



the movies

Louise Snider

Comic approach looks at takeover of town's brewery

"Take This Job and Shove It" (PG) is an earthy movie about a top corporate executive whose company, a conglomerate, is taking over four breweries.

The young exec (Robert Hays, the pilot in "Airplane") is sent to one of the breweries to shape it up — to oversee the installation of automated equipment, speed up the line and increase production.

The rub is that this fast-moving young man is caught between his ambition and his conscience. The brewery, one where he worked while in school, is in his old home town: Dubuque, Iowa.

His old school chums work at the brewery, and his former girlfriend (Barbara Hershey) has returned to Dubuque, after college, marriage and divorce.

HAYS STUNS the locals (small town boy makes good) when he returns complete with three-piece suit, briefcase and sports car. His two rough-hewn friends of former days, Harry and Ray, work in the brewery and figure their old friend is going to treat them right.

Ray wants to be a delivery man and wear a leather bow tie. Harry, a married man with two children, just wants to be sure of a paycheck every week and decent working conditions.

You get the picture that folks in Dubuque aren't too sophisticated, at least not those who work in the brewery. Entertainment seems to consist of noisy bars, country music, mud fights and practical jokes.

The movie is more boisterous and bumptious than Frank Capra might have made it, but it has the same quality of the little guy against the system, David vs. Goliath. In this instance, Hays and the brewery workers vs. the conglomerate.

Hays waffles between being the hard-nosed executive who wants to speed up the line and lay off workers and the home-town boy who sticks by his friends and community. But we really don't doubt on which side of the blue-collar line he will declare himself.

EDDIE ALBERT is the man you love to hate as the cold, finger-snapping, order-issuing head of the conglomerate who shows up for management meetings in a yachtsman's jacket and cap.

Art Carney is the owner of the brewery, who is selling out and, he thinks, remaining on. Martin Mull is Hays' counterpart at corporate headquarters, who can't figure out what he's up to.

Hays is essentially a comical character because of his dilemma and the things that happen to him when he returns home, but we end up developing some real sympathy for his old drinking buddies because their plight is much more serious.

Harry (David Keith), for example, loves his family and wants a college education for his kids; however, he feels trapped because of his dependence on a weekly paycheck. He'd like to better himself, but he doesn't know how. He'd like to chuck the job, but he can't afford to.

His very real predicament gives this movie more substance than the slapstick antics suggest.



Suspenseful films

Sean Connery, (above) as District Marshal William T. O'Neil, checks out a mining operation on 10, volcanic moon of Jupiter, in "Outland," which opened Friday at metropolitan-Detroit movie houses. (Below) Melissa Sue Anderson and David Elser share a tense moment in the belly of an old church tower in "Happy Birthday to Me," a psychological mystery which opened recently at Detroit-area theaters.



what's at the movies

ATLANTIC CITY (R). Louis Malle's wonderfully vibrant, superbly acted, romantic film about old and young dreamers in Atlantic City.

BUSTIN' LOOSE (R). Richard Pryor and Cicely Tyson in romantic comedy about ex-con helping a schoolteacher transport children from a Philadelphia ghetto to a Washington farm.

CAVEMAN (PG). Slapstick comedy set in prehistoric times with jokes to match and caveman Ringo Starr.

DEATH HUNT (R). Canadian Mounties in manhunt with Lee Marvin tracking Charles Bronson in the Northwest Territory.

EXCALIBUR (R). Sweeping adventure of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table with Nicol Williamson as the wizard, Merlin.

THE FAN (R). Suspense thriller about actress (Lauren Bacall) terrorized by psychotic fan.

FRIDAY THE 13TH, PART II (R). Another group of naive camp counselors gets axed. (Is this camp approved by the American Camping Association?)

FOUR SEASONS (PG). Alan Alda and Carol Burnett in comedy about the up-and-down relationships of three married couples during the course of a year.

THE HAND (R). Psychological suspense when cartoonist (Michael Caine) loses hand in accident and hand then pursues its own demented career.

HARDLY WORKING (PG). Slapstick comedy with Jerry Lewis as middle-aged, unemployed circus clown creating havoc in a variety of jobs.

KNIGHTRIDERS (R). George Romero film about a group of traveling motorcyclists who try to maintain a code of chivalry and the spirit of Camelot.

LA CAGE AUX FOLLES II (R). Albin and Renato get involved with spies in this sequel to "La Cage aux Folles." It's not as funny as the first, but it does offer some sharp commentary on sex roles and expectations.

