Christine: not just another horror movie

By Arthur J. Johnson

The title might lead one to believe that this is a love story or perhaps a biography. It is.

"Christine" is about an obsessive love affair between an outcast teenager (Keith Gordon) and a big, 21 year old car named Christine.

Adapted from the Stephen King (of

Gordon plays wimpy Arnie Cunningham, the kind of higher schooler who wears glasses, has few friends, no girlfriends, and seems to wear an invisible sign that tells bullies to pick on him.

One day Arnie spots a dilapidated 1957 Plymouth Fury with a 'For Sale' sign

community

station.

buys it, and, armed with his expertise gained from car mechanics class, succeeds in transforming Christine from junkyard fodder into a "mean" ride.

Christine, she also begins to transform him from an insecure late-bloomer into a first self-confident, then arrogant young man who manages to snag the most sought after girl in school (Alexander Paul) as his girlfriend.

Soon, however, both Arnie and the Horror) novel which is still high on the lovesick Christine discover that each has hardcover bestseller lists, horror film helped create a monster that neither director John ("Halloween") Carpenter can control. Arnie begins to love brings this bizarre "Twilight Zone"—like Christine more than he does his girl. tale to the screen with great skill and How many wives and girlfriends have ever felt they were playing second fiddle to a car. Then Christine becomes homicidal in her efforts to keep Arnie from the arms of another woman. Finally Christine and Arnie's passions, both romantic and homicidal, lead them t

Excellent performances and the exon it and is strangely drawn to it. He pert use of suspense make "Christine"

But not only does Arnie transform

There is no real emphasis on gore or Christine because he has done violence or gore. everything else they have always timents of many teens who feel piece of film entertainment.

than your standard horror flick.

alienated by their parents and are looka lot more entertaining and thoughtful ing for something to call their very own.

"Christine" is not played for laughs or special effects. Instead there is a real horror, but unfolds as a realistic drama, feel for reality in its presentation of with the supernatural elements never teenagers and how they view the world. eclipsing the characters or their When Arnie defiantly tells his disap- development and motivation never takproving parents that he will keep ing in a back set to special effects,

It is the perfect balance of all these wanted him to do, he expresses the sen- elements that makes "Chtistine" a fine

Calendar of Events

BURN BRAE- "I Do, I Do", on Rte. 129 on Feb. 19. Friday-Saturday and Tuesday-Thursday dinner 6:15, show 8 Sunday, dinner at 4:15 p.m., show

HARLEQUIN- "They're Playing Our Song", in Rockville through Jan. 29. Tuesday-Sunday, dinner 6:30 p.m.; show 8:30 p.m. (340-8515).

HAYLOFT- "They're Playing Our Song", in Manassas through Feb. 19. Tuesday-Sunday, dinner 7, show 8:30 p.m.; Sunday and Wednesday matinee, buffet 1:45 p.m., show 3. (631-1823 or 631-0230).

KING'S JESTER- "Ain't Misbehavin', through Jan. 29 in Silver Spring. Friday-Saturday, dinner 6:45 p.m., show 8; Sunday, dinner 5:45 p.m., show 7 (946-2077).

725-5226).

Saturday and Tuesday-Thursday, dinner 6:30 p.m., show 8:30; Sunday, buffet show 7:30, (596-6161 or (301) 730-8311). Sunday-Monday: "The French"

Dinner Theatre-Baltimore area

Oregon Ridge Dinner Theatre. The Favorites from the Thirties & Forties Rogers and Hammerstein classic, Jan. 14 through March, Thursdays through Sundays at 8 p.m. (buffet at 6:30), plus a 2 The Gay Divorcee (108 minutes) 1934, p.m. Sunday matinge (buffet at 12:30). with Fred Astaire & Ginger Rogers. Details (667-8427 or 377-6353).

"WEST SIDE STORY"- Towson Towne Musical Dinner Theatre, 7800 York Rd. Bernstein's American classic, updating the "Romeo and Juliet" saga. Wednesday to Sunday through April 1. Buffet opens at 6:30 p.m. Details: (321-6595).

