

Too few cooks make Billy Crystal's 'Mr. Saturday Night' unappetizing

By JENNY MAGEE

Special to THE BATTALION

"Mr. Saturday Night" Starring Billy Crystal, David Paymer and Helen Hunt Rated R Playing at Schulman 6

With "Mr. Saturday Night," Billy Crystal offers up a real feast—a seven-course meal. The only problem is that by the middle of the movie I was so stuffed with non-stop jokes and goofy facial expressions that I did not have room to digest the meat of the movie.

This is definitely a Billy Crystal movie. He wrote "Mr. Saturday Night," produced it, directed it, and starred in it. I expected a considerable amount of Billy Crystalness in the movie, but it turns out to be a bit of an overkill.

Now did you see what I did? I made you think I didn't like the movie, when in fact that was not exactly the case.

What's not to like about Buddy Young Jr. (Billy Crystal)? He is the Disco Jew, the comic's comic... He is Mr. Saturday Night. A product of Jewish living room comedy, Buddy is embraced by the comic world when he calls a very large man "New Jersey in pants" at an amateur comedy night.

Not exactly original, but it serves well enough. The crowd goes crazy, and thus the comedian is born.

Actually, Buddy isn't exactly born, he is more ignited. He goes crazy running around studios, knocking off jokes a mile a minute

and demanding to be the center of attention wherever he goes — basically strutting around in his chicken suit of comic grandeur.

The plot of "Mr. Saturday Night" is considerably overshadowed by Buddy's character. Buddy manages to turn every golden opportunity into a golden catastrophe because he never knows when to shut his mouth.

The pathetic decay of a man is outlined in a series of flashbacks. Buddy gets married, has a daughter who turns into a drug addict, and has a continuous need to belittle his ever-supportive brother, Stan (David Paymer).

Most of all, though, Buddy is funny. Buddy makes people laugh. In the whole scheme of things that is the only thing that matters to him.

I did appreciate the story of "Mr. Saturday Night." It captured my attention and involved me emotionally. However, there was a considerable amount of "fat" that was not so easily digested.

The fact is Billy Crystal's character was basically a self-centered schmuck. Billy Crystal is supposed to do imitations of "the white man's overbite" ("When Harry Met Sally") and get rammed in the posterior by raging bulls ("City Slickers").

Pardon me, but Billy Crystal's characters have never beat up their older brothers before. What can I say? I like for my favorite actors to portray nice people. It distorts my sense of movie reality when they don't.

"Mr. Saturday Night" lacked depth. Billy Crystal cooked up this flick and was not about to let anyone else in the kitchen. Don't



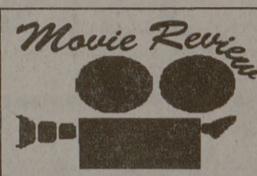
Billy Crystal stars as Buddy Young Jr. in "Mr. Saturday Night."

get me wrong, it is admirable for an actor to possess the versatility of writing and directing.

However, sometimes if different perceptions are not utilized the same old flavor throughout the whole movie goes stale by the end. The dramatic scenes were forced; the comedy lacked originality.

Furthermore, if I see one more close-up of Billy Crystal's mouth, I am going to know more about his dental record than his dentist does.

"Mr. Saturday Night" was a decent movie for the most part. The next time Billy Crystal plans on making dinner, he should at least let somebody else serve it.



Brown Bag Series offers a mixture of piano and trumpet

By ANAS BEN-MUSA

Staff Writer for THE BATTALION

Pianist Alicia Shirley and trumpeter Miriam Strane will perform in Wednesday's Brown Bag concert at 12:30 p.m. in 402 Academic.

The musicians have not announced the program.

Recently, Strane performed in a major recital at the

Juilliard School of Music. She is a trumpet instructor at Lee College.

Strane's accompanist, Shirley, was a featured pianist with the Cleveland Strings Chamber Trio and won second place in the TMTA Student Affiliate Collegiate Solo Performance Contest and the Victoria Young Symphony Orchestra Competition.

The concert is presented by the OPAS Stark Series and Department of Philosophy and Humanities Music Program.

Texas A&M's radio station, KAMU-FM, will broadcast the performance, which will end at 1:15 p.m.



Country music honors its best

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The 26th annual Country Music Association awards ceremony will be broadcast live Wednesday at 8 p.m. on CBS-TV.

Country music will hand out awards and showcase its top stars for a national TV audience.

The association will announce winners in 12 award categories and two new members of the Country Music Hall of Fame.

Vince Gill and Reba McEntire will co-host the program from the Grand Ole Opry House.

Additionally, a top-notch lineup will perform during the live two-hour special.

This year's show will trot out major stars — current and past —

beginning with Garth Brooks.

Also scheduled to perform is country music's newest sensation, a former car salesman named Billy Ray Cyrus.

Cyrus is a finalist for single of the year and best video, both for "Achy Breaky Heart."

Among the others scheduled to appear on the show are Dolly Parton, Wynonna Judd, Tanya Tucker, Clint Black, Kathy Mattea, Lorrie Morgan, Steve Wariner, Brooks & Dunn, Pam Tillis, Mary-Chapin Carpenter, Alan Jackson and Trisha Yearwood.

Nominees for the hall of fame are Don Gibson, Merle Haggard, George Jones, Willie Nelson and Ray Price. Jones also is scheduled to perform.

How Should We Live?

Scholars from Socrates (5th Century B.C.) to Francis Schaeffer (20th Century A.D.) have addressed this most basic question.

Numerous unauthorized road signs are posted all along life's journey pointing us every direction. How can we know the right way to go? Is there an accurate, reliable roadmap to help us avoid getting misled or lost?

We, the following Faculty of Texas A&M University, believe there is such a roadmap. We have found that Jesus Christ gives reliable direction and accurate answers to the important questions of life.

We invite you to investigate His claims and promises regarding life. You can find them in life's dependable Road Atlas, the Bible Let us know if we can help.

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