

Out & A&E WEEKEND OUTLOOK about

Musical brings comedy, drama to Lied

By Paula Lavigne
Senior Reporter

Steamy bedroom vixens, sleuthing private eyes, evil villains, valiant heroes, jiving jazz and Hollywood dreams pack the action backdrop of the 1940s in the musical comedy "City of Angels," coming to the Lied Center this weekend. Stuck somewhere between the black-and-white fantasy of the silver screen and the colorful reality of life, Stine, a young novelist, falls into the trap of producer/director Buddy Fidler. Fidler, carving out a place for his own ego, coerces Stine to compromise the substance of his script. Stine, blinded by the Hollywood glare, buckles down and gives in, while living his parallel life through Stone, his fictitious character with a big heart and a strong will. Stine, played by actor Randy Lake, is basically a man who loses himself to stardom. "He's a good guy, even though he doesn't come off as a good guy in the

show," Lake said. "He just screws up. He ends up selling himself short."

Lake, who is used to playing the good guy, said he was having fun portraying a character undergoing some torrential emotional battles.

Lake said Stine's problem lay in compromising his values for this glossy, overblown image of success.

"Stine's a very successful novelist who wouldn't normally aim for such lofty goals," he said. "Hollywood approached him, he fell into it and became, basically, a patsy."

He sold out "big time," Lake said. Stuck with his head in the stars, Stine starts living his life through his character, Stone.

"Stone is the idealized hero. He has a heart of gold, even if he does shady things," Lake said. "That's the way Stine is true to his character, even if in real life he's selling out."

On a more symbolic level, Lake said Stine's situation could represent that of anyone involved with the creative process.

"People imbibe creations with the characteristics they themselves don't possess but want to attain," he said.

Lake, who has been an actor all his life, said he just started trying his own hand at the writing process. Unlike Stine, however, Lake said he was "pretty bullheaded" and wouldn't be willing to compromise his own script.

"I can relate to a line that his (Stine's) wife says to him in his first scene, 'When are you going to start liking yourself a little more when people can start liking you a little less,'" Lake said. "You have to stop trying to be everybody's best friend, juggling all the balls at once."

Being true to yourself, Lake said, is the deeper message under all the shotgun action and sexual fiascoes.

"Don't give into the fame and fortune of the bright lights," he said. "Be true to the people that are true to you."

"City of Angels," with its soul-searching philosophy, still remains true to its musically comic base, Lake said.

"City of Angels" will be at the Lied Center at 8 p.m. tonight and at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday. Regular tickets are \$34, \$30 and \$26; student tickets are half-price.

'Raiders of the Lost Ark' to invade Star Ship 9

By Gerry Beltz
Staff Reporter

The year was 1981. Ronald Reagan was president; "Dallas" was one of the top television shows. Songs like "The Tide is High" by Blondie and "Jessie's Girl" by Rick Springfield were at the top of Billboard's charts.

1981 was also the year that an action-adventure film entitled "Raiders of the Lost Ark" was released. It would go on to remain one of the top 10 money-making films of all time, and had two successful sequels.

"Raiders of the Lost Ark" is being shown in celebration of the second anniversary of the Star Ship 9 movie theater at 1311 Q St. this weekend.

Star Ship 9 manager Byron Bonsall said there was more to choosing this movie than just its previous success.

"Raiders of the Lost Ark" was the movie that got me interested in this business," Bonsall said. "I saw it when I was in high school and said, I'm going to get into this business somehow."

"It's my favorite movie of all time. I saw this movie about 25 times in the theater, and I've gone through a couple of videocassettes of it, too. Harrison Ford is getting paid to do the stuff that we all loved to do when we were kids: play the good guy, shoot the bad guy. He had a whip; it was so cool!"

Bonsall also admitted to some personal favoritism toward "Raiders of the Lost Ark."

"Harrison Ford is my favorite actor of all time," Bonsall said. "I don't care about an autograph; I just want to shake his hand, that's it. I wouldn't sell my soul to meet Harrison Ford, but I'd come pretty damn close."

Bonsall did note, however, that "Raiders of the Lost Ark" was not his first choice for the second-anniversary celebration.

Originally, Bonsall had lined up the 1977 mega-hit "Star Wars" for Star Ship's birthday, and he had been promoting it since Thanksgiving. But it was pulled by Lucasfilms, 20th Century Fox and specifically, George Lucas. However, Bonsall said that he wasn't too upset about the decision.

"When George Lucas tells me I can't have his film, who am I to argue with a

film god?" Bonsall said.

Bonsall said that "Raiders" was something he had planned to play next year.

Bonsall said he was expecting the same diverse audience that he got with "Monty Python and the Holy Grail," which he showed for the Star Ship 9's anniversary celebration last year.

"Last year, college-age people made a big majority of my crowd, but I had a little bit of everybody in there," Bonsall said.

"I know a 50-year-old couple who were very intent on seeing 'Star Wars,' and then when they found out that we were getting 'Raiders of the Lost Ark' instead, they were really pleased."

The box office opens at 1:45 p.m. Monday through Friday and at 12:15 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.



James Mehlsing/DN