"AIN'T MISBEHAVIN' "- King Jester Dinner Theatre, 8049-13th St., Silver Spring, Md. Multi-award winning musical based on the music of Fats Waller. 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 7 p.m. Sundays. Through Jan. 29 Details

"OKLAHOMA!"- The Limestone Musical Dinner Theatre Playhouse, Beaver Dam Rd., Cockeysville. A 40thyear anniversary production of the classic Rodgers and Hammerstein

BLACK FILM INSTITUTE- Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. Marcel Ophuls' 1976 feature PETRUCCI'S- "The Mousetrap", "Bahia", the first program in a new through Jan. 15 in Laurel. Friday and series called "Cinema Afro-Brazil". In-Thursday, dinner 7:30, show 9; Satur- troduced and discussed by musicologist day, dinner 7 p.m., show 8:30 p.m.; Sun- Dr. Kazadi wa Mukuna of the day, dinner 6, show 7:30 p.m. Smithsonia. Free. Room A-03 of Building 41, Van Ness Campus of the University of the District of Columbia, 4200 Connecticut Ave., N.W. (202) 727-2396.

CIRCLE- Friday-Saturday: "My 1:15 p.m., show 1; dinner 5:30 p.m., Favorite Year" and "Victor/Victor";

> Saturday Films Children's Films January 14-1 p.m.

Aquarium (10 minutes) P.J. and the "THE SOUND OF MUSIC"- Baltimore Presidents Son (48 minutes) Free. Actor's Theatre production at the Hollywood Yesteryear: American Film

> January 14-3 p.m. Free, with \$2 admission ti the museum.

In Performance

Patti sings this weekend

Pattie Labelle who was forced to postpone midnight concerts after an earlier performance due to equipment problems and an overtaxed voice will perform this weekend along with Smile at Painters Mill. The rescheduled performances are Jan. 13 and Jan. 14 at 8 p.m.

"THE SLEEP OF REASON"- Center Stage, 700 N. Calvert St. Antonio Buero-Vallejo's chronicle of the artist Francisco de Goya, translated from the Spanish by Marion Peter Holt. Through Feb. 5. (332-0033).

"AGNES OF GOD"- Mechanic Theatre, Hopkins Plaza. Starring Elizabeth Ashley. 7:30 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays, 2 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays. 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 15. (625-1400).

"THE KING AND I"- Lyric Opera House. Yul Brynner brings his famous role as King of Siam to the Lyric Opera House Feb. 21-March 18. (625-1400).

"42ND STREET"- National Theatre, Pattle LaBelle headlines at Painter 1321 E. St., N.W. at National Place. MIII Limited engagement begins January 18. For more information (202) 554-1900.

Baltimore Museum of Art January 13-8 p.m.

Volpone (95 minutes) 1939. Directed by Maurice Tourner. Tickets are \$2.50 for BFF members and \$3.50 for the general pu lic

Singer extraodrinaire Barbara Cook, backed by an orchestra, will perform in Center for the Performing Arts for one Rodgers and Hammerstein musical monica player, will appear as special guest star.

Miss Cook, who starred on Broadway in such musicals as THE MUSIC MAN, CANDIDE and SHE LOVES ME, has been wowing audiences all over the United States with her musical concerts. Working with her musical director Wally Harper, she has appeared at Carnegie Hall, the Hollywood Bowl and the Cafe Carlyle in New York. Harper will once again be here with her.

Give the people what they want. That is the philosophy being followed by the Capital Centre and promoters for the U.S. National Hot Rod Truck and Tractor Pull, coming back to the arena for three separate competitions, Jan.

came to the Centre in September of tyrannical, primitive Siamese King.

13-14.



