

CINEMASCOPE by Dave Wood

If there is a Canadian movie to date that has been worth seeing, Why Shoot the Teacher? must be it. After years of despairing for the Canadian movie industry and its feeble efforts, characterized by such tripe as Paperback Hero, Going Down the Road, The Rowdyman, and a host of others unworthy of mention, we can now begin to feel some genuine hope. Why Shoot the Teacher? is remarkable mainly in that it succeeds in being an enjoyable and funny film while retaining a distinctly Canadian flavour at the same time. Particularly strong performances by Bud Cort (the teacher) and Samantha Eggar also go far to make this film truly worthwhile.

The Canadian quality of the movie is, for once, a positive trait. Set on the Saskatchewan prairie during the depression, Why Shoot


the Teacher? is absolutely and unequivocally a Canadian film, dealing with life in that setting, the rise of the Canadian socialist party in the west, the frustrations of rural life, and the tremendous strength and perseverance necessary for day to day existence there.

The movie is also full of feeling without being overly sloppy and sentimental. Humour abounds, although the primary focus here is on the serious business of life as a teacher, farmer, farmer's wife, etc., in such a blatantly backwoods milieu as the Saskatchewan prairie in 1934. Without grandiose special effects or casting tricks, this film still hits the spot exactly as it was intended to.

If Why Shoot the Teacher? is still playing when this is published, I would rec-

ommend that you go to see it. To be sure, Artoo Detoo Barbra Streisand, and Robert Redford have nothing to fear from it, but as an entertaining film it is hard to beat. It is not powerful in any way, and it's still a bit amateurish in a lot of ways, but at the least it is a ray of

hope on a rather bleak Canadian horizon, and at the most it is the most worthwhile commercial Canadian film to date. If it isn't playing as you read this, well, it will probably be broadcast by the CBC soon anyway. Try it. You'll like it.



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FIRE

Christ came into my room
and stood there
and I was bored to death.
I had work to do.
I wouldn't have minded
if he's crippled
or something - I do well
with cripples - but he
just stood there, all face
and with that damned guitar.
I didn't ask him to sit down:
he'd have stayed all day.
(Let's be honest. You
can be crucified just so often;
then you've had it. I mean
you're useless; no good
to God, let alone
to anybody else.) So I said
to him after a while -
Well, what's up? What do you want?
And he laughed, stupid,
said he was just passing by
and thought he'd say hello.
Great, I said, hello.
So he left.
And I was so damned mad
I couldn't even listen
to the radio. I went
and got some coffee.
The trouble with Christ is
he always comes at the wrong time.



Wendy, Pebbles and Poacher Kennedy are pleased to announce the arrival of their sister, Amy Leigh, on Nov. 13, 1977 at the P.E.I. Hospital. Her proud papa has informed us that she weighed in at 6 lbs., and 8 oz.
CONGRATULATIONS!!!

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