



## 'Rollercoaster' brings thrills

Amusement parks never seemed very amusing to me. Scary? Yes. Amusing? No. "Rollercoaster" (PG) is a movie for those of us who want the security of being safe combined with the excitement of being scared. It concentrates on the thrills, while knuckling and hold-your-breath aspects of amusement parks.

George Segal, in the kind of low-key role he plays so well, is a safety inspector (Harry Calder) whom everyone tries to ignore. He sports a thin, tight mustache that does nothing to enhance his appearance or prestige. It would be hard to find a more luckless hero.

Timothy Bottoms, also cast against type, is a fiendish extortionist with the face of a cherub. After giving a convincing demonstration of his destructive capability, he threatens to plant bombs on rollercoasters all over the United States, unless park owners kick in \$1 million.

Like so many movie villains, he is an evil genius. He has an expert's knowledge of explosives, electronics, engineering, and business and police procedures. If some distant, future generation were to reconstruct our history based upon our movies, they might conclude that we were a generation of master criminals, probably with Ph.D.s from M.I.T. or the Harvard Business School.

THEY ALSO might conclude that all the drooping became law enforcement officers. Richard Widmark plays the Federal agent (Hoyt) in charge of the case. It's a cut-and-dried role, shored up by Widmark's commanding voice and presence.

Hoyt is a fatuous know-it-all who puts down or ignores the humble Calder's suggestions. Hoyt plants dozens of agents and security men in the amusement park to catch the extortionist when he attempts to pick up the million dollars. Each agent stands out like a vegetable in an ex-robot.

All the happy-go-lucky park visitors are in jeans, shorts, tank tops and sport shirts. The inconspicuous Federal agents who mingle with the masses are in dark business suits, white shirts and ties—real swingers.

The big thrills, visually, aurally and tactually, is the rollercoaster ride. The movie camera, apparently fastened to the lead car, captures the upward climb, the screaming descent and the whiplash curves with all the stomach-churning sensation of the real thing.

The Sensurround sound reinforces the sensation with its big-output speakers strategically placed within the theater. Their volume sound and vibrations reach out for everyone in the audience. The simulation is real enough to give one vertigo or, at least, reason to pause before eating more popcorn.

THE MOVIE HAS its share of deficiencies, especially the character stereotypes, but it also has small, nice touches of humor. This is a quality often absent from melodrama and thriller movies. Calder's ever-failing efforts to quit smoking and his inane conversation with his ex-wife are little human touches that are a welcome respite from the overwhelming impact of the rollercoaster and Sensurround.

In terms of the medium, the photography is particularly pleasing. Not just the rollercoaster, which are expected to be first-rate, but many of the panoramic shots of amusement parks viewed against a gentle background of calypso music are equally effective.

Hollercoaster is a fun movie, if you're not averse to noise or heights.

## Glimpses

### NEW RELEASES

**ANNIE HALL** (PG). The best Woody Allen film yet. Truth and comedy go hand in hand in this touching, contemporary love story. Diane Keaton is also at her best as Annie.  
**BRIDGE TOO FAR** (PG). Capt. Charles G. (Burt Reynolds) leading major but ill-fated Allied campaign in Holland. Bounty of stars make brief but effective appearances.  
**THE DEEP** (PG). Suspenseful aqua-thriller with exciting underwater action and photography. Jacqueline Bisset, Nick Nolte and Robert Shaw dive in for treasure and thrills.  
**EXORCIST II—THE HERETIC** (R). There's not much that can save this imbecile movie although Richard Burton and Louise Fletcher try. How do they keep from laughing?  
**FOR THE LOVE OF BENJI** (G). The lovable mutt Benji is footloose but not fancy free during an accidental excursion through the Greek islands.

**NEW YORK, NEW YORK** (PG). Vintage music abounds in this '40s era musical with Robert De Niro as a saxophone player in love with band vocalist Liza Minnelli.

**THE OTHER SIDE OF MIDNIGHT** (R). Tawdry film of vanity and vengeance. Marie-France Pisier wastes her talent in this clincher. More sex and less story and they could have gone for the "Emanuelle" trade.

### 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.

**THE RESCUERS** (G). Beautifully animated Disney film of two mice who rescue girl from clutches of the evil Mme. Medusa.

