

# ARTS

## Summer releases 'Tarzan' and 'Endless' flop

By GUHA SHANKAR

Every once in a while a movie comes along and makes such a thorough mess of all aspects of its production that it simply has to be seen to be believed. *Tarzan, the Ape Man* directed by John Derek and produced by wife Bo is a masterpiece of bad acting, vapid dialogue, and superfluous camera-work, not to mention cinematic self-indulgence on the Dereks' part.

Disregard the title. From beginning to end this is Bo Derek's movie, and as a consequence *Tarzan* suffers badly. The "plot" is secondary to the cinematography and one suspects the Dereks would have ditched the storyline entirely if they could have. Even so, Ms. Derek as Jane shows up in virtually every scene and manages through the course of the movie to reveal as much of her body as possible.

The camera concentrates on her to the extent of turning *Tarzan* into one big home

movie. She is photographed through a hole in a tent, arranged ever so artfully in the cabin of a boat, and is even seen emerging from the water looking like some water nymph.

### Cinema

All the calculating poses and camera angles are supposed to give the impression of innocent sensuality but instead seem contrived and superficial. The camerawork serves no purpose other than to remind the audience that Bo Derek is the film's centerpiece.

Derek's acting is monumentally wooden and her range of emotions is extremely limited. Her fellow actors are no more talented. Miles O'Keefe as Tarzan is suitably brawny, but his lines consist mainly of grunts and letting loose with the famous yell a few times. But he has little chance to prove his worth since his time on the screen is half

that of the leading-lady's. His cursory appearance lends credence to the rumor that half the movie was filmed before someone was found to play the title role.

Richard Harris as Jane's father, famed explorer, blusters, roars, and gestures grandly in an earnest, yet futile, attempt to cover for the atrocious dialogue. The most expressive performances come from two chimps and an orangutan. The rest of the cast should have taken acting lessons from them.

In all fairness, it must be reported that several people did applaud at the conclusion of the film but it was hard to tell if they were planted by the Dereks or were just relieved that the torture was finally over.

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Except for a few surprisingly solid performances by Don Murray, Shirley Knight and newcomer Martin Hewitt, *Endless Love* is an unsurprising, bland story of an ill-fated adolescent romance. Directed by Franco Zeffirelli, the plot deals with the love affair between 17-year-old David (Hewitt) and 15-year-old Jade (Brooke Shields). When the boy more or less moves in with the girl her normally tolerant father (Don Murray) throws David out. In a frenzied attempt to get back

into the family's good graces, David concocts a plot to set part of the house on fire and then save everybody by miraculously appearing on the scene. But the plan backfires when the house burns down, and David ends up in a correctional facility for a couple of years, separated forever from his lady-love. But he manages to make it back to her for one last encounter before being dragged off by the cops.

The picture's major shortcoming is its simplistic plot which never comes to a concrete resolution of the struggles. The film ends on such an ambiguous note that one is not really sure what happened. The love affair itself is very mild and Shields' and Hewitt's love scenes have all the ardor of one of her T.V. commercials.

In the end, the acting salvages the movie somewhat. Don Murray gives a fine, although a bit overwrought, performance, while Shirley Knight does equally well in conveying the pent-up sexual frustrations of Jade's mother. As a first-time performer, Martin Hewitt does an outstanding job and carries off his emotional scenes with believability. Brooke Shields' chief virtue is that she does not have too many complex things to do and is thus unable to wreak havoc on the film.

## A WEEK'S FARE

### CINEMA

#### CAMPUS

Carolina Union Free Flicks are shown in the Union Auditorium at 7 and 9:30 p.m. Admission is by UNC I.D. or Union Staff Privilege Card (one guest per I.D. or Card). 962-1449.

Friday — *Coal Miner's Daughter* is the life story of Loretta Lynn, the queen of country music. Sissy Spacek.

Sunday — *Brian's Song* tells the story of the Chicago Bears' Brain Piccolo and his losing battle against leukemia. James Caan.

Monday — *The Goodbye Girl* is afraid her new lover will leave her heartbroken just like all the others have. Marsha Mason, Richard Dreyfuss.

#### CHAPEL HILL

Carolina White: Last day for *S.O.B.* Showing at 2:30, 4:50, 7:10 and 9:30 p.m. *The Empire Strikes Back* starts Friday. Times not available. Carolina Blue: *Superman II* at 2:15, 4:45, 7:15 and 9:30 p.m. Admission: \$2 for the first two shows on weekdays and the first show on weekends. Regular admission is \$3.75. Reduced admission tickets are available at the Carolina Union information desk for \$2.25. 942-3061.

The Plaza Triple Theaters: *Endless Love* at 2:40, 4:45, 7:15, and 9:30 p.m. *Arthur* at 3, 5, 7, and 9 p.m. *Wolfen* at 2:45, 5, 7:20 and 9:35 p.m. Admission: \$2 until 6 p.m. weekdays. Regular admission \$3. 967-4737.

Varsity Theater: Last day for *Airplane*.

Shows at 3 and 5:05 p.m. and *Dragonlayer* at 7 and 9:15 p.m. Starting Friday: *Dragonlayer* at 3 and 5:05 p.m. and *The Four Seasons* at 7 and 9:15 p.m. All seats \$1. 967-4737.

Ram Theaters: *Tarzan the Ape Man* at 7:15 and 9:30 p.m. with Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2:35 and 5 p.m. *Raiders of the Lost Ark* at 7 and 9:15 p.m. with Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2:30 and 4:45 p.m. Last day for *Gas*. Shows at 7:10 and 9 p.m. *Under the Rainbow* starts Friday at 7:05 and 9 p.m. Admission: \$1.50 all day Tuesday and until 5:30 Saturday and Sunday; otherwise \$3. 967-8284.

### CARRBORO

The Draught House Cinema presents *The Hound of the Baskervilles* in the Art School Saturday at 8 and 10 p.m. There will also be a Sherlock Satire Short, *The Mystery of the Leaping Fish*. Admission is \$1.75 for Art School members and \$2 for non-members. 929-2896.

### STAGE

The Art School presents *The Emperor's New Clothes* Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$2 for children, \$2.50 for Art School members and \$3 for non-members. 929-2896.

Chez Condoret Cabaret presents *American Holiday*, a look at summertime travel across America, Wednesday-Saturday at 9 p.m. with late shows Fridays and Saturdays at 11 p.m. 942-8714.

### DOONESBURY

by Garry Trudeau



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