



Jackie Gleason as Sheriff Buford T. Justice is a four-mouthed character whose escapades become tiresome in "Smokey and the Bandit — Part 3."

the movies
Louise Snider

'Bandit' retreaded without Smokey and without humor

Dumping along the highway of life like a \$5 retread comes "Smokey and the Bandit" — Part 3 (PG). It's a movie that might have been pieced together from old cuttings in an editing room trash bin.

"Smokey and the Bandit" had some fresh ideas and energy. "Smokey 2" retold "Smokey 1" for a decided drop in entertainment value. "Smokey 3" is a plunge to the lower depths. If it harbors an original thought, it must be hidden in carburier sludge.

The first two movies at least could point to the presence of Burt Reynolds and Sally Field. The third movie has no such advantage. Jackie Gleason, reprising his role as Sheriff Buford T. Justice, carries the whole weight of the movie on his shoulders. That's asking too much of Gleason, or any actor.

"Smokey 3" has no structure that could be called a plot. It has a series of incidents, each involving autos. There are crashes into milk trucks, egg trucks, ice trucks, even a chicken truck and a tar wagon.

SPRUNG FROM retirement, Sheriff Justice, accompanied by Junior (Mike Henry), his lummox son and deputy, is either in "hot pursuit" or racing on his own to win a bet from Big Enos (Pat McCormick) and Little Enos (Paul Williams).

The Enoses goaded the Sheriff into accepting a challenge to transport a plastic fish (the logo for their new fast-food chain) from Miami to Austin, Texas, in 24 hours. The stakes are \$250,000 against the sheriff's badge.

To add to the farces, they indulge in some dirty tricks of their own to detain the sheriff, and they also recruit the bandit. However, this is not the real bandit (Burt Reynolds). This is the bandit's old buddy Cletis (Jerry Reed), posing as the bandit (red shirt, sunglasses and Pontiac TransAm). The Enoses have lured him with the same deal, only he has to steal the fish from the sheriff.

You would think all the chasing and crashing that ensues would be enough to amuse any audience that does on movies about cars, but just in case it isn't, "Smokey 3" also features a heavy concentration of vulgar language to appeal to the infantile mind.

Every time Sheriff Justice opens his mouth, an obscenely spurts out. This barrage of out-house language which tries to pass for dialogue quickly becomes numbing.

WHEN GLEASON WAS just one principal among several others, his outburst and mishaps were funny. When his outbursts and mishaps constitute the entire movie, they lose their punch. They are just tiresome and annoying.

It's unfortunate that a fine actor and comedian like Gleason is stuck with such an imbecilic script, but one assumes he was free to decline his role. He didn't have to appear in a movie with a plastic fish that has the aroma of a real one — old and unrefrigerated.



Big Enos (Pat McCormick) and Little Enos (Paul Williams) disguise themselves as women during antics to win a bet with the sheriff.

what's at the movies

CUJO (R) Thriller based on the Stephen King horror story about a mad dog.

EASY MONEY (R) Rodney Dangerfield as Monty Capalett can inherit millions but only if he gives up drinking, smoking and gambling for a year.

FLASHDANCE (R) A determined young woman works as a welder by day and a dancer by night. Movie doesn't make too much sense but the dancing makes a terrific impact.

HERCULES (PG) Musclemen Lou Ferrigno (the Hulk) is fettered in adventure film about the early life of the mythological hero.

MR. MOM (PG) Michael Keaton is a rising young executive who gets pink-slipped and trades jobs with his wife, a housewife and mother, who then goes out to work.

NAKED WEEKEND (R) Yvette Mimieux and Christopher Allport star.

NATIONAL LAMPOON'S VACATION (R) Walley World, the world's greatest theme park, is the destination in this cross-country comedy starring Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo, Imogene Coca and Christie Brinkley.

RETURN OF MARTIN GUERRE Winner of three French Academy Awards, romantic mystery is about man who returns from war after nine years. Gerard Depardieu stars.

RETURN OF THE JEDI (PG) Third chapter in the middle section of George Lucas' "Star Wars" trilogy. With Luke Skywalker, Han Solo, Princess Leia and other characters from the previous films as the Rebel Alliance battles Darth Vader and the forces of the Empire.

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