

Weekday Fare

cinema

theater

The Band Wagon—Vincenzo Minnelli, 1953. A washed-up movie idol, a prima ballerina and a busy producer put on a Broadway show which turns into a pompous musical version of the Faust legend. Starring Fred Astaire and Cyd Charisse at their peaks. At 8 p.m. Wednesday in Carroll Hall.

I Do! I Do!—Dorothy Collins stars at 8:30 p.m. nightly except Mondays at the Village Dinner Theater, Morrisville. Matinee performance at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday. Nightly buffet begins at 6:45. Call 787-7771 for reservations.

Jumpers—The Unexpected Company's production of Tom Stoppard's comedy will be presented at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday at the Ranch House Restaurant. Call 942-5867 for reservations.

Gallery Theater—The Carrboro Arts School announces open auditions at 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday for its upcoming production of *Otherwise Engaged*, a recent work by the British playwright Simon Gray. Roles are available for five men and two women. Professor William Hardy will direct.

television

Tuesday

The Big Event: Little Mo—Glynnis O'Connor stars as the late tennis great Maureen Connolly, who became the best woman player in the world at age 17, when she won the Grand Slam of Tennis. At 8 p.m. on Channel 28.

Tuesday Night Movie: Happily Ever After—Suzanne Somers stars as an aspiring singer torn between becoming a star in Las Vegas or returning the love of a mountaineer. At 9 p.m. on Channels 2 and 11.

Drama Special: Roots—Returning to TV, the Emmy award-winning special will begin with the first episode, starring LeVar Burton as the young Kunta Kinte enslaved at age 17. At 9 p.m. on Channels 5 and 8.

Wednesday

Roots—In part II, young Kunta is involved in an unsuccessful rebellion aboard a slave ship, and then is sold in Annapolis. At 9 p.m. on Channels 5 and 8.

Thursday

Roots—In 1775, Kunta makes an escape attempt which costs him his right foot but wins him a wife. At 8 p.m. on Channels 5 and 8.

In film biography

Acting, music bring Holly alive

By JUDITH SCHOOLMAN
Staff Writer

Fiction is so much kinder than truth to those we choose to create as legends. So be it with *The Buddy Holly Story*.

The fortunate ones are not those who know Holly as the less than sweet and naive guy portrayed in the film, but those who know only of Holly through the legacy of his music.

Starring Gary Busey, the film traces Holly's rise as a pioneer of early rock 'n roll until his untimely death at the age of 22 in 1959.

For the two hours the film runs, the memory of Buddy Holly and his music comes alive. Busey does not just portray the singer, he becomes the singer. More than doing a mere caricature, Busey's mannerisms and voice are those of the late Holly.

Beginning in 1956 with radio broadcasts of country music from a roller skating rink in Lubbock, Texas, the 19-year-old Holly sets out to create his own sound. Backed by his friends, Jesse (Don Stroud) and Ray Bob (Charles Martin Smith), Holly cannot stick to the tame rhythms of country, but insists on moving into the new beat of rock 'n roll.

The disapproval of town, church and family evaporates as Holly and his pals become more involved in creating their music.

The fame of the trio takes off when a local disc jockey sends, without their knowledge, a tape of their songs to a record company in New York. The band becomes known as the Crickets and sets off for New York to sign a record contract.

In a few months, the band is billed as the first white act to play the Harlem Theatre, the Apollo, and is touring with black groups. The hits pile up as rock 'n roll becomes the new wave of popular music.

Friction among the group develops. Jesse and Ray Bob want to go back to Lubbock, but Holly, who has since fallen in love with a record company receptionist, Maria Elena (Maria Richwine), has decided to stay in



New York, where the money and opportunity is.

The film jumps to early 1959. Holly, without the Crickets, is on a midwest winter concert tour. Holly feels insecure performing without his friends, and they feel the same. So Jesse and Ray Bob return to New York to try and catch up with the Holly road show. But on that night in February 1959, Holly and two other popular performers are killed in a plane crash in Iowa. That was to quote "American Pie," "the night the music died."

While the majority of the viewers will be too young to remember Holly, the importance of his music is evident. Songs thought to belong to contemporary performers crop in Holly's repertoire, such as "Words of Love," "That'll Be the Day," and "It's So Easy."