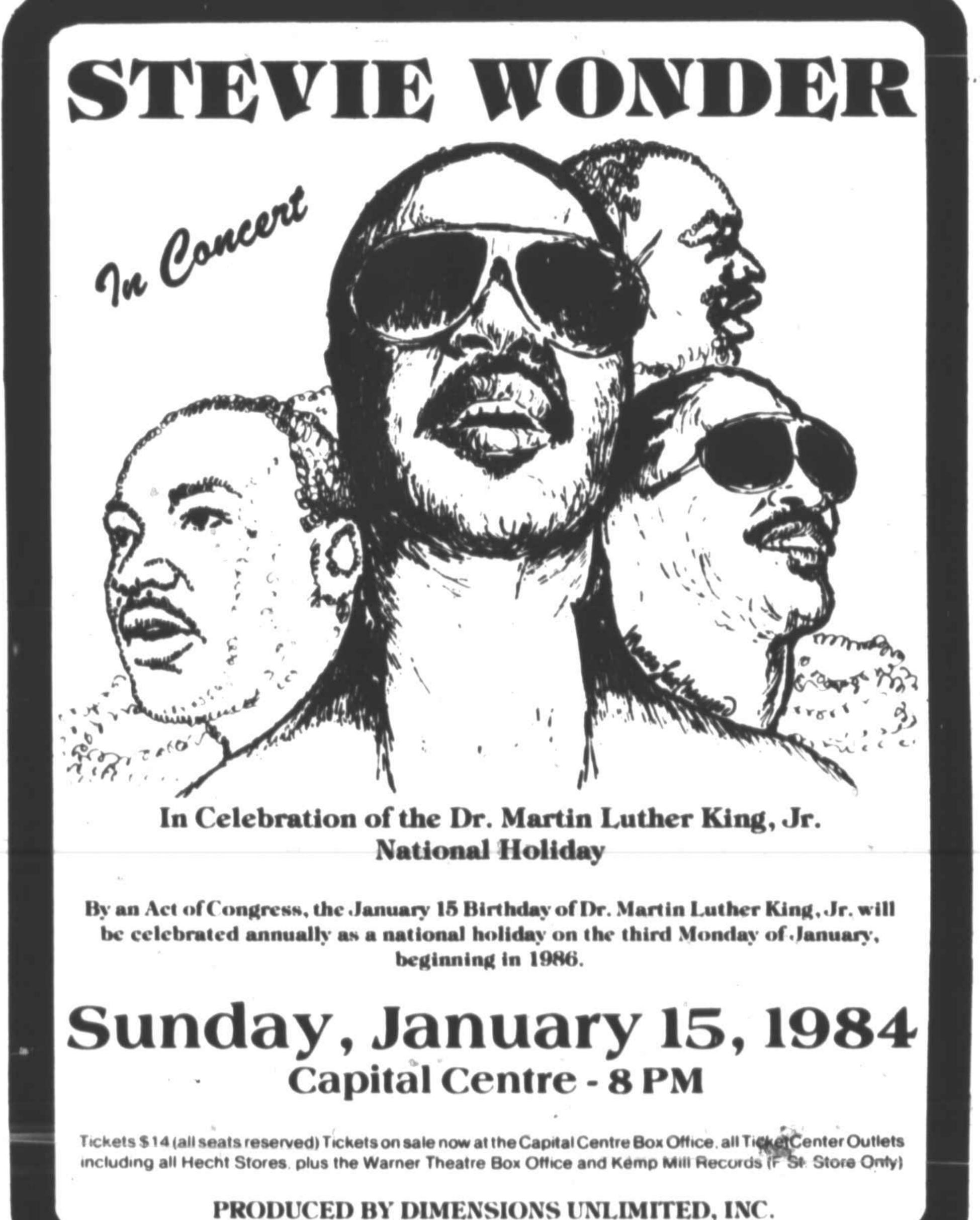
1982, arena officials were skeptical of its drawing power, despite claims of national fervor by SRO Productions. However, the promoters had appropiately named themselves it was discovered—standing room only was reality as 16,803 fans jammed the arena (under a limited seating configuration). Thousands were turned away at the

Tickets for the four-week limited the Concert Hall of the John F. Kennedy engagement of Yul Brynner in the night only at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. classic, "The King and I," will go on sale 21. Larry Adler, the world-famous har- Monday, January 9 in person at the Mechanic Theatre box office and via TeleCharge (call 625-1400). The beloved musical will be presented at the Lyric Opera House from February 21 through March 18 as the sixth attraction of the Mechanic Theatre's subscription series.

> Yul Brynner originated his now legendary King of Siam when the musical first opened the role more than 4,000 times without ever missing a performance.

This version of "The King and I," produced and directed by Mitch Leigh, is a lavish, full-scale recreation of the original Broadway show. Rodgers and Hammerstein's timeless score includes such standards as "Shall We Dance," "I Whistle A Happy Tune," "Hello Young Lovers," and "Getting To Know You." Based on the novel Anna and the King of Siam, by Margaret Landon, "The King and I" is a romance between an in-When this extraordinary event first telligent, polished Englishwoman and a

includes Nick Fergeson (not shown) Glynis Reed, Scott Davis, Jessie McDade, Tony White, Kenny White, Kevin Eaton, Lamont Johnson, and Bernard Peaks.



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