



the movies

Louise Snider

Saturday serial excitement lives in 'Raiders' action

With "Raiders of the Lost Ark" (PG), George Lucas and Steven Spielberg attempted to recapture for today's audiences the thrills of the Saturday matinee serials.

They did more than that. "Raiders" is not just an action-packed movie but dazzling escapism entertainment. Zipping along from one hairbreadth escape to another, it is an exhilarating larger-than-life movie adventure.

Bold and colorful, it boasts exotic places, dangerous encounters, a search for a sacred artifact with special power and a very appealing hero and heroine. They are brave, attractive and on the right side of issues.

Harrison Ford wears the mantle of the hero, Indiana Jones, with ease. Jones is a mid-mannered archaeology professor who, at the drop of a treasure map, sheds his scholarly tweeds and spectacles for a safari outfit complete with boots and bullwhip.

THE CHARACTER is a marvelous conception and Ford is in top form. He can be intense or laid back. He can stop an aggressor with his bullwhip or punctuate an argument with a shrug. More important, he can play a scene for laughs without making it a spoof.

Karen Allen is featured opposite Ford as Marion, another marvelous character. She is a 1980s woman in a 1930s setting. She is independent, sure of herself and can drink any man under the table. In fact, her ability to handle liquor provides some key moments in the movie.

"Raiders" bursts with vitality and has more cliffhangers than you would find on a hike up Everest. For openers, there is a series of hair-raising scenes in a South American jungle that abounds with tarantulas, savages with poison darts and booby traps to protect a golden idol from archaeologists and robbers alike.

Then, with scarcely a pause to let people catch their breaths, the movie swings from South America to Nepal to Egypt. The time is the mid-1930s, and the Nazis are hot on the trail of the Ark of the Covenant.

The Ark, which once contained the original tablets of the Ten Commandments, has been lost since the destruction of the Temple of Solomon in Jerusalem. The Nazis want the Ark because it is supposed to endow its possessor with invincible power.

TO BEAT the Nazis to this prize, U.S. Intelligence employs ace archaeologist Indiana Jones. Indy takes up the challenge with the help of Marion, the daughter of an archaeologist who discovered an important relic associated with the Ark.

They travel to Egypt where the Nazis with the help of an unscrupulous French scientist are excavating the lost city of Tanis, believed to be the last location of the Ark.

There they encounter knife-wielding assassins, a well filled with deadly snakes, and Ford engages in a wild chase sequence through the desert. These are just a few of the events in this supercharged adventure where there truly is never a dull moment.

TV special features area artists

Three award-winning Michigan artists — a potter, a choreographer and a sculptor — share their work and their feelings about art on national public television in "Three Portraits," shown at 9:30 p.m. Wednesday on Channel 56 (repeated at 2:30 a.m. July 2).

The artists are: John Glick of Farmington, a working potter, who discusses how he feels about his work while the camera records the creation of his pieces.

Michael Hall, a sculptor working with large sheets of steel and I-beams, who assembles a massive piece of sculpture. His interpretation of the urban environment is clarified through images of trestles, billboards and objects in the landscape which are integrated in his sculptural renderings. Hall heads the sculpture department at Cranbrook Academy of Art.

Carol Morisseau rehearses her dance company and tells of her dreams for her troupe. Opening night and backstage activities convey the sense of energy which flows from this medium.

THIS AIRING of "Three Portraits" brings national attention to Detroit-area filmmakers Sue Marx and Robert

Handley, the Michigan artists, and to Detroit's WTVS/56 as the presenting station for PBS.

The half-hour program is a composite of three short films, each of which is a look at the art and the artists.

Each of the segments that make up "Three Portraits" has received a Cine Golden Eagle Award. Both the film and Morisseau shorts have been awarded Detroit Emmys for cultural affairs programming.

Major funding for "Three Portraits" (produced by Marx/Handley Productions) was provided by the Michigan Foundation for the Arts, with additional funding provided by the Michigan Council for the Arts and the Taubman Company.

The day before the national broadcast of "Three Portraits," an interview with the three artists will be conducted on WTVS/Channel 56's locally produced half hour "Dennis Wholey's Journal" at 10:30 p.m. Tuesday, repeated at 5:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Wholey will talk to them about their commitment to art, the recognition from the art world their work has enjoyed, their professional development and future.



John Glick of Farmington works in his pottery studio.



Michael Hall puts together a sculpture at Cranbrook Academy of Art.

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Muppet caper

Miss Piggy and Kermit the Frog, along with Fozzie Bear and Gonzo the Great, are Jim Henson's Muppets starring in "The Great Muppet Caper," which opened Friday at Detroit-area movie houses. Kermit and Fozzie play investigative reporters who head for London to pursue a gang of jewel thieves. The full-length musical motion picture also has two people stars: Diana Rigg and Charles Grodin, who portray Lady Holiday and her brother, who steals her jewels.

