



"The Rise And Fall Of Idi Amin," a stunning film on the despotic brutality of the Ugandan president, was the top winner at the recent Las Vegas International Film Festival.

"We were forced to cancel the final day of the festival which meant not holding the awards banquet or the Miss Film World contest," said festival official John C. Harris, "because of the tragic fire at the MGM."

The Miss Film World competition will be held later, "either in mid-December or sometime in January," according to festival public relations official Jerry O'Farrell who is in charge of putting on the contest.

The film on Idi Amin won five awards — best action picture, best special effects, best director, best sound and best standard adaptation from life.

Sharad Patel was both producer and director of the film shot as a joint British and Kenya production. It is being released by 20th Century Fox.

The film traces Amin's life from the time he took power to his fall in 1979. Start of the \$5.5 million pic-

ture began shortly after Amin fled.

"La Mer Couleur De Larmes," a French film on an incredible miscarriage of French justice, won two awards — best actress, Sonia Sahel, and best dramatization. The film, produced and directed by Serge DeSienne, is based on the true story of a rich businessman who was accused of murdering his wife.

After he was sentenced, new evidence came out that proved he was in-

A SHARAD PATEL PRODUCTION

RISE AND FALL OF IDI AMIN

nocent — but his daughter, played by Schel, couldn't get anyone to overthrow the verdict and her father spent 12 years in prison.

"Blue Fin," a Topar Films release, won best actor title for Greg Rowe, a teenager who plays a boy faced with becoming a man

during an emergency aboard a fishing boat.

The family film is an adventure story centering around the 13 year old boy's struggles to save the boat crew's lives.

Another Topar film, "Bilitis," a story of a young girl's growing up, won the best cinematography award.

A special award went to "Teheran Incident," a Noble Film Production entrant produced by Ika Panajotovic. And the

Yugoslavian film called "Partizan," that starred Rod Taylor, Adam West and Zenia Gratsos, was given a special commendation.

"We are looking for a bigger and better festival next year," Harris said. "We're already planning a bigger budget."

"As far as I'm concerned, considering all the problems we encountered, the festival went off quite well," Harris said. "Hundreds of people came to Las Vegas to see the films. Many foreign sales eventuated because of the festival and it is responsible for several co-production movies that will be shot at least in part in Las Vegas. People were here representing the film industries of a number of countries including Australia, Argentina, India, Japan, China, England, Ireland, Scandinavia, Germany, France, Italy, Spain and Kenya."

Harris said he wanted to add "special thanks" to "the people of Las Vegas who attended the film festival as well as the Dunes, Frontier and Treasury for their fine cooperation."

