

Entertainment

Suspense ends as Oscars distributed

by jaq greenspon

movie reviewer

The speculation came to an end on Monday, March 30 when Paul Hogan announced the opening of the 59th annual Academy Awards.

The show opened with a bang when Shirley MacLaine was brought in on the wings of a flying saucer to present the first two awards for achievements in screenwriting.

Woody Allen, who won for best original screenplay, was not present but MacLaine accepted for him stating that Allen was "with us in spirit".

The show continued ahead full-steam with Chevy Chase as host introducing the most ironic of the presenters of the evening.

Marlee Matlin, the deaf actress from *Children of a Lesser God*, announced,

with the aid of an interpreter, the award for best sound to *Platoon*.

The show progressed nicely and only ran 22 minutes over the three hour projected time.

However, the plea to make short speeches was taken too much to heart when winners were cut off in mid thank-you. They were cut in order to make room for some timely and extravagant production numbers.

One such number was the best song medley, with an added song by Bernadette Peters, and a boring fashion parade of the best costume nominees.

One little extravaganza that worked well was the presence of Bugs Bunny, who presented the award for best animated short film. This was not someone in a costume but the real Bugs who interacted with co-presenter

Tom Hanks. It was wonderfully entertaining!

The two awards that are not voted on by the academy, the Thalberg award and the Governor's award were won by two deserving filmmakers.

The Thalberg, won by Steven Spielberg, was a surprise. Usually not given to so young a filmmaker, the Academy was honoring someone they felt had been overlooked in the past.

Spielberg's speech touched on a number of subjects including how the country was turning into a nation of viewers not readers.

The Governor's award was given to Ralph Bellamy, veteran of dozens of films. He was given a much deserved standing ovation and spoke from the heart. But the happiest person in attendance was Oliver Stone.

It took ten years to get

Platoon made and it was worth the wait. *Platoon* took the top honors, walking away with four Oscars including best picture and director.

Room with a View, which won three awards, tied with *Hannah and her Sisters*. *Hannah* cast members won both the best supporting actor and the best supporting actress awards. Those going to Micheal Caine and Diane Wiest respectively.

Matlin, in her first film outing, took the best actress award hands down. Matlin is the sixth actress to win the prestigious award without saying a word.

Best actor was won by *Color of Money* star, Paul Newman. But, the award was upstaged by the presenter, Bette Davis, who interjected her personal feelings, giving the whole evening a warm glow.

Music Etc.

by romney smith

In parts one and two we explored what several musicians around town like and dislike about the Las Vegas underground music scene. We also asked them what they thought could be done to improve it.

This week's question is... "What is your favorite local band in town?" But, first these insights from Lance Little of Samson's Army.

Little agrees with his bandmate Tod Sampson about the formation of a "co-op" club.

Little said, "We could improve things around here by getting together. Co-op dude, make money to make it run and keep it underground because big time promoters tend to over extend themselves and try to make a dollar where there is none to be made."

I asked Little about the current controversy between his band and promoter Michael Schivo.

"Well, I don't think he (Schivo) has contributed as much as he's capitalized. We are currently suing Michael Schivo for the good of all local rock bands. So they won't have to fall into the same trap that we did.

"We still haven't been paid for the Gene Loves Jezebel gig (Samson's Army opened that show on Sept. 19 of last year).

"Our fee was a measly \$100 that we intended to burn on stage, instead we ate lasagna."

And now, this week's question... What is your favorite local band?

Kevin Ertell of Sparky and the Pluz: "I would say Herd of Lemmings because I love the songs and I love the stage show and they are funny. They are also a fun band"

Gina Mainwall of Rainy Days: I like Herd of Lemmings or V.A., (I don't know the difference) they both put on a good live show. I also liked AWOL a lot when they were together.

Nathalie Reinoso (Formally with Heart of Thorns): I like Rainy Days

Paplo Schwartz of V.A.: *The Atomic Gods*
Rick Gibson of the Atomic Gods likes *Ruckless*, *5150* and *Poor White Trash*. He said he believes that FSP is the premier punk band in Las Vegas but he

See "Music" on page 26

MARQUEE

jaq greenspon

Dateline 1980: Ronald Reagan runs for President and Richard Boyle invades El Salvador. Richard Boyle is the photojournalist who was the last man out of Cambodia after Sydney (*The Killing Fields*) Shamburg.

He is also the subject of Oliver Stone's controversial film, *Salvador*.

Salvador, starring James Woods as the gonzo photographer and Jim Belushi as his best friend, Dr. Rock, is a gritty, realistic portrayal of life in a war torn country. The screenplay relies heavily on facts being co-written by the film's director, Oliver Stone (best Director for *Platoon*) and the man who lived it, Richard Boyle.

The film opens showing the grim surroundings in which Boyle lives and provides an insight into his character, which continues to grow and gets more complex as the movie progresses.

The introduction of Dr. Rock provides the necessary catalyst to send the two men to El Salvador, where Boyle is trying to recapture his reputation, which is shoddy at best.

Woods, (*Videodrome*, *Against All Odds*) turns in an Oscar-caliber performance as Boyle, showing the man as both compassionate and weasle-like. He strikes a fine balance throughout the film, trying to get the story and stay alive.

But, the moment when the audience fully knows the character is when Woods takes Boyle into a confessional to become a Catholic, a scene not written in the script but pulled off with amazing clarity.

Jim Belushi gives a suprising performance as Dr.

Rock, a San Fransisco disc jockey who ends up with Boyle because he just lost his dog and has nowhere else to live.

His approach to the character gives us some insight into the actor who has previously made his living in comedies (*About Last Night*, *Trading Places*). He runs Rock through the emotional gambit of paranoia at being killed by one government's troops to subtle humor when he spikes a television reporter's drink with LSD.

Some of the finest chemistry on screen this year is between Belushi and Woods.

Another fine actor performing above par is John Savage as a second photojournalist and an ally of Boyle's.

He demonstrates the basic creed of the photojournalist: "You've got to get close enough to get the shot, if you get too close, you die."

Death is also very prominent. One of the more disturbing scenes in the film comes when a young missionary (Cynthia Gibb from *Youngblood*) is driving three nuns back from the airport when they are forced off the road, raped, and murdered.

Stone shows us the inhumanity of this scene by not showing the blood and guts so many of us have become numb to, but by showing us the reactions of the friends, including Boyle, left behind.

What makes this scene even more disturbing is not only that it really did happen, but also that Stone makes the accusation that Reagan was responsible.

But *Salvador* is not a complete downer. Director Stone knows that humor is needed to ease tension and he delivers plenty of it.

This may not be Oliver Stone's most popular film but it is one of his best.



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