

# Highlights From the Extended View

by david lory

Well, kids here yet another column to read between English and Finance 456. We are going to dive into the extended view. By this I mean the home video market. It seems as though there is no halt to the growth of this part of the home entertainment spectrum.

On the subject of hot new releases in home movies, (don't worry, this won't take long.) January and February have proven and are promising to be great months in the home video market. The most popular release right now is, of course, *Platoon*. This academy-award winning film almost didn't make it, though, to the video stores. It was tied up in court by two major film distributors. Finally, it was released on January 22nd. For those of you who haven't seen it, *Platoon* is probably the definitive film about American soldiers

in Vietnam. *Platoon* has set the stage for a real insight especially important to most of us in college, who, at the time of the war was just a gleam in their mom's eyes.

Other exciting February releases which are to boost a slow, non-study, all-play weekday (or weekend): *Dirty Dancing*, *Dragnet*, *Predator*, *La-Bamba*, and *Robocop*. All of these are available at video stores now. I would especially recommend *Dragnet*. Dan Aykroyd's straight-man performance is classic and fits perfectly with Tom Hank's normal, frenzied madness.

The rest of the month of February promises to churn out some home movie greats. On February 10, *Monster Squad*, on the 17, *The Big Easy*, on the 18, *Revenge of the Nerds Part II*, and on the 24, *The Lost Boys*, to round out the month.

And if that's not enough, in March, the biggest money-maker of 1987 is coming: *Beverly Hills Cop II*. Eddie is at it again. More for March: *The Living Daylights*, the latest James Bond flick, and *Stakeout*, an action-comedy with Richard Dreyfuss and Emilio Estevez.

Extended play toad of the week: *Jaws IV*, *The Revenge*. Just when you thought it was safe to spend money on movies again, here is the next epic (SIC) adventure of that fish from hell on his quest to devour the Western hemisphere. What people will do for cash.

Stay tuned, fans, for more EV outrageousness, keeping you informed of what's hot in the spectrum of home movies.

Later.

# Last Emperor is a modern day masterpiece

After a few months of delays. *The Last Emperor*, directed by Bernardo Bertolucci, has arrived in Las Vegas, and it is certainly worth the wait. It is the tale of Pu Yi, the last emperor of China, and his progress from child ruler to reformed citizen. Pu Yi's life is one of the most fascinating and ironic stories in modern times;

even when borrowing through his autobiography (available in the UNLV library) its peculiarly absorbing quality is revealed.

As one can see, a lot happens, even within nearly three hours of film. The screenplay by Mark Peploe (who also wrote the screenplay for *Antonioni*) is brilliant *The*

*Passengers*, (available on videotape) helps give fine dramatic shape to such a wandering life.

Throughout the film, Bertolucci and his longtime cinematographer Vittorio Storai fill the screen with mind-boggling images.

However, the film has a couple minor problems: First, because of a con-

tract with Columbia Studios, the film was shot in English and many of the actors, who are Chinese-Americans on the whole, have rather thick accents which sound at times like weak dubbing in a Foreign film. Still, important roles such as Pu Yi (John Lone) and the English tutor Reginald Johnston (Peter O'Toole) are carried off

very well. Furthermore, the film entirely avoids the issue of Pu Yi's homosexuality, which seems in retrospect to have been fairly certain. This is understandable, since the material is a Mao-approved autobiography, and since the film was shot in cooperation with the Chinese government. From the start, however,

Bertolucci has freely adapted the story to suit his own artistic purposes. As it is, Pu Yi's marriage to the two wives works pretty well.

On the whole, *The Last Emperor* is an excellent film, if not a masterpiece. It is perhaps Bertolucci's best film since *The Conformist* and certainly one of the best films of the year.

# Trocks return to UNLV

LES BALLETS TROCKADERO DE MONTE CARLO has been busy adding new works and critical acclaim to its repertoire since its Las Vegas appearance 3 years ago.

The hilarious all-male ballet company return to Artemus W. Ham Concert

Hall, FEBRUARY 16, in a gala benefit performance for Nevada Dance Theatre. They still hold the record for ticket sales for that theatre. KVVU TV 5 is co-sponsor of this event.

The Trocks, as they are affectionately known have become a dance phenomenon throughout

the world. It is a company of professional male dancers performing the full range of ballet and modern repertoire, such as *Les Sylphides*, *Swan Lake Act II* and the *Dying Swan*.

The fact that men take all the parts, heavy bodies delicately balancing on toe

as swans, sylphs, romantic princesses, angst-ridden Victorian ladies, enhances, rather than mocks the spirit of dance. These talented, clever-ballerinas delight and amuse the most knowledgeable as well as novices in the audience.

The program to be presented by Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo for this return appearance includes the classics, *Les Sylphides*, *Don Quixote*, *Dying Swan* and *Anarchic Heart*.

Tickets for the gala benefit performance are \$15, \$25, \$35 and \$100 gold patron tickets include a reception with the company. Tickets are available from the Performing Arts Box Office. For reservations call 739-3801.



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