



'Poseidon' script leaves good deal to be desired

Review by Larry Kubert

The time is New Year's Eve. The place is on an ocean liner somewhere in the Atlantic Ocean. As the New Year rolls in, so does a tidal wave. The ship does a complete flip and lands upside-down in the water. That's one hell of a party.

It's also the beginning of another star-studded, action-packed, purely entertainment thriller—*The Poseidon Adventure*. As with most star-studded, action-packed purely entertainment thrillers, it leaves a good deal to be desired.

The premise of the movie is that the luxury liner *Poseidon* capsizes on its final voyage before going into mothballs.

Ensuing is a race against time as ten survivors try to reach safety before the ship sinks. But, since the *Poseidon* is upside-down, they must climb up into the ship's bowels to hopefully escape through a propeller shaft tunnel.

The action sequences are handled well; especially the ship's flip and a hair-raising underwater swim sequenced.

Script

The biggest problem *The Poseidon Adventure* has is its script. Better dialogue shows up on *Dagnet*. The inane lines could explain why some of the acting is gratingly poor.

Academy Award winners, Gene Hackman and Ernest Borgnine head the melodrama menagerie. As a rebel minister who leads the survivors to safety, Hackman mumbles, and bumbles his way through this role.

Borgnine has had a difficult time living up to his Oscar-winning performance in *Marty*. As a tough police detective in *Poseidon*, Borgnine is worse than usual.

It is the lesser characters, however, who rise above the script and rescue *Poseidon*. Shelley Winters delivers a stunning performance as a rotund Jewish momma. Winters might receive an Oscar nomination for her role and nothing could be more justified.

An often-overlooked actor, Jack Albertson, is cast as Winters' equally Jewish husband. He gives a fine performance.

Convincing

Although often criticized for not having an abundance of acting talent, Carol Lynley is convincing as a hysterical, immature rock singer. And relative newcomer Pamula Sue Martin, as an 18-year-old nymphet, is surprisingly good.

Veteran performers Roddy MacDowell and Red Buttons also do more than adequate jobs.

The Poseidon Adventure fits into the pure entertainment genre, simply a movie to enjoy with no great redeeming message. It's nice escapism for the audience.

One can only hope that 20th Century Fox (which released *The Poseidon Adventure*) has made a New Year's resolution to evaluate its scripts a little more carefully in the future.

Searching for artistic freedom

Through the years a lot of rock groups and performers have pulled the ol' switcheroo, moving from one big daddy record company to another. Often the move is prompted by promises of the kind of bread that puts steak on the table regularly.

But lately more groups are making a slightly different maneuver. They're breaking with big companies to form their own smaller labels in the interest of more artistic freedom.

bart becker
bells letters

One thing immediately apparent about the new labels is that they have better names. Names such as Capitol, Warner Bros., and United Artists aren't bad. But they can't step on the same floor with "Apple" and "Grunt".

Apple was effectively the first company formed by rock artists for marketing whatever material they wanted, how they wanted and when they wanted. It was an assured artistic success since the Beatles were the company's main client.

Luckily, Apple Corp. pulled it off. In addition to the Beatles, collectively and individually, it introduced new talent. James Taylor's passable first album was recorded on that label.

Mary Hopkins, an Apple artist, was the darling of the pop world for awhile with "Those Were the Days," and a few moderately successful albums. And Badfinger successfully reminded everybody of the mid-60's when they popped onto the scene.

The label also has ventured into recording and releasing mildly off-beat groups—bagpipe bands and the like. But the Beatles still remain the Apple aces.

From then to now there have been a few other such arrangements. The Beach Boys' stuff comes out on Brother Records. The Rolling Stones record for Rolling Stone Records. And latest entry is Grunt.

Grunt has a rooting' tootin' name and a hotshot logo, besides. The company is the Jefferson Airplane's brainchild. The group had been suffering growing pains with RCA.

With Grunt they seem to be releasing mostly albums by "The Jefferson Airplane and Friends." Some are very top notch.

For instance, the Airplane's own *Long John Silver*, while far from their best effort, is still better than three-fourths of the music today.

But the company's success with a couple of albums not including the JA personnel has been minimal. Peter Kaukonen's *Black Kangaroo*, despite a glut of advertising, is no more than passable.

And an album by a group called *One* (or 1) is entirely inexplicable. It probably will be of slight enjoyment to individuals who need a degree of discomfort in their lives.

Although Grunt apparently still is having troubles with its distributing company (trying to clean up its language and politics), it has done a good thing. It has provided a handhold for other artists to bargain for or demand artistic freedom from other companies.

Yoga Offered

A yoga class will be offered this semester by the recreation department. Deadline for registration is Jan. 31. The cost is \$1.25.

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