

PREVIEWS

A NIGHT AT THE MAGIC CASTLE

(Virgin)(1988) (84 mins)(G)
 Stars Arte Johnson, Matt Shakman, Blackie Dammett, Max Thayer
 \$\$\$\$\$\$(7)
 ***** (7)

A 10 year old boy is looking forward to his birthday. On the night before the big day, magician Harry Houdini appears in his room. He wisks Max off on a magic carpet ride across the city ending up at the Magic castle, a hang-out for magicians. There he has a wonderful time checking out the magic and becoming involved in a plot by a couple of ghosts to discredit the Castle and the magicians.

A NIGHT AT THE MAGIC CASTLE is a charming family film. It has some nice humour from LAUGH-IN's Arte Johnson for adults and a nice story about a ten year old boy for children. No bad language in the film and it can be recommended as a family feature.



A Night At The Magic Castle

In AWAKENINGS Robin Williams is a doctor who supervises the re-awakening of Robert De Niro after a 30 year coma. Penny Marshall (BIG) directs the Columbia film.



Kokoda Crescent

KOKODA CRESCENT

(Applause)(1989) (88 mins) (M)
 Stars Warren Mitchell, Bill Kerr, Martin Vaghan, Ruth Cracknell, Madge Ryan
 \$\$\$\$\$\$(7)
 ***** (7)

Three old codgers who had been in the war together live close by in a Sydney suburb. They still have a touch of the larrikan about them and go on a great Turkey raid to get a Christmas turkey. This raid involves stealing a turkey from a poultry farm. They plan the raid with precision, even bringing meat to keep the dogs at bay. The raid has one problem, they end up in the goose enclosure rather than the turkey cages and end up with no Christmas turkey.

Despite this, the Christmas party is a great success. A couple of days later one of the grandchildren is found dead of a drug overdose. The saying 'old soldiers never die' has a nice ring of truth as these three old timers take on the task of finding the drug dealers and dishing out their own form of justice.

KOKODA CRESCENT is a good Australian comedy. With a little bit more effort it could have been a great one. It is better than the average local comedy and deserves a place in every video store. Take a look at it.

SLAKEEATERS REVENGE

(Palace)(1989)(90 mins)(M)
 Stars Lorenzo Lamas, Michelle Scarabelli, Larry B Scott
 \$\$\$\$\$\$(8)
 ***** (8)

It is a wonder that there are any drug dealers left. The old guard (Charles Bronson and Clint Eastwood etc) have blasted many of them off the face of the earth. The more middle aged killers such as Sylvester Stallone (COBRA) and Chuck Norris killed off many more and now there is a new younger breed of action hero who are doing the same thing. Among these younger stars out to make a name for themselves in the action genre and blast off a few more drug dealers along the way is Lorenzo Lamas. A star of FALCONCREST for many years, he is carving out a very different career in films. At the recent American Film Market, he was announced as the star of several upcoming action films including THREE DEADLY HEROES with Reb Brown.

In SNAKEEATERS REVENGE he returns as Jack Kelly, ready for action and out to clean up the streets of drug dealers. He is mistakenly committed to a psychiatric ward, but makes the most of it. He uses the hospital both as a base of operations and as a fool-proofed alibi in order to destroy the city's crime boss.

The story is well told and has plenty of action for fans of the original. As a sequel it will have a built-in audience awareness and should perform well on the video shelves.

The courtroom drama CLASS ACTION (Fox) has Gene Hackman and Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio as opposing lawyers in a court case. The drama comes from their personal relationship. They are father and daughter.