Even the stage postures of Mick Jagger and Peter Townshend of the Who can be traced to the antics of Holly and the Crickets.

Although the musical numbers may have been some

of the best in recent movies, the film, directed by Steve Rash, does have some annoying technical faults. The tone of the late '50s is strangely reminiscent of 1978. The faces, styles, clothes and sets are little too modern to be authentic, with Holly and the Crickets often looking absurdly out of place.

Solid performances by Busey, Stroud and Smith make up for the weaknesses. Even so, they are hampered by the film's saccharine sweet facade and at times seem too good to be true.

The ending, with the friends racing to meet the hero, whom we all know is doomed, is a little forced. This may be one of the several times the film deviates from the truth. But all this is forgotten or ignored when viewing one of the more pleasant, tuneful and entertaining films around. *The Buddy Holly Story* is a film definitely worth seeing and enjoying for its music and history, no matter how altered that history may be.

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HURT REYNOLDS

HOOPER

SHOWS: 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10

radio

In Focus—Featured artists this week include: Randy Newman and Joy of Cooking. Tuesday; Neil Young and Sea Level. Wednesday; and Moody Blues and Strawbs. Thursday. Aired nightly from 6-11 on WDBS-FM 107.

Album Feature—A new album release will be featured at 11 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday on WXYC-FM 89.3.

Jazz Show—Tim Stith hosts this show that features all forms of jazz. Airs form 9-12 Wednesday on WXYC-FM 89.3.

music

Muddy Waters—Performing Wednesday at State Theater in Raleigh.

gallery

Ackland Museum—Eighth National Student Printmakers Exhibition through Sept. 30.

Morehead Planetarium North Gallery—The September exhibit features the painting and drawings of Deborah Covington.

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THE Daily Crossword by John H. Hales

ACROSS	25 Moderate red	55 Municipal official	24 Wood-splitting item
1 List of political candidates	28 Most saucy	59 Former football great	25 Baseball's Roger
6 Brief calm	33 Narcotized	61 Vine	26 Hersey's bell town
10 — Cass	35 Flout	62 Handle	27 Doctor, sometimes
14 Flax cloth	36 Wood file	63 We: Fr.	28 Ante or arcade
15 Tune	38 Certain flavors	64 To the point	29 Uneasily
16 "The bird — the wing"	40 Dismal	65 A Coward	30 Brands merinos
17 Western	41 Lifeless	66 Female merinos	31 Secret meeting
18 Former baseball great	43 Sam or J.C.	67 Source of want	34 Fake jewel substance
20 Humans, for example	45 Tax letters	DOWN	1 Splash
22 Certain salt	46 Co-ed group	1 More indolent	2 Equivocator
23 Temperate oath	48 Most crippled	3 Opposed to	3 Opposed to
24 In good health	50 Kind of buggy	4 Abounded	4 Abounded
	51 Thorn in the flesh	5 Furious	5 Furious
	52 Large organizations	6 Put cargo aboard	6 Put cargo aboard
		7 Author Leon	7 Author Leon
		8 Ms. Taylor, to friends	8 Ms. Taylor, to friends
		9 More indolent	9 More indolent
		10 Ordinary	10 Ordinary
		11 Out on the Mediterranean	11 Out on the Mediterranean
		12 Castle feature	12 Castle feature
		13 Boleyn	13 Boleyn
		19 Egg parts	19 Egg parts
		21 Old-time playing card	21 Old-time playing card
		24 Wild	24 Wild
		49 City in Yucatan	49 City in Yucatan
		51 Consecrate	51 Consecrate
		52 Irish islands	52 Irish islands
		53 Gambling city	53 Gambling city
		54 Goods for sale: abbr.	54 Goods for sale: abbr.
		55 Chill	55 Chill
		56 Defaces	56 Defaces
		57 Dill herb	57 Dill herb
		58 Appellation	58 Appellation
		60 At present	60 At present

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

R	A	F	A	S	S	E	R	T	C	A	S	K
I	R	A	D	U	S	T	E	R	A	C	H	E
C	E	L	L	O	P	H	A	N	E	P	E	O
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C	L	A	S	S	I	E	Y	W	E	A	S	T
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H	O	W										

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