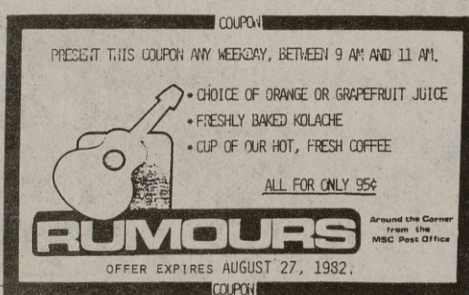


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# "E.T." full of innocence, deserves to be summer hit

by Eric Truax  
Battalion Reviewer

Imagine that you are exploring a planet 3 million light-years from your home when you are suddenly discovered by the planet's natives. Your shipmates escape with the spacecraft, but they have left you behind—left alone in an alien environment, extremely frightened of the creatures chasing you, and faced with the prospect of never seeing your home again.

The planet is Earth, though, not Tau Ceti VI, and the castaway is "E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial," a wonderfully refreshing new film from producer/director Steven Spielberg who makes it up to us after assaulting our senses with the unnecessarily gruesome "Poltergeist."

The story, by Melissa Mathison (who co-wrote "The Black Stallion"), soon has the marooned extra-terrestrial disc-

covered and befriended by Elliot, a 10-year-old whose father has recently run out on his mother and whose siblings both have worlds of their own. He keeps the E.T. in his bedroom closet where he brings it food and

homesickness and his desire to return home, and must face the possibility of his closest friend leaving him in his sterile, suburban world.

The child actors are absolutely marvelous, never ringing false, particularly Henry Thomas as Elliot. Dee Wallace also fares well as Elliot's somewhat rattled mother trying to keep her family's life together. Spielberg also succeeds with his million-dollar alien, the E.T. He's short, squat, and tends to waddle when he walks, but one is always able to see a warm, intelligent being in this creature whose eyes are reportedly a cross between Carl Sandburg and Ernest Hemingway.

Those people expecting a sequel to "Close Encounters," or light shows similar to those found in it, will find little to compare between the two. Some may find E.T.'s spaceship more than vaguely reminiscent of the ships

from Spielberg's previous encounter film. Beyond that, though, the qualities of the films remain distinctly different. "E.T." is a story about like love and innocence out in an artificial adult world. Only the children are even to truly understand the E.T. his needs. The adults, when finally see the E.T., perceive only an alien to be kept alive studied as an oddity.

"E.T." has many of the qualities of, and really quite resembles, the classic children's tales "The Little Prince." The wonder, magic, and innocence which make "The Little Prince" so timeless also serve to make "E.T." a movie destined to come a classic for all ages. It is a classic which is sometimes a bit sad, and at times quite exhilarating. It is a movie that deserves to be one of the biggest box-office hits in

## Review

teaches it about Earth. A telepathic empathy soon forms between the two which is first suggested in a hilarious scene in which E.T. is looking for something to eat and finds and drinks several beers. Elliot is in class about to dissect frogs when he begins to feel quite drunk and, acting on a whim, begins to release all the alien-looking frogs. Elliot, of course, is very soon escorted back home. Soon he learns of E.T.'s increasing

## International contest visits U.S.

# Mississippi hosts 'ballet olympics'

United Press International JACKSON, Miss. — The Mississippi capital, known for magnolias and an occasional Miss America, is sprucing up for scrutiny by the once-foreign world of ballet.

For only the second time in its history, the United States is the host of the International Ballet Competition June 20 through July 4, and for the second time, Jackson is the host city.

Twenty-five Americans and 60 other competitors from 18 countries will vie for gold, silver

and bronze medals and prize money totalling \$50,000.

"At first Los Angeles tried to get the thing together, followed by Denver, New York and Philadelphia," IBC executive director William Leighton said. "But they never could get the financing. I don't know why here and nowhere else, but the businessmen decided this really is a wonderful thing and we really want to do it here."

The competitions, sometimes called the "Olympics of Dance," began in Varna, Bulgaria, in

1964. Because of the artistic success and prestige of this event, similar competitions were established in Moscow in 1969 and in Tokyo in 1976.

The list of medal winners from the three cities includes such names as Mikhail Baryshnikov, Fernando Bujones, Alexander Godunov, Ivan Nagy and Martine van Hamel.

An artistic Iron Curtain was cracked last summer, when a predominantly Russian jury made Amanda McKerrow, 17, the first American to win a gold medal in Moscow.

mobile homes, the IBC organizers must have felt that it could just get past this first competition, the rest would be easy. They were, in more ways than one, all wet.

Shortly after the final when all on stage was sweet and light, backstage grumblings about whose IBC it really erupted into a full-scale office war.

As a result, the group from New York and Philadelphia chose Jackson in the first severing its relationship with the city. The Jackson backers, however, proclaimed their love for the IBC on their own terms. "I never could understand what the confusion was about," Leighton said. "You can't have a football team, but you can't have a football. At this point, the nothing that precludes some else from having an IBC."

Quietly but deliberately, however, the Mississippi city has spent the past three years strengthening its grip on the event.

Jackson and Varna officially became sister cities recently, and by their love of dance, Jackson won official U.S. sanction for its IBC in a bill passed by the House and Senate and signed by President Reagan.

The local support that has accosted from national groups the first time around has been busy coming up with the million budgeted for the month's competition. The Mississippi Legislature appropriated \$387,000, with a state fund-raising effort pegged at bringing in \$600,000 more.

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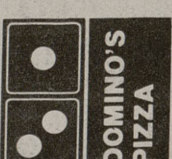
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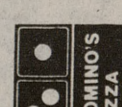
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