

entertainment

Establishing Shots-censorship forum

By Colin Smith

As long as some semblance of an artistic community exists on this continent, the topic of censorship will continue to be a fiercely debated issue.

The issue was given public forum again on March 16, as part of the Vanier College's four-day "Establishing Shots" film symposium. Consisting of a debate within the panel and a question-and-answer exchange with the audience, the forum eventually whipped itself into a lively brew.

All interests were represented: present were Mary Brown, a member of the Ontario Censor Board; Tad Jaworsky, director of "The Jesus Trial"; Dr. Richard Goranson of York's Psychology-Dept.; and Robin Wood, York's outspoken Film professor and Chairman of Atkinson College's Fine Arts. Each was allowed to make an initial five-minute statement.

Brown: "I think there's a need for responsible censorship, because arbitrary censorship smacks of paternalism. I think censorship in this province is necessary, and the majority of the community wishes it to be so."

Goranson: "I have quite mixed feelings about the whole issue of censorship.... It seems to me that censorship essentially is regulation of individual choice."

Jaworsky: (re early cinema) "It would be fair to say that if the young film industry actually listened to one-tenth of the objections that were raised by various pressure groups no film would ever've been made in the

early days at all."

Wood: "The best way to study (a) culture is through its artifacts. All its artifacts. Perhaps particularly the ones that-censorship.... would rather we didn't see. The crucial concept here is the concept of liberation. The word's been much debated, so that the idea of being liberated has come to mean exactly what patriarchal capitalism would like it to mean in order that it can become discredited.... there is only one way to liberation, and that is through awareness."

Wood expanded, tying censorship up in a sociological framework; his key "revealing" film was "The Texas Chain Saw Massacre". With its "total nihilism" and grotesque parody and debasement of the nuclear family, it represents a sociological cornerstone for Wood's thesis. Jaworsky, on the other hand, took a different tack: his angry objections to "censorship of thoughts" led to his rebuking Canadian cineasts/filmmakers for not appreciating the amount of freedom they actually have in which they exercise their craft (as opposed to East European countries.) And while most of the audience attacks were reserved for Ms. Brown, the resolution was typical: a Mexican stand-off between pro/anti-censorship camps. It seems that no amount of wordplay will ever resolve this matter to everyone's satisfaction.

Wood: "Pornography and violence should not be censored, but studied. They are not some external aberration, they are the

products of patriarchal capitalist culture, and therefore an important means to understanding that culture."

Brown: "I think the board sees its role not as deciding the Ontario

public what is or is not acceptable, or trying to keep anything from an adult audience, but hopefully to act as a representative group reflecting community standards."

Jaworsky: "Let us ask ourselves

a question: who, for God's sake, is going to decide what we should or should not read, see, hear or enjoy. This is the question to which there is no prevailing reply that I, for one, am availed of."

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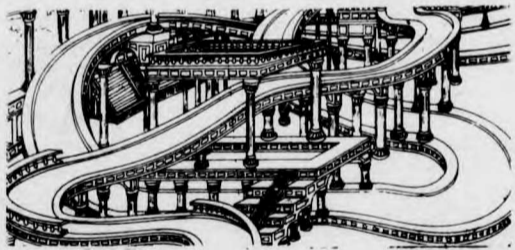
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Cinema

Opening recently to fine reviews, *Norma Rae* is Martin Ritt's latest film. Ritt, famous for his directorial work in, among others, *Hud* and most recently *The Front*, commands a special relationship with his actors. In *Norma Rae*, Sally Fields gives the best performance of her career. Ron Leibman, Television's "Kaz" equally proves himself as a very capable actor. At the screening the audience continuously stood up cheering.

Music

Two recent releases on GRT's Milestone label bear notice. The *Milestone Jazz-Stars* - Sonny Rollins, Ron Carter and McCoy Tyner are brought together with drummer Al Foster for two sides of live music recorded last year on their two month tour. Live the group must have been inspiring. However on record much of the thrill is gone *Bill Evans* latest, *Cross Currents*, in collaboration with Eliot Zigmund, Eddie Gomez and Lee Konitz is the perfect present for the jazz fan. Evans fluid piano playing is complimented perfectly. All ideas are worked out to proper fruition.

Elliott Lefko

York Art York Art

By Leslie Wasserman

The Samuel J. Zacks Gallery, in Stong College, is currently displaying a selection of oil paintings, by the artist Valdis Didrichsons. The exhibition, which opened March 19, will run until the 29th of this month.

The subject matter of his paintings are hard to determine. Didrichsons seems to have a personal feeling which he projects to his paintings; he transforms these feelings into expressions of himself. It is obvious that he is very concerned with the manipulation of colour. He chooses to work with brilliant shades of the complete colour spectrum. He achieves a richness in colour with the oils that shine with beauty.

His paintings are totally abstract in style. This style, often called abstract expressionism, seems to project the aesthetic philosophy of placing paint on canvas simply for the sake of doing it. In this sense the artist can experiment with his medium to discover new directions and possibilities with which he can work and employ his talents, for a better understanding of himself.

This exhibition is one which the audience can view and interpret in a personal way. It is definitely worth seeing as an example of abstract expressionism. The gallery is open 12 noon til 5 pm, Monday through Thursday and 2 pm til 5 pm Sundays.



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