

OF

THE STARS



Take stock in America.



director CLAUDE "BLACKIE" EVANS said 12 international unions are on the books, translating to some 60,000 spenders...FRANK SINATRA JR., finishing his Four Queens fortnight, bustles down to Laughlin and the Riverside Saturday.



I don't do this often, but when I do it, I do it. I'm talking about borrowing a marvelously funny movie review whimsied by JIM HARWOOD of the trade paper Variety. It's about "Rocky IV," a MGM/United Artists release with key shoots at MGM Grand. For the honor of filming portions of the fight scenes in the Grand's Ziegfeld Room, GOV. RICHARD BRYAN bestowed Nevada's equivalent of the Medal of Honor on SLY ROCKY RAMBO. So, now the movie is playing at Cinedome 6 & Desert Drive-In and this is JIM HARWOOD's critique of the STALLONE epic... "SYLVESTER STALLONE is really sloughing it off shamelessly in 'Rocky IV,'" but it's still impossible not to root for old ROCKY BALBOA to get up off the canvas and whop that bully one more time. Familiarity breeds boxoffice.

"Beyond its visceral appeal, 'Rocky IV' is truly the worst of the lot, though STALLONE himself is more personable in this one and that helps. But DOLPH LUNDGREN is the most contrived opponent yet and that hurts.

"Obviously, it's almost pointless to note that this is really the fourth version of the same story. But the care and intensity of the first three -- especially in the choreography of the fights -- is missing this time.

"LUNDGREN, an almost inhuman giant fighting machine created in Russian physical fitness labs, comes to the U.S. to challenge the champ, but is first taken on by Apollo Creed (CARL WEATHERS), anxious to prove himself one last time. But WEATHERS fails to take the amateur seriously and will not be back for 'Rocky V.'

"So it's on the Moscow where, surprise, surprise, it's going to take a lot of training to get STALLONE in shape for the Soviet. And though it really makes no difference, the story gets truly dumb at this point.

"Arriving for a world-televised summit match, Rocky and his trainers are dispatched to a cabin in Siberia or somewhere, void of amenities and equipment. (Had STALLONE been scripting the recent Geneva conference, he doubtlessly would have isolated President Reagan in a Motel 6 on the outskirts of town.)

"Anyway, while the Soviets are prepping LUNDGREN with the latest and best boxing technology, poor old Rocky is out there in the snow, chopping wood and hauling sleds. Eventually, though, the training is over and, lacking any stairs on the steppes, Rocky runs to the top of Mount Everest, or whatever the Russian equivalent is, to spread his arms. He's ready.

"So is LUNDGREN, who according to the digital read-out, has developed a punch of 2000 p.s.i., which should be enough to send Rocky back to Philadelphia without a plane. Once the fight starts, however, there's no way that Rocky fans can resist getting caught up in it, predictable and preposterous though the whole affair may be.

"Through it all, TALIA SHIRE stands around and worries as usual and brother-in-law BURT YOUNG returns to hold the robe. Looking back at the mortality rate among the originals in the first episode, however, they should be getting nervous.

"Coming soon, no doubt, will be 'Rocky Vs. Rambo,' taking whatever money is left in the world."



They're having an ART-WAVE, a topical ART-WAVE at the Red Rock Theaters. The gadget is catching on from New York to L. A. and the Meadows Mall should be installing one soon. It's a do-it-yourself art project on T-Shirts, bring your own, or buy one by the ART-WAVE machine. You dream up a design on the T-Shirt, dab it with special colored acrylic paint. Now placed in a whirling machine, the centrifugal force spreads the paint into some crazy abstract designs. The crowd last Friday at the intro of ART-WAVE at SYUFY's Red Rock Pleasure Dome, enjoyed the T-Shirt show almost as much as the movies...Thrill Of A Lifetime -- PIA ZADORA returns to her husband's Gambling Palace & Fast Food Splash Joint on New Year's Eve. Pay the modest sum of \$45 and you'll hear the wee one, MESHULAM RIKLIS's pride & joy sing some of her latest tunes off her CBS album "Pia & Phil," recorded with the London Philharmonic -- standards sung the old-fashioned way, with visceral intensity and sedulous appetance, if you get the pernt.



ABOUT LIBERACE, mentioned earlier, he signed on for a new platter pact with Columbia Masterworks...And another poker tourney is going on at ANDY TOMPKINS Lady Luck downtown. For a \$20 entry fee and a \$50 buy-in, you play Fun Video Poker for a \$1000 first prize. Only 80 players are allowed per game...And still

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