

Summer Attractions

Box offices to cash in on several sequels this summer

By **BRYAN BURNS**
Staff Writer

Summertime, as Gershwin wrote and Michael Stipe sang, is "when the livin's easy." Well, yeah, I guess it is. Of course, it's not as easy as when you were in fifth grade. Then, all you had to do was go to camp for a while and tolerate a family vacation to hell and back. But now, you're expected to do something useful with the season. Some people work during the summer. Others go to school. And the really productive, studious, superior people do both.

If you're clever enough to find a way out of the pits of endless suffering (labor and education), congratulations. Otherwise, don't worry, for there are plenty of distractions to keep you busy and content.

Any producer will tell you that the summer is when the box office really rakes it in, so there should be plenty of decent films to see. The biggest excitement is over "Batman." Although some are doubting Michael Keaton's ability to play the studly masked hero, everyone is psyched for Jack Nicholson as the Joker. And Kim Basinger as Bruce Wayne's love interest? It works for me.

This is also the summer of the sequels. Coming are such great continuing sagas as "Ghostbusters II," "Indiana Jones III" and "Star Trek V." "Ghostbusters" should be OK, but another "Star Trek"? What's left to do after James Tiberius Kirk and his loyal crew of five travel through time and space with a couple of whales?

I'm also a little skeptical of "Indiana Jones." They had to do something radical so they replaced the part of the tag-along babe (Kate Capshaw) with Indy's father, played by Sean Connery. Secret Agent 007 and his archeologist boy

wonder on the trail of treasure, danger and excitement. Maybe it'll work. I hope so.

Also, you know there's a big concert every summer. Last year it was Monsters of Rock, with Van Halen, the Scorpions and others. Now there are rumors for a reunion tour by the Rolling Stones, accompanied by Living Colour and Guns N' Roses this summer. Wait! I have to put in my plug for GNR: Axl Rose is a musical god. Thank you. Also, The Who is planning a reunion tour. It's too much.

Other things to do over the summer? Mowing the lawn is always fun. So is clipping your dog's hair (substitute a cat or parakeet if necessary). Ever notice how similar these two activities are? Neither did I. Think about it

Another great distraction from your busy summer schedule is television. It's the best time to catch the encore screenings of those classic episodes of "ALF" and "thirtysomething" you missed last fall. Or the perfect opportunity to see a rerun of "Moonlighting" again, as if anyone still watches that show.

But if you do watch television over the summer, make sure you catch some newsworthy, informative shows like "A Current Affair" and "Gerald." Another syndicated must is at least one courtroom drama daily. Caution: don't get hooked on "Superior Court," and keep an eye on "The Judge," "Divorce Court" and the one that started it all, "The People's Court."

The most obvious relief from summer's pressures and stress is time at the beach. Some people go so far as to dive into the challenge of career opportunities by working at the beach for a

summer. For those who can't handle the workaholic atmosphere of waiting tables and sleeping in the sand, just get to the beach twice a week so you'll feel like you're productive.

Or maybe you're still expected to go on one of those great family vacations. Unless you're going to Hawaii or Egypt or Love Canal, N.Y., forget it. But don't give up the

chance to see one of these paradise spots. Otherwise, convince your parents that they need you to stay behind and look after the house, the pets, the garbage — the important things. This way you get a real vacation, time at home alone. And if you can swing it, you might even get paid for house-sitting.

So after thinking about it,

maybe summer's not so easy. But if you pack enough semi-meaningless activities into your summer, it just gets easier and easier. So first of all, figure out where you're living. Then get a job or pre-register for class. And when you have those minor details out of the way, plan your fun-filled summer schedule of movies, music, waves and dog hair.

Meet the two toughest cops in town.



One's just
a little
smarter than
the other.

JAMES BELUSHI

K-9

AND INTRODUCING JERRY LEE AS HIMSELF

GORDON COMPANY Production ROD DANIEL Film "K-9" MEL HARRIS Written by STEVEN SIEGEL & SCOTT MYERS

Music by MILES GOODMAN Co-Producer STEVEN SIEGEL Executive Producer DONNA SMITH Produced by LAWRENCE GORDON AND

PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
Some Material May Be Inappropriate for Children Under 13

CHARLES GORDON Directed by ROD DANIEL

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WNYC Top 20 Albums

ARTIST

1. Neville Brothers
2. Dirty Dozen Brass Band
3. Drivin'-n-Cryin'
4. Pixies
5. Screaming Trees
6. Sidewinders
7. Zulus
8. Soul Asylum
9. The Brood
10. The Cult
11. New Model Army
12. Wygals
13. Poi Dog Pondering
14. Run Westy Run
15. Velvet Monkeys
16. Speed The Plough
17. Gay Bikers on Acid
18. House of Freaks
19. Martin Stephenson and the Daintees
20. The Pickies

ALBUM

1. Yellow Moon
2. Voodoo
3. Mystery Road
4. Doolittle
5. Buzz Factory
6. Witch Doctor
7. Down on the Floor
8. Clam Dip and Other Delights
9. In Spite of It All
10. Sonic Temple
11. Thunder and Consolation
12. Honyocks in the Whithersoever
13. Circle Around the Sun
14. Run Westy Run
15. Rotting Corpse an Go-Go
16. Speed the Plough
17. Stewed to the Gills
18. Tantilla
19. Gladsome, Humour and Blue
20. Second Coming