

arts and entertainment

Pink panther's revenge a variation of old comedy theme

By Peg Sheldrick

"The Revenge of the Pink Panther" might more aptly be titled "The Rehash of the Pink Panther." This latest in the long line of farces involving Inspector Clouseau offers nothing new.

The script by Frank Waldman, Ray Clark, and Blake Edwards exists mainly as an excuse for a great deal of wild slapstick involving the moronic detective. And

movie review

the slapstick isn't all that novel. Some of it is just plain old. (Do they really think the audience hasn't seen a flower pot fall off a balcony and hit someone on the head?) Of course it's meant to be outrageous, but a little of that can go a long way. The film seldom gets beyond a "Three Stooges" level of comedy.

Same old schtick

The stars are not at fault. Peter Sellers is just as good as ever, but he's doing the same old schtick. Dyan Cannon also is fine, but if you really want to see what she can do as a comedienne, you should see "Heaven Can Wait." Both actors are talents who could be put to much better use. The cast contains many faces familiar to "Panther" fans, including Herbert Lom as Chief Inspector Dreyfuss, the boss Clouseau literally drove mad.

Henry Mancini's score is all right, but there are only so many ways to play the all-too-familiar "Pink Panther" theme. That's the problem with the movie on the whole—it's just a variation on a theme that's been played a little too often.

Physical comedy

Die-hard Clouseau fans no doubt will enjoy this outing, as will anyone with an insatiable appetite for slapstick. And there are some very funny moments, but those who aren't bowled over by this kind of



Photo courtesy of United Artists

Peter Sellers comes back to life as Inspector Clouseau in "The Revenge of the Pink Panther."

physical comedy will find it a long wait for the gems.

"The Revenge of the Pink Panther" currently is playing at the Cinema 2.

Just when you thought it was safe to go back in the water, *Jaws II* came along.

And just when you thought no one would dare try another *Jaws* ripoff, *Piranha* comes along.

That's right, folks. Those sharp-toothed nasties from the tropics have made it to the U.S. to join the ranks (or rather schools) munching on hapless humans to satisfy their appetite for flesh and the movie-goers' appetite for gory schlock.

The next thing you know, Charlie the Tuna will turn on us.

Lots of blood

Enough blood is splashed around to keep the Lincoln Plasma Corporation satisfied for years to come. The whole thing is about as terrifying as "Creature Feature." It only runs about 90 minutes, so with the flashes of nudity and the excessively grim moments edited, it will be ready to be shown on the tube in short order.

The plot is a hodgepodge of stereotypes, cliches and stupidity. It starts off with the typical teenage couple blundering their way (by the light of a full moon, of course) into becoming the first casualties. Instead of the usual crusty old farmer, the next victim is a crusty old mountain man who pats his dog and utters philosophy right out of *The Wilderness Family*.

Anti-hero

Bradford Dillman is the (anti) hero, a hard-drinking lot who has retreated to the

woods to escape his past (as well as his ex-wife.) Our heroine is a poor man's Nancy Drew who is liberated (i.e., she suggests hopping into the sack herself instead of waiting for him to make at pass—but she still can't fix a car.) She unleashes these orthodontist's nightmares on the world and exonerates herself by uttering a bewildered "I'm sorry."

The evil genius who has created this superstrain of toothy terrors is named Hoak (for obvious reasons). Of course, he isn't really to blame—the Government is at fault. They got him started on the project in order to develop a special piranha to use in North Vietnam. (This is a social statement. Heavy, man.)

Fear saves child

Dillman's soft spot is his cute little blond waif of a daughter. She is persecuted by her summer camp director for her fear of the water. (Shades of *Bless the Beasts and Children*.) She, with that mystical wisdom of a child, is unwilling to go in the water. This fear saves her from ending up as a seafood platter. She's lucky—most everyone gets either mutilated or eaten alive. In fact, most of her camp buddies are eaten up (in a scene that isn't so much scary as it is just plain gross).

Evidently the object of this mess is to kill off as many cast members as possible. This probably saves overhead. It also spares the actors and actresses from having to live down this amateurish trash. You almost wish that when they finished the picture they had thrown the film to the title characters.

'Silly contrivance'

At its best it's a silly contrivance of cheap shocks, cheap jokes, and none-too-special effects. At its worst, *Piranha* is bloody tripe chock-full of characters as callous as the people who made the film.

The movie is best suited for carnivorous fish fans and for strong-stomached types looking for a good laugh.

Piranha, rated "R", currently is playing to the Cooper Plaza.



Photo courtesy of Associated Booking Corp.

Top blues artist Albert King will be at the 2nd Annual Great Plains Blues Festival Friday. The show begins at 8 p.m. in the Nebraska Union Centennial Room.

Weekend's entertainment: blues, acrobatic dancers

Two of the country's top blues artists, and one of the world's most innovative dance troupes headline this weekend's entertainment in Lincoln.

Headlining Friday night's 2nd Annual Great Plains Blues Festival is Albert King, with special guest Luther Allison. King is considered by some to deserve the disputed title of King of the Blues. King had to wait until the mid-60s when he was in his early forties, to really make his mark on blues and rock. Once he was heard, on the Stax album *Born Under A Bad Sign*, his impact was inescapable among blues players.

Among the first to pay homage to King was Eric Clapton, then with Cream, whose "Strange Brew" and later cover version of "Born Under A Bad Sign," were virtually carbon copies of King's style. Jimi Hendrix owed a great deal of the blues side of his playing to King, and Jimmy Page and a host of lesser lights in English blues and rock were soon under the King spell.

The throaty guitar tone, the arching lines he creates from basic blues material, and the powerful playing of his "flying V" guitar are trademarks of the King style.

Appearing with King is Luther Allison, who should be familiar to local blues enthusiasts, having played a recent date at The Zoo Bar. The high energy sound of Allison and his band have made him one of the country's favorite blues performers. One of his recent shows was visited by Bob Dylan. The show starts at 8 p.m. in the Nebraska Union Centennial Room. Ticket prices are \$4.00 with UNL student I.D.

and \$5.00 general admission.

The Pilobolus Dance Theatre visits Kimball Hall Friday and Saturday. The group does not like to call themselves part of the modern dance movement. Instead, they prefer to be described as "athletic and acrobatic dancers." According to Ron Bowlin, the Kimball Hall manager, "the choreographer has no background in the modern of classical dance, he is more interested in the language of movement and what it can create."

The company, which is made up of four men and two women "tries to create images as they flow from movement to movement, moment to moment," Bowlin said. Their ability to create unique designs in their choreography, and to put humor into dance, are considered the high points of their how.

Those still wishing to view the Pilobolus Dance Theater should note that both shows are nearing sell outs.

Another dance event in Lincoln this weekend is "The Children Of Theater Street" at the Sheldon Film Theater. The film is a story of the ballet school in Leningrad, where the children are auditioned at an early age to determine if they have the potential to be admitted. The children for the most part have sacrificed a normal childhood for the hope of becoming a dancer for the State ballet. It will be screened September 14 through the 16 at 7 and 9 p.m., with 3:00 p.m. matinees Friday and Saturday.