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John Bruce/Daily Nebraskan

# Tammy Faye's drug ordeal

Mascara-caked evangelist survives demonic 3 a.m. permanents

"PTL Club" hostess **Tammy Faye Bakker** has been absent from the show for two months. Earlier rumors claimed that the 45-year-old evangelist was suffering from AIDS. But the PTL ministry disclosed Friday that Bakker is being treated for a 17-year drug dependency.

Her husband **Jim Bakker** blamed the problem on an over-the-counter allergy medicine she has been taking since her 17-year-old daughter **Tammy Sue Bakker** was born. Tammy Faye reportedly was addicted to tranquilizers that doctors prescribed to reduce attacks of nervousness and hyperactivity that the medicine caused.



**Harrah's Hollywood**  
 by Scott Harrah

The Bakkers announced Monday that they took a vacation at a hideaway in the Smoky Mountains, where Tammy Faye came down with pneumonia. Jim said he gave his wife copious amounts of cold medicines that only seemed to make her worse.

"Tammy Faye became hyperactive and I once found her giving herself a permanent at 3 in the morning," he tearfully told viewers. "Another time I found her bleaching her hair platinum blond in the middle of the night."

Soon Tammy Faye started to hallucinate and became delirious.

"I imagined that there were demons in the cottage," she told viewers as tears rolled out of her heavily made-up eyes. "Finally, even though I was hallucinating and on the brink of death, I called for Jesus to help save me from the demons. 'In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I command you to leave!' And people, it worked."

Jim said doctors suggested that Tammy Faye seek treatment at the posh Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage, Calif. On the plane to California, Tammy Faye reportedly put on her mink coat and tried to jump out in mid-air because she said she saw

Once the plane landed in California, Tammy Faye said, she started hallucinating again and thought that a band was at the airport to greet her and millions of fans were also there to wish her well.

**Tammy Faye 'had basically been going through a constant state of withdrawal for 17 years.'**

— Jim Bakker

"And the doctor told me, 'Tammy, honey, you imagined that. It didn't happen.' I was hallucinating!" she said.

Jim said that Tammy Faye "had basically been going through a constant

state of withdrawal for 17 years" because she never took enough tranquilizers to cure the effect of the allergy medicine.

Tammy Faye has been drug-free for several weeks now, and her family has been going through counseling to deal with her problem.

"Little Jamie Charles received a certificate and a medal for successfully completing one session," she triumphantly told viewers. "And, honey, we are so proud of him!"

Jim said that they will be absent from the network for about a year because doctors have advised them to do so.

"I know that in the past I put the ministry first," he said, putting his arm around his mascara-caked wife. "But this time I'm not going to leave my Tammy Faye!"

The Bakkers said when they come back to Heritage U.S.A., they plan to build a multimillion-dollar drug-treatment center to help people that are "in trouble just like Tammy Faye."

Jim said the National Enquirer discovered the Bakkers' plight and sent a reporter to the Eisenhower Medical Center.

"But, bless their hearts, they never ran the story," he said.

"I'm so grateful to God for a case of pneumonia that brought me to this joyous point of help in my life," Tammy Faye cooed as tears once again rolled off her false eyelashes. "God has turned my mistakes into miracles!"

Fire-and-brimstone TV evangelist **Oral Roberts** was also on the show. "This is a high moment in the life of America," Roberts told PTL viewers proudly. "This is the greatest act of courage I've ever seen in Jim and Tammy Faye. The blood of Jesus is hovering over the Bakkers!"

Tammy Faye, the cosmetic industry is praying for your recovery.

# Czech tribute to Laurel and Hardy in Menel's 'My Sweet Little Village'

By Stew Magnuson  
 Senior Reporter

In a tiny Czechoslovakian village of Krecovice, a trucker strolls down the cobblestone streets with his skinny assistant Otik. Otik is the village simperton, cheerful but a little clumsy. Pavek has the unfortunate job of keeping Otik out of trouble and catching the blame for the destruction of local property caused by Otik's little accidents. Yes, these guys sound like the Czech Laurel and Hardy.

The mimicking of the famous duo by acclaimed film director and Academy Award-winner Jiri Menel is quite intentional and often hilarious in his latest "My Sweet Little Village."

But this film is more than a tribute to Stan and Ollie. It's a loving picture of small-town life in Czechoslovakia. Besides Otik and Pavek, we have Dr. Skruzny (Rudolph Hrusinsky) who, so caught up in the beautiful scenery and reciting poetry during morning drives, manages to crash his car daily.

We have the young adulterous affair between the pretty Mrs. Turek and the engineer Kaspar. And we have Pavek's oldest boy desperately in love with a schoolteacher. But mostly we have the "mentally backwards" Otik and the nice little cottage left to him by his parents.

At the end of the harvest Pavek is giving Otik his walking papers. Five years of putting up with the oaf is enough for him.

## Movie Review

But some big-city bureaucrats get hold of this interesting piece of information and convince Otik to move to the big city (just so they can get his nice cottage for weekend trips to the country).

Since everyone else's business is everyone else's business, the town is in an uproar. Otik would be lost in the big city. But Pavek remains stubborn. And, of course, we have the other love stories

to keep our attention as well.

Menzel is compassionate to all his characters. Only the jealous Mr. Turek is a bad guy. Menzel also takes little jabs at the big-city communist bureaucrats, more interested in a weekend retreat than their so-called "comrades."

Even though this fictional village is a continent and a whole political system away, small-town Nebraskans may still recognize some of these people, especially the old, nosy women, the merchants of small-town gossip.

The slapstick isn't particularly hilarious, but the expressions on Otik's face and his goofy laughs in the face of Pavek's rage are quite funny. "My Sweet Little Village," is a fantastic tribute to small-town life, wherever that small town might be.

"My Sweet Little Village" runs for the next two weekends at the Sheldon Film Theater. Screenings are at 7 and 9 p.m. with Sunday matinees at 3 and 5 p.m. (There will be no screenings on Saturday or March 20).