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C-2 Thursday, October 29, 1998 ★ SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER

Independents rule at Film Arts Festival

21 programs represent diversity, depth of local scene

By Walter Addego
OF THE EXAMINER STAFF

The 14th annual Film Arts Festival, showcasing a diverse program of works by independent Northern California film- and videomakers, begins and ends with promising productions by African Americans.

"Dirtylongso (Ordinary)," the Nov. 4 opener at the Castro, is a debut feature by Cauleen Smith offering a complex portrait of an Oakland neighborhood and its inhabitants. The festival concludes Nov. 8 with Carol P. Chamberland's "The Legend of Bop City," a documentary on the historic Fillmore District jazz nightclub where Billie Holiday and Charlie Parker performed.

After the opening reception and film at the Castro, the festival moves to the Roxie, with some screenings at other locations, including the S.F. Main Library and Asian Art Museum.

Reflecting the remarkable depth of the independent film scene here, the festival's 21 programs also offer a strong representation of women, lesbian and gay, Asian American and other non-mainstream artists. There are narrative and experimental works, factual and fictional, of all lengths, including an unusually large number of longer films (which the festival defines as over 50 minutes).

Among possible festival highlights:

▶ "Red Rain," by Laura Plotkin, is a portrait of boxer Gina "Boom Boom" Guidi, women's welterweight champion (Thursday, Nov. 5).

▶ "Stripped and Teased: Tales from Las Vegas Women," by Amie Williams, depicts women who work in the gambling capital, including construction workers, cocktail waitresses and showgirls (Thursday, Nov. 5).

▶ "Burning Man: Where's the Fire?" is Fernando J. Velasquez and Herb Bennett's examination of the annual "gathering of the tribe" art and performance festival in Nevada (Saturday, Nov. 7).

▶ "Regret to Inform" is a work-in-progress about women who lost loved ones to the Vietnam War, by Vietnam widow Barbara Sonneborn. In the film Sonneborn travels to Vietnam with a Vietnamese woman who emigrated to the United States in 1972 with her second husband, an American soldier (Sunday, Nov. 8).

▶ After the festival proper, influential independent filmmaker and Canyon Cinema co-founder Chick Strand will be honored with a two-day tribute, with Strand in person, at the San Francisco Art Institute (Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 14-15).

The festival is presented by the Film Arts Foundation, a 3,200-member nonprofit group that provides information and services for independent producers of film and video.

For program information, call (415) 552-FILM or visit www.filmarts.org.

Skippy Warren, left, Pony Poindexter, Allen Smith and Teddy Edwards in the documentary, "The Legend of Bop City"

"Red Rain," by Laura Plotkin, profiles welterweight boxing champion Gina "Boom Boom" Guidi.

Toby Smith in "Dirtylongso (Ordinary)," which explores an Oakland neighborhood and its residents

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A POTENT ACTION-ADVENTURE FANTASY.
"Kurt Russell Is a One-Man Intergalactic Army!"
"'Rambo,' 'Death Wish' and 'Dirty Harry' in Outer Space."
KURT RUSSELL
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METRO
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BRIDGE

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ J 6 5 4 3
♥ 6 3
♦ 6 3
♣ A K 5 2

WEST
♠ K Q 10
♥ 10 8 6
♦ Q 9 7
♣ Q J 10 8

EAST
♠ —
♥ Q J 9 2
♦ 10 8 5 2
♣ 9 7 6 4 3

SOUTH
♠ A 9 8 7 2
♥ A K 7 4
♦ A K J 4
♣ —

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
6♠	Dble	Pass	Pass

Redble
Opening lead — queen of clubs.

Nobody ever contended that Endplay Charlie was a great player. His bidding was bad, his defense mediocre, and his dummy play — in general — left much to be desired.

But when it came to endplays, nobody could surpass Charlie. He could smell an endplay a mile away, and he was never happier than when he was executing one. His talent was really exceptional, and if the rest of his game had only been on a par with it, he would have ranked as the best player in the world.

Here is an example of Charlie strutting his stuff. Perhaps West shouldn't have doubled six spades — particularly with Endplay Charlie at the wheel — but West felt sure he had two trump tricks, so he did.

Charlie thereupon proceeded to wrap the contract around West's neck. Alerted by the double that West had all the missing trumps, Charlie held him to one trump trick.

He started by discarding a heart on the king of clubs and ruffed a club. After cashing the A-K of diamonds and ruffing a diamond, he trumped another club. Next he played the A-K of hearts and ruffed a heart, producing this position:

North
♠ J 6 5
♣ A

West
♠ K Q 10
♣ J

East
Immaterial

South
♠ A 9 8
♣ J

Charlie now led the ace of clubs, ruffed it with the eight, and then played the jack of diamonds. It did not matter which card West ruffed with — he could score only one trump trick!

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

The Daily Doodler

The New York Times

Carol Lay will return next week

"FUNNY, CLEVER AND SMART."

