

Movie execs anticipate fruitful summer



"Ghostbusters"



"Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom"

United Press International

LOS ANGELES — Science fiction, horror and teen sex dominate this summer's movie releases, but studio executives and exhibitors say adults won't be shut out of the theaters.

Filmmakers admit there are no "On Golden Ponds," "Four Seasons" or other adult-oriented films of summers past, but insist this season's offerings will appeal to children ages 6 to 10.

Studio executives and disinterested parties all seem to agree the summer of 1984 will be the biggest in the history of the movie industry.

Brief plot summaries sound more like the age group targeted is 6-to-8-year olds, but synopses can be misleading.

Take "Ghostbusters," a \$38 million comedy starring Dan Aykroyd and Bill Murray about out-of-work parapsychologists who go into business exterminating ghosts.

"I'm over 30 and I loved it," said Katherine Orloff, an executive vice president at Columbia, which produced "Ghostbusters."

"It's one of the hippest movies I've ever seen. The humor is very sophisticated. It can appeal to young children as well as the 'Saturday Night Live' crowd," Orloff said.

Dan Rosen, director of marketing research for Warner Bros. said some pictures tell stories about youngsters but they will appeal to older people, too.

"The Karate Kid" is a 90-pound weakling who gets sand kicked in his face one time too many. He studies martial arts and wins a karate tournament.

"A pubescent 'Rocky,'" one critic privately labeled the film, which was directed by "Rocky's" John Avildsen.

A good portion of preview audience for "The Karate Kid" was over 25, Miss Orloff said, but the preview response cards gave the movie a 92 percent approval rating.

"The exhibitors are very excited," exhibitor Larry Gleason, president of the Mann Theatre chain, said. "I haven't seen a single turkey," said Gleason, who has seen most of the summer offerings at preview screenings.

"It's kind of scary. You'd like to be able to see a real stinker so you'd know not to book it. I haven't seen one picture that doesn't work," he said.

Gleason called "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom," Steven Spielberg's prequel to "Raiders of the Lost Ark," the best film of the summer and maybe the best picture of all time.

Gleason also believes "Star Trek III: The Search for Spock" is as good as its predecessor, and far superior to the critically panned "Star Trek I," which was nevertheless a box-office champ.

"The third installment has the feel of the TV series, which 'Star Trek I' didn't," Gleason said.

Many industry insiders who have already seen "Indiana Jones" worried about its excessive violence. Despite the film's PG rating, the ads contain the warning "may be too intense for younger children."

Sid Ganis, senior vice president of Lucasfilm, which produced the picture, admits parents of the very young may want to heed the warning, but feels the film is no more violent than "Raiders."

"My god! There were exploding heads in 'Raiders,'" Ganis said. "There's nothing like that in 'Indiana Jones'...well, yes there is, but it's no more violent than Saturday morning cartoons."

The record-breaking success of this spring's releases is a good omen for summer. Hit films, rather than knocking each other out of competition, tend to put people in a moviegoing frame of mind, Rosen of Warner Bros. said.

"Moviegoing is contagious," added Jack Brodsky, 20th Century-Fox executive vice president, "and we expect to be part of the epidemic."



Rock your weekend

If the first week of summer school has you itching to embark on a road trip, keep in mind the 7th annual Texas World Music Festival — or Texas Jam — happens this weekend in Houston and Dallas and plenty of tickets are still on sale.

The Houston show will be in the Astrodome on Friday and the show in Dallas will be at the Cotton Bowl on Sunday.

The following groups will play the Jam this year, in the following order: Gary Moore, Bryan Adams, Ozzy Osbourne, .38 Special and Rush.

Both shows are scheduled to begin around 3 p.m. with opening act Gary Moore. There will be about a 30-minute break between acts to allow time for set changes.

Jam sponsor Pace Concerts will provide security and first-aid stations at the music festival. Locations will be announced throughout the day.

Pace is employing more than 150 paramedics, two physicians, ambulance service and registered nurses, as well as 400 T-shirted security personnel.