**SORCERER** (PG). Roy Scheider stars in this remake of the hair-raising film "Wages of Fear." Driven to desperation in their attempts to earn enough money to get away from a filthy South American village, four men contract to drive a cargo of explosives across 200 miles of wild terrain.

**STAR WARS** (PG). Semi-comic sci-fi adventure about a rebellion of galactic systems in a distant galaxy. Good time movie with laughs and special effects. Two robots steal the show.

**TENTACLES** (PG). Bathing are attacked by a giant octopus which is attacked by a pack of killer whales. It's a dog-eat-dog world.

**THREE WOMEN** (PG). Director Robert Altman's strange, provocative study of the merging relationships of three women and their alienation in a masculine world.

### BACK AGAIN

**YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN** (PG). Mel Brooks' comic classic with Gene Wilder as Dr. F. Marty Feldman as a hunchback with a moveable hunch and Peter Boyle as the monster. Terrifically funny, start to finish.

## Area girl joining Up With People

By ETHEL SIMMONS

Janice Budzen of Beverly Hills is a wholesome-looking 20-year-old with long, brown wavy hair. Although she has no experience singing and dancing, she expects to be singing and dancing in the 1977-78 cast of "Up With People."

Ms. Budzen explained you don't have to have such talents to be accepted for Up With People, whose young performers travel the country and abroad giving concerts.

At Up With People headquarters in Tucson, Ariz., new cast members are given five weeks of intensive training to equip them for the song and dance shows.

The main ingredient for becoming an Up With People cast member appears to be enthusiasm, plus talent potential.

Ms. Budzen left Sunday for the training program in Tucson. There she and other cast members will stay with host families. The same arrangement they have while on tour.

"THIS WILL BE an education I can't get in college," Ms. Budzen said. She has interrupted her studies at Michigan State University, where she will be a junior when she goes back.

Ms. Budzen is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Budzen. Her mother said, "I think it will be a

great experience for her, an education in itself. We're very pleased."

According to Ms. Budzen, she became interested in Up With People through a friend, Libby Taylor of Birmingham, who was in the 1975-76 cast.

"I saw her perform in Fremont, Ohio, and in Chicago last year," Ms. Budzen said. "I interviewed in Chicago in May of last year and was accepted for the cast the second week in June."

"The 1976 cast was filled, and I was put on the list for 1977. Then, they did have room for 1977, but that would have been only two weeks notice."

AFTER TRAINING in Tucson, the 1977 cast will go on the road. We should tour all of the U.S. and they're trying to get a tour of the Far East. It's an international cast," she said.

A graduate of Groves High School in Birmingham, Ms. Budzen was active in sports during her years there. She swam for three years, managed the cross-country team for two years, and also was on the gymnastics team. Diving was her main sport, and she also dove last year at MSU.

During high school, Ms. Budzen skated in the Southfield Ice Show. She especially enjoyed the audience reaction at a show—seeing them smile.

One of the things that attracted her to Up With People was "seeing how people leave it," she said. "The special spirits I can give to people."

## Boats return on river

Large excursion boats were once a common sight carrying passengers on Michigan's Inland Waterways—a 45-mile stretch of connecting rivers and lakes from Cheboygan on Lake Huron to Conway near Lake Michigan.

Tour boats, from 1870 to 1920, provided not only a tourist attraction but a necessary transportation function during the area's early years as an increasingly popular vacation spot.

The tour boat industry diminished and died as roads and automobiles improved, and the more affluent vacationers acquired their own motorboats for fishing and traveling the Inland Waterway.

This summer will see the return of the excursion boat to Indian River and Burt Lake through the efforts of a group of local businessmen who have purchased a 36-foot, 24-passenger ferry boat to provide sightseeing trips for vacationers.

THE BOAT WILL BE docked in Indian River, between Burt Lake and Mullet Lake. The promoters plan up to six trips daily during the summer tourist season which begins around Memorial Day. Each trip will last 45 minutes to one hour. Fall color tours and private charters are also being considered.

The village of Indian River is located in Cheboygan County's Tuscarora Township, just off I-75, approximately 25 miles south of the Straits of Mackinac. This year the township is celebrating its 100th birthday.

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