"A FUN, ROMANTIC TREAT. A MUST-SEE."
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Falling in love is the trickiest spell of all.
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1000 VAN NESS
VOGUE
METRO CENTER

HOME MOVIES

By John Hartl
SEATTLE TIMES

November is going to look like summer at video stores, where the most popular popcorn pictures of the silly season will soon appear.

"Armageddon," which arrives Nov. 10, will be released on tape at sell-through prices ($23) by Buena Vista Entertainment. Considered somewhat of a box-office disappointment when it opened in theaters in June, it gradually caught up with and passed its rival disaster epic, "Deep Impact," to become the top-grossing movie of 1998 (so far). It's earned $200 million in the United States. A wide-screen version will be released on laser disc, but no DVD release has been announced.

Eddie Murphy's most popular comedy in years, "Dr. Dolittle," is due Nov. 24 from Fox Home Entertainment. Priced at $20 per cassette, it's one of those rare remakes that turned out to be far more popular than the original. The 1967 musical version with Rex Harrison was one of the costliest flops of its era. With Murphy taking over for Harrison and ballroom humor replacing songs, it grossed $144 million in the United States.

HOROSCOPE

FRIDAY, OCT. 30

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have
5-Dynamic, 4-Positive, 3-Average, 2-So-so, 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★ Take a back seat. Listen to and work with now information that tosses your plans. Your ability to mobilize your intuition to make solid decisions comes through. A partner relies on your advice. Making money together comes easily now. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★ Opinions appear out of nowhere, especially when the issue is your money and spending habits. Don't be afraid to say stop. Being clear about what you want makes it easier to get it. Don't settle. You find others agree with you. Make sure you're not the one to go on. Tonight: Your night to howl.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★ Assume responsibilities, stay on top of your work. Others want information and will exert enough pressure to get you to talk. Be smart. Focus on work, being nurturing and remaining true to yourself. Handle key details around your day-to-day life. Tonight: Have fun doing errands.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★ Reach out for others, make calls. Plans could become exciting if you let a loved one have more say. Allow ingenuity and the unexpected to play a role in your plans. Going out for Halloween decor and treats at lunch might give the office a party. Tonight: Be romantic.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★ Listen carefully to a partner. They give you active feedback. You could be pitted by another's stand. Feelings are strong and you could be hurt. Focus on work and gathering the backing you need. Being generous of spirit pays off personally as well. Tonight: A date on the town.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★ Let others clear the air and express their feelings. Pressure on the home front might be a bit heavy. Lighten up and turn a professional matter around. Make calls, reach out for others. People clearly respond to your inquiries. Tonight: A harder thought could develop into more.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★ Pace yourself, remain level in face of pressure from others. Calls are important and could help conditions run amok. Make that extra effort to clear out a problem. Pay yourself, work less if necessary. A loved one needs your time. Tonight: Head home. Indulge your favorite galette.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★ Allow creativity to come out. Another clearly cares about you and wants more contact. The romantic beat intensifies. Financial matters feel your creative genius. You have fun coming up with solutions. Allow your more amorous side to emerge. Tonight: Be naughty and nice.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★ You might balk at plans and want to pull back some. Building stronger foundations is imperative to your security. Check out another's story before nixing it. Intuition serves you. Express your concern. Another cannot help but respond. Tonight: Money on hand.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★★ Listen carefully to a friend. They have good ideas and are ready to put them around with you. For whatever reason, you might want to shut down or pull away. Don't! Stay in touch with others, keeping communications open. Tonight: Where your friends party.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★ Listen carefully to feedback from a friend, even if you think they are full of it! Take responsibility and lead another in a different direction. A boss acknowledges you for a job well done. You have reason to celebrate. Make a must-show. Tonight: At a party with co-workers.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★★ Your mood is contagious as you greet a fun weekend. The boss might be disturbed by your jovial mood. Right now, you don't care. Accept an invitation that takes you to visit new people or go to a different type of Halloween party. Tonight: Where the action is.

YOU BORN OCT. 30: Creativity, ingenuity and a sense of adventure mark your life and decisions in this birthday year. You are unusually attractive and desirable. Listen carefully to what others share; you develop even better ideas as a team. Money matters remain volatile at times, and you might need an overhaul in this area. However, you will be inclined to take unusual risks. If you are single, romance intensifies. Someone quite special enters your life, if they aren't knocking at your door yet! If attached, good feelings, your unusual magnetism and allure heat up the love temperature. Pisces admires you.

CALL 1-900-740-7444 for Jacqueline Bigar's forecast for love, luck, health, career and money. Each call costs 99 cents per minute, notary or toke telephones.

— Jacqueline Bigar

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DAVID LETTERMAN'S LIST

Top 10 least popular Halloween candies

10. Bit-o-Squirrel
9. Poisonettes
8. Good-n'-Sweaty
7. Middefinger
6. Delta Reese's Pieces
5. Clam Duds
4. Baby Ruth Bader Ginsburg
3. Gummy Marrow
2. Ken Starburst
1. Osmond Joy

Courtesy of CBS (Oct. 27, 1998)

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