

A Column About Truth*

You Were Asking About Christmas Movies, Right?

BY JANEY MILSTEAD

Box office biz was so boffo in '86, racking up a cool \$3.8 billion, production schedules are up, up, up! Whether the scripts and performances are up with them remains to be seen, much like the movies to follow.

Coming up for fall, holiday or maybe even further-into-the-future release are these projects, among others... NBC Entertainment and NBC Productions fire off their first-ever film in the form of *Elvira*, written by and starring, but natch, Cassandra Peterson, who created the vamping vampire in the first place. She'll also be making a TV series pilot for NBC along the same lines, and Hollywood bat trainers and fake-blood packagers are already working overtime... The sequel to *Nashville* starts shooting in August with director Robert Altman back at the trigger. Also back are Lily Tomlin, Keith Carradine, Scott Glenn, Jeff Goldblum, Geraldine Chaplin and Henry Gibson. The original story picks up 20 years later, with Lily a candidate for governor and Henry swaggarting around as a powerful TV soul saver... Shelley Long did so outrageously well with *Outrageous Fortune*, she'll Disney again as the star of their *Hello Again*, a "comedy about life after death." Nick Nolte will star in *Farewell to the King*, which starts filming this summer. Scriptwriter John Milius will direct. Milius has also been tagged to pen an episode of *Miami Vice* (the producer is hot to get top writers for the show and willing to pay the price). The trades revealed that Milius has titled his segment "Viking Bikers From Hell," no lie... Don't get too excited to see the new Woody Allen movie now filming because there's been a mega-hitch. He's stopped everything and is starting all over with a mostly new cast. He even replaced Mia's mom, Maureen O'Sullivan... Coming this fall from Columbia is *Hope and Glory*, directed by John Boorman and starring Sarah Miles and David Hayman... From Universal comes the Redford-directed *Milagro Beanfield War*, starring Ruben Blades and Sonia Braga... Orion will re-

lease the new Peter Yates film, with Kelly McGillis, Jeff Daniels and Mandy Patinkin, titled *The House on Sullivan Street*, and also *Best Seller* starring James Woods... MGM/UA will tickle us with *Baby Boom* starring Diane Keaton and Sam Shepard. Also in the flick are Diane's parents, Mom and Pop Hall, doing a bit. (Where's Grammy?)... *Rambo III* charges from the gate just in time to apply a firestorm to your Thanksgiving turkey, or perhaps to be your Thanksgiving turkey... Come Yuletide, our stockings will be filled by Paramount's concert film, *Eddie Murphy Raw*, and Steve Spielberg is slated to double-clutch us with his *Empire of the Sun*, starring John Malkovich, and his *Batteries Not Included*, with *Cocoon*-ers Hume Cronyn and Jessica Tandy... TriStar will gift us with *Ironweed*, directed by Hector (Spider Woman) Babenco and starring Jack Nicholson and Meryl Streep (together again!!)... Universal will slip *Biloxi Blues* under our tree, which is more Neil Simon starring Matthew Broderick via Mike Nichols... From Warners we will receive *Nuts*, (Barbra Streisand, Richard Dreyfuss) and from Paramount, candy. John Candy, that is, along with Steve Martin in the John Hughes giggler, *Planes, Trains and Automobiles*. (Sounds like an old Eagles song to me.) To complete the season, Universal will provide the (old) chestnut, *Dirty Harry* himself, as Mayor Clint returns in yet another adventure. He co-stars, of course, with Smith & Wesson... Coming sooner or later from Dino De Laurentiis, *Dracula's Widow*, written and directed by Christopher Coppola (another of those never-ending nephews) and *Tapeheads*, a musical comedy from ex-Monkee Mike Nesmith starring John Cusack (*The Sure Thing*)... In production from Atlantic Entertainment is *Garbage Pail Kids*, and I hope this doesn't mean it's too late to stop.

Janey Milstead has been living in Los Angeles for more than 25 years; this explains a lot.



Bob Seger, second from right, and his Silver Bullet Band.

HAVE MERCY: "This is my last tour," said powerhouse Bob Seger during his recently completed American tour, and he didn't just say it once. But, a heartening P.S. has been added to this gawdawful news by Gary Graff of the *Detroit Free Press*. "Bob did tell me that this was going to be his last tour," Gary said via phone, "but there's been a change of heart along the way. Punch Andrews [Seger's long-time manager] has informed me that this wasn't Bob's last tour. The next one will just probably be less extensive." Extensive is an understatement when applied to the eight-month trek that packed nearly two million Seger buffs of all ages into 106 concerts. The last seven were in his hometown of Detroit (Ann Arbor for you purists), which is topped in the Local-Boy-Makes-Good-Department only by Springsteen's ten-night-stand at Jersey's Brendan Byrne Arena in '84.

I YAM NOT AMUSED: One hundred and twenty of the old black-and-white classic *Popeye* cartoons are in the process of being computer-colored by Ted Turner and company. In case they haven't had much time for future planning, what with their many projects, I would like to suggest that the following have the primary colors added as soon as is humanly possible: (1) *Citizen Kane*, of course, which almost goes without saying. (2) All photographs by Edward Weston and Ansel Adams. (3) The work of any artist wasting his/her time noodling around with chiaroscuro. (4) The giant pandas. (5) Richard Pryor.

*We lied. This is not a column about truth.