



the movies

Dan
Greenberg

Only a Beatle fan could suffer through McCartney's folly

Paul McCartney fans will probably flock to his current release, "Give My Regards to Broadstreet," but only the faithful will know why they have come.

Although good-spirited, the film is simple-minded to a painful degree and for nearly two hours the alleged plot meanders from one McCartney number to another as Paul tries to recover the master tape for his new album.

We never learn, until the end, what evil has befallen tape delivery man, trusted employee and ex-con Harry. (That's all one guy, folks!) By the end of the film, who cares?

Meanwhile, as midnight nears and the evil character threatens to take over the McCartney music empire, Paul searches for Harry and the tapes.

THE SEARCH is rather lackadaisical and performed, as time permits, in between musical numbers. It obviously doesn't matter all that much. If they don't care, why should we? For all practical purposes, a "Paul McCartney in Concert" film would have served the same purpose to better advantage.

The musical numbers are numerous, varied and OK, I guess, if you like that sort of stuff. Even within the framework of romantic musical comedy and that genre's lack of realism, it strains the imagination to see McCartney involved in so many rehearsals and productions in one day.

The musical style varies extensively from one number to the next, some mellow, a couple of mainstream rock and one elaborate dance sequence that looks like a 1940s MGM musical set attacked by the kids from "Fame" and "Footloose."

Much of the alleged story is told via flashbacks, flashforwards and sequences in McCartney's imagination. All these episodes are pretty thin. Their only substance is an excuse for another McCartney number.

The one exception, and the film's only moment of tension, is an extended 19th-century sequence that might have been designed by Edgar Allan Poe on one of his better days. It comes off as a somber, macabre music-video but it is entertaining and visually exciting. Not enough, however, to warrant the trip to your local Bijou.

MC CARTNEY'S SEARCH for Harry and the tapes is aided weakly by wife Linda, drummer Ringo Starr and by Barbara Bach as a semi-character supposedly interviewing Ringo for the book she's writing. Mainly she and Ringo make eyes at each other in very childish style, not even PG.

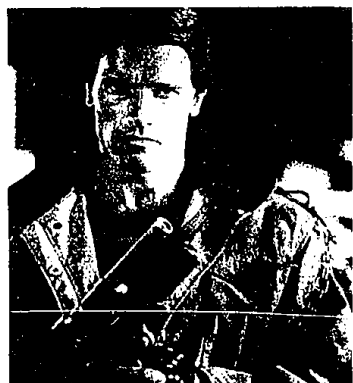
The best thing about the film program is an animated cartoon, "Rupert and the Frog Song," which opens the show. This cartoon-raise, conceived and produced by the McCartneys, is based on a Winnie-the-Pooh-style cartoon character, popular in British newspapers. Hopefully Rupert will be available for your viewing pleasure without the "Broadstreet" encumbrance.

If listening and watching McCartney is worth four bucks, go see "Give My Regards to Broadstreet." If you expect a sensible story or anything more than McCartney, stay home.



Comedy, adventure

(Above) Jo Beth Williams is a housewife who wins a trip to Paris and finds herself caught up in international escapades with Tom Conti in "American Dreamer." (Below) Arnold Schwarzenegger plays the title role in "The Terminator," who returns from the future to make some earth-shaking changes in the present. Both films opened Friday at Detroit-area movie theaters.



Trend may be to drier wines

It is easy to take Gallo for granted. Available nearly everywhere, it seems to go on and on, always selling the same wine at fair prices. Its strength is its consistency, stability and predictability. Gallo not only dominates, it endures.

But it also changes and, watched closely, is a good barometer of public consumption. Gallo was there to capture the pop wine field for a few years, it avoided the disaster of "light" wines and broadened dramatically into cork-finished varietals when it was sure the public was ready for them.

Now two new releases have hit local shelves, both carrying the word "dry" prominently on their labels. They are a chablis and burgundy and carry the word "reserve" as well, a meaningless term but one that allows it to charge a higher price.

Presumably, Gallo believes the public is ready for drier wines than have been marketed under the Chablis Blanc and Hearty Burgundy designations. These latter will not be replaced, of course, but even the hint of drier wines suggests a trend. Don't forget Gallo's marketing sense!

THE DRY CHABLIS is dry, truly dry, even tart. Not lacking in some humble fruit flavors, it is by a bunch drier than anything that bulk producers have offered thus far. Excellent for delicate fish and oysters at about \$3.50 the bottle.

To evaluate the Dry Burgundy, I assembled a taste panel to compare it with the established Hearty Burgundy. There was easily developed a consensus that the Dry Burgundy was the better food accompaniment, it being less full and rich. But all agreed both were pleasing wines that could readily be enjoyed at any time. A close vote for the new kid was earned unanimously.

Finally available locally, though it has been in national distribution for a couple of years, is another Gallo offering. Under its Andre label, there is now a champagne with a brut designation. Priced about a dollar above the regular issues, this is well worth the added money. The cloying sweetness of its extra dry is replaced with a fairly crisp, almost yeasty sparkle. Local cost ranges between \$3.99 and \$4.99 the bottle.

Lastly, there seems to be a new cu-



wine

Richard
Watson

vee of Gallo's non-vintage Cabernet Sauvignon (Limited Release) that is now available. This one is either clearly superior to its predecessor or has taken well to its additional bottle aging.

Bottles procured by your merchant this fall will come under this category; there is no other way to distinguish it from its predecessor. At \$4.50 the bottle, it has very nice varietal character.

MICHIGAN HAS finally made it to the big time in California wine issues. We have to date lacked but one winery to be able to boast a full complement of national wines available to us. Now the last has finally come in, Trefethen Vineyards of Napa.

Trefethen, long considered among the finest producers at affordable prices,

has at last reached terms with a local distributor to handle its wines. The first consignment brought chardonnay, cabernet, riesling, pinot noir and its two proprietaries, Ebbot Field and White.

The varietals are decently priced, while the last two are a bit high for blends, but the quality is there to support the \$5.50-\$8.50 price. This white, incidentally, carries the names and percentages of the grapes used in the blend. The red does not.

Best release lately department: The new 1983 Duxoup Gamay Noir is now out and is its best release to date. Rich, full, earthy, this is not the same clone responsible for the simple gamay beauties and pinot noir wine we too often see. Compare it to the Charles Shaw. Both are excellent in their own manner.

what's at the movies

ALL OF ME (PG). Carl Reiner's latest, greatest comedy, with Steve Martin and Lily Tomlin.

AMADEUS (PG). Superb rendition of Mozart's life with Tim Hulse and F. Murray Abraham. Directed by Milos Forman.

THE BOSTONIANS (Unrated). Classy, beautifully mounted production of Henry James novel stars Christopher Reeve, Vanessa Redgrave and Jessica Tandy. Detailed characterization of 19th

century triangle is centered on early feminist movement.

COUNTRY (PG). Unsatisfying, melodramatic tale of hard times down on the farm with Jessica Lange and Sam Shepard.

GHOST BUSTERS (PG). Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd and Harold Ramis as parapsychology research students trying to rid New York of menacing ghosts.

THE GODS MUST BE CRAZY (PG). Nomadic tribesman discovers Coke bottle and believes it's a magic talisman. Comedy from South Africa.

GREMLINS (PG). Technically well-done story of exotic pet whose offspring turn mean. Hoyt Axton, Zach Galligan and Phoebe Cates in a Spielberg film too gross for the under 12-set.

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