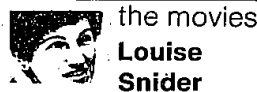


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Married after living and working together for years, scriptwriters Burt Reynolds and Goldie Hawn leave on an Amtrak honeymoon that helps put an speedy end to marital bills.



'Best Friends' is comic bedfellow

"Best Friends" (PG) emerges from the pack of new releases as best bet for holiday entertainment. Shedding the beer guzzling, auto racing image of some of his most popular films, Burt Reynolds nicely understates his character, Richard Hudson, while getting the maximum comic effect. So too does Goldie Hawn as Paula McCullen.

The two of them are paired as a couple of successful Hollywood script writers who are equally compatible in the office or in the bedroom. They have been working together harmoniously and non-committally for years. They decide to buy a house together, and Richard persuades Paula that they should make a commitment to each other. Paula reluctantly agrees, so they marry and leave on an Amtrak honeymoon which includes visits to both sets of parents.

A hint of things to come emerges at the start of their trip when the two of them try to squeeze into a narrow sleeper on the train. The rest of the journey offers no improvement and even less romance.

They arrive at the home of Paula's parents in Buffalo amid a typical winter blizzard. Richard finds the weather frightful and Paula's parents peculiar. He is forever shivering and closing windows, which his mother-in-law keeps opening.

Next stop is Virginia where Richard's parents live in a security-guarded, 15,000-unit condominium complex. Paula can't stand the scaled-in stuffiness and is none too thrilled with her new in-laws, especially her mother-in-law, who is a fanatic with a flash camera.

By the time they return to California, where it's raining, their honeymoon has turned into a brawl and they are ready for a divorce. The "best friends" have become an irritable, argumentative married couple.

That's the gist of this movie in which Reynolds and Hawn lead us to a delightful string of encounters with distinctive, funny and sometimes poignant characters.

Jessica Tandy and Barnard Hughes are dry, comic and touching as Paula's parents. Tandy as the prudent and pragmatic mother gives a performance worthy of supporting actress nomination.

Keenan Wynn and Audra Lindley are equally effective as Richard's boisterous and outgoing parents. Another notable supporting actor, and one who owns every scene in which he appears, is Ron Silver. The brightest piece of comedy in this film is the satire on the industry itself with Silver as Larry Weisman, an egotistical, lying and eccentric Hollywood producer. As he discusses a script with Paula and Richard, a shoe clerk fits him with athletic shoes. Then Larry simply jogs out of the conference and out of the office, leaving the writers sitting there nonplussed.

About the only time this movie goes off course is when it tries for a cheap sight gag, as when Paula, high on Vallium, falls face down into her chicken salad. Otherwise, it hums along a bright route of comic situations and dialogue drawn from how his humor, generation gap humor, male-female confrontation humor and geographic humor.

Son child Richard's complaints about the cold may not get much sympathy from Easterners, but they are bound to strike a responsive chord among southern Californians who regard any winter trip to a location east of Arizona as a sentence to Siberia.

at your leisure

FIRST REHEARSAL for the Schoolcraft College Community Choir will be conducted at 7:30 p.m., Jan. 11 in room 310 of the Forum Building. Auditions will be conducted at that time and during the week of Jan. 18 in the same room. The choir is a credit-free class available at \$10 a semester. The fee is set without regard to residence. Participants may register at the Jan. 25 rehearsal.

ANOTHER GROUP looking for new members, the Academy Singers, conducts its auditions from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Jan. 6 at Varner Hall, Oakland University, Rochester. For more information and an application form contact Mr. and Mrs. Gene Grier, directors, P.O. Box 307, Drayton Plains, 48020; 666-3037.

'TIS THE SEASON for auditions. The Fourth Street Playhouse conducts auditions for "1959 Pink Thunderbird" by James McLure from 4-11 p.m., Jan. 6 at the theater, 301 W. Fourth Street, Royal Oak. Auditions are by appointment only. Each person auditioning must present two contrasting, prepared monologues which combined don't exceed four minutes. A resume and a picture are required. For an appointment call the playhouse at 543-5666. The play, set in Texas during the late '70s, combines two one-act plays, "Lone Star" and "Laundry and Bourbon." Cast needs are for three men and three women in the late 20s or early 30s. Bill Moore directs the production.

SWEET ADELINES' Farmington Hills chapter will be among the Michigan choral groups competing in state-wide competition Feb. 11-12 at Plymouth-Salem High School, as part of the Great American Choral Festival. Winners of the state competition will move on to the national competition elsewhere. country's best amateur singing group will be chosen.

THREE ACTING WORKSHOPS are offered from Jan. 11 to Feb. 9 at the Attic Theatre, 525 E. Lafayette, Detroit. The workshops are aimed at people with acting experience or theatre course work who are pursuing a professional acting career. Series I, stage combat, taught by David Parker, an affiliate member of the Society of American Fight Directors will be conducted from 4:30-7 p.m., Jan. 16, 23, 30 and Feb. 6. Series II, audition technique, taught by Margaret Heinze, a founding member of Roadside Attractions, is set for 7-10 p.m., Jan. 12, 19, 26 and Feb. 9. The classes cover selection of audition piece, preparation and presentation. A two-minute contemporary piece should be prepared for the first class meeting. Series III, scene study, taught by Robert Wright, classical stage and screen actor and director, covers basic acting techniques through study of scenes from contemporary American drama. Classes are conducted from 7-10 p.m., Jan. 15, 22, 29 and Feb. 5.

Send a picture and resume along with \$40 for each series to Attic Theatre Workshops, 525 E. Lafayette, Detroit, 48226. There are no refunds for missed classes. Class size is limited to 16 students each. For further information, call 963-7789.

WILL-O-WAY Apprentice Theatre, Bloomfield Hills has added singer and choral director Dreama Royal for the upcoming winter term of classes. She is music director of the University Presbyterian Church, Rochester and performed last year in the Birmingham Musicale's "Desert Song." She has a bachelor's in music from the University of Charleston and has trained at Oakland University, Wayne State University and the University of Michigan. She attended a master class in

German lieder taught by John Wustman of Illinois, last year.

With the school's artistic director, Celia Merrill Turner, Royal will conduct a class in "Opera Scene Study" for adults with trained voices. For vocalists interested in a daytime class, Royal teaches "Ensemble Singing for Musicals" on Saturdays. Registration is underway. Open houses are scheduled for 7:30 p.m., Jan. 4 and 5 at the school, 775 W. Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills. Adult classes run from Jan. 9 to March 29. Teens and children study from Jan. 8 to March 27. For further information or registration call 644-4418.

"LASERA 2 "The History of Rock and Roll" will be shown at 8 p.m., Jan. 10 in the Cranbrook Institute of Science planetarium. The laser light show is combined with musical selections ranging



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Choice of bowl of soup, salad or stew,
includes potato, vegetable and bread basket

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BATTER DIPPED FISH & CHIPS 3.50
Choice of cup of clam chowder, salad or stew,
includes bread basket
FROG LEGS DINNER 4.25
Choice of cup of clam chowder, salad or stew,
includes bread basket

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
HONEY DIPPED FRIED CHICKEN 3.75
Choice of bowl of soup, salad or stew,
includes potato, vegetable and bread basket
SALISBURY STEAK DINNER 3.50
Choice of bowl of soup, salad or stew,
includes potato, vegetable and bread basket

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