George Burns hilarious in title role of Oh, God

**Oh, God.** A Warner Brothers release starring George Burns, John Denver, and Paul Sorvino. Produced by Jerry Weintraub directed by Carl Reiner. screenpapy by Larry Gelbart. playing at Suck Chen, Cinema 7, Framingham Cinemas, Burlington Mall Cinema, current PG.

By Al Sanders

Imagine George Burns as God. That may be difficult, but it’s on the way. Now imagine that the assistant manager of a supermarket named John Denver. come to you and said that God showed up in your bathroom one morning and asked him to read the word that God is still around and that he’d like everyone else to shape up a bit. Therein lies the title of Oh, God, an amusing new comedy directed by Carl Reiner.

The movie succeeds at being just plain fun — one would have to see George Burns star in a serious biblical epic. The people that Denver tries to relate his strange tale to actually consider him to be. He persists on being killed, before he receives his heavy media coverage as a bystander. The movie is a hilarious, poignant comedy.

Nevertheless, Larry Gelbart’s screenplay is not just a solid laugh. It makes, by turns, a good deal of sense throughout. In all, it is the movie that people may have forgotten about him. Not being too happy with the way of the world, he just wants to remind us that our problems can be worked out if we want to solve them. In other words, it is up to us. So, besides a box of popcorn, one may leave the movie with a little food for thought.

By far, the main reason for the film’s success is George Burns. He is just what the script calls for. Not too flashy, not soured on miracles (His last, He informs us, George Burns Maa. He just wants to straighten out the world before it’s too late.

The whole idea of George Burns as God is so ridiculous that the concept of such a portrayal being polemically never crosses one’s mind. It is quite funny, though, and Burns delivers all of his lines like the seasoned veteran that he is. Without him, the show would be a total failure.

John Denver is, well, John Denver. Luckily, he is right for the part. He makes a fairly good impression in his screen debut. This good impression does not come, however, from any great acting talent on his part, but from the fact that his natural personality fits the role so well.

One gets the idea that the script was written with the knowledge that Denver would be starring in it.

One other bright spot in the movie is Paul Sorvino’s portrayal of a world famous evangelist. The scene in which this is falling is a marvelous satire of such revivals, and is one of the funniest segments of the film. Besides Sorvino, though, the rest of the supporting cast is rather indifferent.

Now, if you are still trying to imagine George Burns as God, don’t bother. A factual representation is the last thing that the makers of this movie are worried about. The film is far more amusing because of the genuine humor and the genuine humor and the genuine humor of the dialogue.

This plot may seem to be a little weak, but that is not important in a comedy — the jokes are. The reason that this comedy works so well is that there are plenty of gags and puns. A gong is sounded as audience members spend enough time chuckling, who’s going to worry about a plot?

**The MIT Community Players present their 19th Annual Night with Neil Simon’s poignant comedy of sexual misadventure. The Last of the Red-Hot Lovers. Performances will be Fri., Oct. 7 through Sun., Oct. 9 and Thurs., Oct. 13 through Sat., Oct. 15. All shows will be in the Kresge Little Theatre and will start at 8pm. Admission is $5. For reservations or more information call 876-2424.**

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**The MIT Community Players present Neil Simon’s hilarious comedy THE LAST OF THE RED-HOT LOVERS.**

**Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 7, 8, 9 October Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 13,14,15 October at Kresge Little Theatre (call performances at 8pm) Admission $5.50 ($3.50 with ID). Reservations 34-7421.

**Kentucky Fried uneven**

**Kentucky Fried Movie, a United Film Distribution release, produced by Robert E. Weiss, directed by John Landis, written by David Zucker, Jim Abrahams, and Jerry Zucker, playing at Suck Chen Hill, Cinema 7, Framingham Cinemas, Showcase West, Showcase Dedham, and Suck Chen City Cinema, rated R.**

By Drew Blakeman

Over the past few years, the British Monty Python television series and films have gained a loyal following in this country. As a result, numerous imitations of their style of humor have been spawned. Kentucky Fried Movie does have a good deal of potential, which unfortunately went untapped. Much more could have been done with many of the ideas introduced in the film. A sequence titled “A. M. Today” included a hilarious satire of the “Point, Counterpoint” portion of television’s “Thirteen Minutes.” Another skit, “Catholic High School Girls in Trouble,” maintained a high level of comedy throughout.

Some of the other better scenes include “Scot Free,” a parody of socially oriented board games. “That’s Armageddon,” a take-off on disaster movies, and “Courtroom,” which lampoons many popular television shows of the ’fifties. The magnitude of the vignettes, however, were not as comic as they were intended to be. “A Fistful of Yen,” a burlesque of martial arts movies, was funny at first but became overly long and boring as it continued. A complaint applies to many of its funnier aspects are lost. Much of the comedy is so blatant that humor as a movie of this type should.

The movie, conceived by the crew of the film. A sequence titled “A. M. Today” included a hilarious satire of the “Point, Counterpoint” portion of television’s “Thirteen Minutes.” Another skit, “Catholic High School Girls in Trouble,” maintained a high level of comedy throughout.

The movie, conceived by the Los Angeles-based Kentucky Fried Theater, is a series of ten vignettes which are designed to spoof culture which is typically American. Although a number of them are quite funny, moments, the film does not match the original Python effort. Many of the film’s funnier aspects are lost. Much of the comedy is so blatant that humor as a movie of this type should.

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