

Kidnapping Caper 'Harper' Gives Suspenseful Entertainment

By STEVE DIMEO
Entertainment Editor

Fact: Lauren Bacall's millionaire husband is missing; she enlists the aid of the tough detective, Harper (Paul Newman), who watches the plot make it all a kidnapping caper.

Questions: Why? Where? Whodidit?

It's a solidly entertaining fact that there is no question that "Harper" staying at the McDonald is more than circumstantial evidence that the private-eye hasn't been put out by Bond.

But the new hero has emerged out of the Bond mire as a playful, job-committed tough guy who mauls gum with his molars, sticks the gum under table-tops, pulls no verbal blows with cops, says what he wants to say to anyone and cares nothing for his loveless world of shallow characters. That's Harper—a loner, a cynic, a sadist, a killer.

And Harper is the hero. "Harper" is not just a renovation of the old mystery tale. There's something refreshing about it that goes beyond the plot.

The plot, of course, is thick and along with it there's a battery of suspense that reaches electric heights in such tense scenes as Newman's fight-to-the-death with his jailer, Roy Jensen, in an airplane factory. It's rough, cruel, and vivid. Newman has an earlier bout with a truck and a bouncer and gets his share of surprises throughout.

Surprises Suspended

But it's primarily the audience that gets the surprises. Twist after twist uncoils to the very last to support the wheels of this fast-moving vehicle with smooth-running suspension.

Newman as the carefree but conscientious case-cincher heads a laudable cast who all figure



PAUL NEWMAN tolerates the young-thinking thing, Shelley Winters, in order to get to the breast of the kidnapping matter he's paid to investigate in "Harper," playing now at the McDonald theatre.

in the corrupt absurdities revealed by the kidnapping case itself and Newman's carefully picking that case's lock.

Nobody else could have been Harper. It had to be Newman and his twisted expressions, blue and blackened eyes, slouching posture and violent gestures. But he's only the world revealer, not a world healer. He is only an indifferent, objective observer of the ridiculous crowd of everyday people in everyday crime.

Cast Effectively Corrupt

There is also Lauren Bacall, the stepmother of Pamela Tiffin, who prefers sunbathing to searching for her astrologically illogical liquor-quaffer of a husband; Julie Harris, the dive singer who holds a secret hate and a secret love; Arthur Hill, the

lawyer-friend of Newman's who gets Newman the job and makes a mistake to make a mistake; Janet Leigh, Newman's wife who is getting a divorce from a husband who plays practical jokes and loves only his job and her only when he wants

her—and only in one way; and Shelley Winters, the gristled star who looks to the stars for guidance and to the bars for going astray.

Pamela Tiffin and Robert Wagner are the weak points. But it is impossible for them to leave any obvious scars on such a successful blemish as "Harper."

There are only guns and fists in this—no gadgetry and very little sex. It is pure plot, violence—and entertainment.

And somehow it is really the humor that is the film's biggest asset, and it is usually Newman who expresses or spouts it. The script never seems to fail or even flail in its cynical, often brutal wit; Newman wouldn't let it.

There's something in the character of the reconciled rebel Harper that is worth reveling in. There is something tragically perfect about the way the film ends. There is something criminal in knowing that this is the end, that there'll be no more Newman sequels.

But it is nice to know that the world of scum has helped make at least one such funny, enjoyable, suspenseful, criminal, technicolor and unfantastic assault on the screen scene.

Two Students to Give Cello, Piano Recital

Three sonatas for cello and piano will be performed during a student recital at 4 p.m. Sunday in the School of Music auditorium.

Recitalists will be Vivian King, a senior in music, violincello, and Marlyn Potampa of Eugene, piano.

The program will include Beethoven, "Sonata for Cello and Piano in C Major, Op. 102, No. 1," Pietro Locatelli's "Sonata for Cello and Piano in D major," and Prokofiev's 1949 composition, "Sonata for Cello and Piano, Op. 119."

Miss King is currently first chair cellist with both the University symphony and Chamber orchestras.

Miss Potampa recently received a \$2,400 fellowship for graduate study in music at the University of California at Berkeley next year.

The public is invited to attend the recital free of charge.

Saturday Feature Times

EUGENE DRIVE-IN: Cat Ballou—8:30; Ship of Fools—10:30.
FOX: Fun in Acapulco—1:15, 4:52, 8:29; The Naked Prey—3:08, 6:45, 10:22.
MAYFLOWER: A Patch of Blue—8.
McDONALD: A Yank in Vietnam—1, 4:40, 8:20; Harper—2:30, 6:15, 9:50.

Friday Feature Times

EUGENE DRIVE-IN: Cat Ballou—8:30; Ship of Fools—10:30.
FOX: The Naked Prey—6:45, 10:15; Fun in Acapulco—8:30.
HEILIG: Pinocchio in Outer Space—6:30, 9:39; Ghost and Mr. Chicken—8:09.
MAYFLOWER: A Patch of Blue—8.
McDONALD: Harper—5:40, 9:20; A Yank in Vietnam—7:45; Insectothon—12 midnight.

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