The people at Pace Concerts have assembled a list of do's, don'ts and general information for concertgoers:

- Guns, knives, weapons of any sort, food, beverages, containers of any kind, signs, banners, umbrellas, motion picture cameras and recording devices will not be permitted. All concertgoers will be searched when they enter the arenas.

- Stadium doors will open at 10 a.m. in Dallas and at 12 p.m. in Houston.

- Tickets will be checked for counterfeiters and once entering the arenas, concertgoers will not be re-admitted.

- Running in the stadium will not be tolerated.

Review: Even non-trekkies will like this one

By SHAWN BEHLEN
Reviewer

Well, I'll just lay it on the line right at the beginning here. "Star Trek III: The Search for Spock" is one helluva good movie and thoroughly enjoyable from start to finish. It is definitely worth checking out whether you are a trekkie or even some form of strange alien being known as a non-trekkie.

As you will remember, at the end of the last Star Trek chapter, the wondrous Genesis planet had been born, but at the oh-so-unforgivable cost of Spock's life. "Star Trek III" now follows the noble course of Admiral James T. Kirk as he searches for his lost friend and semi-mentor in whatever form he may or may not

take (hence the title, right!).

Before he can search, however, Kirk must steal the Enterprise from under the nose of Starfleet Admiral Morrow who has ordered that the Enterprise be put out to pasture and that the whole Genesis and Spock question be considered taboo. Kirk's defiance of orders brings together once again the core crew of the intrepid Enterprise and provides the strongest point of the whole movie.

"Star Trek III" harkens back to the original television series in a way that does a long-time fan proud. Whereas "S.T. I" was simply a showcase for special effects and "S.T. II" was a strong start in the right direction, "S.T. III" hits home. The reason for that could easily be the director. It seems as though, through all

his years of living the part of Spock, Leonard Nimoy has realized, and put to good use, the notion that it is not lasers and alien goons that make the show so special, although they do, of course, provide the fun. No, what makes this series worthy of its hordes of fans is the tangibly human relationships between the main characters.

Once again, we have Kirk leading his fearless few through warp drives, enemy lines and yes, even, the (sob, gasp) last voyage of the Starship Enterprise. But finally, once again, we now have Bone's snide remarks about Spock and just about everything else, Scotty's many witticisms about young upstarts and new-fangled gadgetry, Sulu and Chekov's big-eyed stares and fearless camara-

derie, and Kirk's fraternal leadership and last second solutions.

Case in point. Remember how in almost every television episode, after all the laser guns and special gadgets had failed, Kirk simply beats up the bad guy with his fist? Well, rejoice and be happy, because Jim gets to bap and zap 'em once again. That's just one example, but the whole movie is like that. It gives you opportunity after opportunity to stand up and cheer. It's even a Klingon he gets to beat up. Just can't get no better than that!

The actor cast as that Klingon is the one major thing I do question in this movie. Klingon Battle Commander Kruge is played by none other than Christopher Lloyd. You probably remember him as the not-

always-there Reverend Jim on "Taxi." Even with tons of putty on his forehead and hair on his face, I still couldn't get the thought of Rev. Jim out of my mind whenever I heard him talk and saw those eyes go looking off every which way. I kept waiting to hear Louie scream, "Hey Kluge, are you going to take out this taxi or not?"

Another problem is the ending. It's highly predictable (that's all I'm going to say — I refuse to give it away), but that is very little to complain about. Overall, the movie's good points far outweigh its bad ones.

And don't worry — there will definitely be a "Star Trek IV." The last words we see on the screen are "And the adventure continues..."



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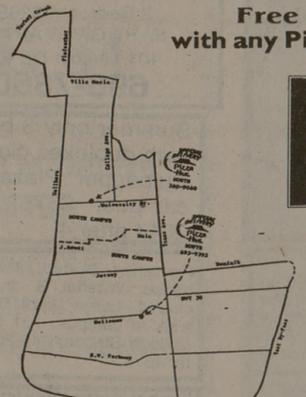
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