LEGEND OF THE LONE RANGER (PG). Western adventure with the Lone Ranger and Tonto recounts the beginning of the legend.

LION OF THE DESERT (PG). Desert warfare with Anthony Quinn as Bedouin leader fighting against Italian forces of Mussolini in Libya.

NIGHT HAWKS (R). Fast-action drama as a pair of special N.Y. cops (Sylvester Stallone and Billy Dee Williams) confront a vicious terrorist.

Caesar and Coco open season

The Star Theatre of Flint will open its 10th anniversary season at Flint's Whiting Auditorium with Sid Caesar and Imogene Coco on stage in the new musical comedy romp "With a Touch of Burlesque" beginning June 16.

Caesar and Coco, long remembered as television's favorite comedy duo, are reuniting to appear in "With a Touch of Burlesque."

The show will highlight classic comedy sketches, both from the golden era of burlesque and from the best of "Your Show of Shows," featuring a zany troupe of players, strip-tease artists and a bevy of Burley Cuties.

"With a Touch of Burlesque" also will star motion picture and television comedian Joe Forman and actress/comedienne Lee Meredith, as well as comic actors Mickey Deems and Josip Elic. It will be staged and choreographed by international showman Barry Ashton and will be presented by Michael Brandman in association with Martin Kummer.

THE 10-WEEK Star Theatre summer season will continue with TV funnymen Bert Convy in the musical "Bye Bye Birdie" the week of June 23. Convy was host of the Mark Goodson and Bill Todman celebrity game show "Tattletales," which ran for four and one-half years on CBS television.

Also featured in the musical "Bye Bye Birdie" as "Conrad Birdie" will be teen-age favorite Michael Young from the new TV show "Kids Are People Too."

The week of June 30, Star Theatre will present Forrest Tucker, in the new comedy "Captains Outrageous." Tucker's comedy performances include TV's "F Troop." He also brings to the theater a long line of theatrical successes, most recent of which were his Broadway starring role in "A Championship Season" and his national tour in "The Music Man."

Dancing and singing Mitzi Gaynor brings her concert program, "The Mitzi Gaynor Show" to the Star Theatre stage the week of July 14. Custom-tailored to showcase Miss Gaynor's talents, it's a presentation of songs, dances, production numbers, comedy and audience contact. The show is complete with a troupe of young singers and dancers.

July 21-26, Star Theatre audiences will be presented with the singing and dancing abilities of Suzanne Somers of "Three's Company" fame, when she performs in her Las Vegas act "The Suzanne Somers Show."

The Fifth Dimension will star in the award-winning musical "Ain't Misbehavin'" the week of July 28. The Broadway hit is a celebration of the joyous music of Fats Waller. The Fifth Dimension has received 14 gold records for such blockbuster hits as "Aquarius," "Let the Sunshine In" and "One Less Bell to Answer."

THE VOICE of Ed Ames will again fill Star Theatre on Aug. 4-9 as the hero of Cole Porter's most successful musical.

cal. "Kiss Me Kate." Songs include "Another Openin', Another Show," "Brush Up Your Shakespeare" and "Always True to You in My Fashion."

Internationally known superstar Sergio Franchi will perform at the Star Theatre the week of Aug. 11 in the "Sergio Franchi Show." Franchi has received standing ovations for his performances in concert halls, nightclubs and theaters across the land.

Gavin MacLeod ("Loveboat") captain will bring the Star Theatre to a finale as the star of "The Music Man" Aug. 18-23. As "Professor" Harold Hill

in Meredith Willson's musical, MacLeod will be singing everything from the first bars of "Trouble" to the "76 Trombones" conclusion.

All shows of the Star Theatre play at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m. Sunday and 2:45 p.m. — Saturday and Sunday matinees. Season tickets and individual tickets for all shows are available at the Star Theatre Box Office at Whiting Auditorium or by calling 235-1464.

Star Theatre offers special group rates and senior citizens matinee prices.

Tryout announced

The Fourth Street Playhouse has announced auditions for "Loot" by Joe Orton at 7:30 p.m. on June 1 and 2 at the theater, 301 W. Fourth, Royal Oak.

Anyone may audition, but an appointment is necessary. For an appointment, call the playhouse at 543-3666.

The cast requires five men, ranging in age from 20-50, and one woman, age range of mid-20s. The production will open on July 17.

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