since the quartet embarked on the university circuit in 1971 its bookings have increased steadily each year.

The quartet has recently returned from a tour of festivals and universities in Australia, and its off-campus appearances have included the Kennedy Center in Washington, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, and the famed Plaza Hotel in New York City.

The artists say they are interested in

all forms of music, but that the basic emphasis is on jazz. A St. Louis Jazz Quartet concert typically runs the gamut from jazz to blues to ballads.

Tickets for the performance are priced for general admission and for OU students and senior citizens. For information call 377-2000.

DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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