

Film catches shadow play of people in a dangerous place



Mel Gibson

ROB KELLY

The Year of Living Dangerously opens with a demonstration of Y'ang, or shadowplay. It is an Oriental form of puppetry in which intricately carved puppets move behind a screen lit by a torch; the light is such that the characters seem about to burst into flame. This is the central symbol for the film; the characters are as shifting shapes over a background which constantly threatens to engulf them. It is a film about illusion--the fog-locked territory of good and evil, set in Sukarno's Indonesia of 1965. The volatile political atmosphere reverberates through the plot, but it is the ten thousand gestures of personal politics which give it flesh and blood.

The central characters are an Australian foreign correspondent (Mel Gibson), Billy Kwan (Linda Hunt), a freelance photographer and existentialist, and Jill (Sigourney Weaver). Billy's unrequited love whom he manoeuvres into an affair with the Australian. All the portrayals--including the peripheral ones--are deftly executed with a particularly fine performance by Linda Hunt as Kwan, the compassionate dwarf

genius of the camera who keeps files on everyone. He is the fifth business here, the knowing shadow. Hunt's handling of the role is compelling.

At the onset Gibson arrives, the new kid in shantytown, and is befriended by Kwan who "senses a potential". The reporter is wary but he is also without contacts, the hearsay pipeline of political journalism. Kwan offers him an interview with the tight-lipped Communist party leader; this becomes an exclusive and a string of intrigues for both. The swelling bedlam of rebellion builds ominously. And, of course, there are the interventions of more intimate passions.

When Kwan initially introduces the Australian to Jill, an assistant to British diplomats, the reaction is mutually lukewarm; as they continue to collide, a friction point is reached and they become involved. The fact that Jill is about to leave the country accelerates the emotional machinery and a tension persists. The sexual aspect of their relationship is implied, as a gesture.

This is the moot point where the casual involvement between the characters and their environment

gradually intensifies until every action becomes a committed act of alliance or betrayal. As the political atmosphere thickens, possibilities emerge. Relationships shift, the characters revealing or revoking aspects of themselves previously veiled. The netherworld of personal intrigue of human interaction becomes the mixed matrix of a larger drama cutting across all lives. Kwan brings this conflict to the fore in a series of revelatory scenes which elucidate the dilemma of an intellect disabused of some illusions.

This movie is an eloquent restatement of the obvious but valuable idea that things are rarely as they appear. The tone is alternately ominous and off-hand; much as a Westerner might feel in the centre of

someone else's revolution. You make assumptions at your peril.

The Year of Living Dangerously takes its title from Sukarno himself. He was in the habit of giving a label to the years of his reign. It is a beautiful, explicit title; the film itself is a masterful intrigue, a nonpolitical account of living in the alchemical brew of politics imploding. For those of us who live with the milquetoast of western politics in action it is an opportunity to understand commitment and betrayal of a more visceral, less covert kind. There is no grandstanding, only an intelligent depiction of people in a dangerous place responding inevitably with who and where they are. It is about personal politics forced into the big forum: the results are very telling.

CLASSIFIED

Classified ads are 25 words or less for \$5.00 or 50 words or less for \$10.00. Deadline is Friday prior to publication.

Weekly Calendar of Events in Toronto's Gay/Lesbian Community. For our 5-minute recorded message, call: 923-GAYS.

For Sale: 82 Yamaha 400 Maxim, red, quartz headlight, monoshock suspension. Asking \$1,700. 656-6751 (evenings)

Apartment Available from May 1 to August 31, renewal possible. 595/mon. 3 bedroom, 2 full baths. 10 min walk to University. Phone 665-5629

The Audio Library is now looking for volunteers to read for one hour a week. For further information call Audio Library Satellite York at 667-3470.

Married Couple requires furnished apartment on York University Campus or close proximity for months of May-July inclusive. Please contact A. Colaiezzi, Moose Factory, Ontario 1-705-658-4509

Day Camp Staff Required Director, Assistant Director, Sports Specialist, Nature Lore, Sand & Water Play, experience essential. Call evenings & weekends Sophie 635-6991 or Judy 665-4584

Experienced Typist for essays, term papers, etc. Fast service on electric typewriter at 80¢/page. Call Beverly 669-5095 Dufferin & Steeles

Experienced Typist. Essays, theses, manuscripts, letters. IBM Selectric. Dufferin-Steeles area. From .80¢ per page. Phone Carole at 669-5178.

LSAT GMAT Prep. Courses: Classes for the June 20 LSAT, June 3-5 and the March 19 GMAT, March 11-13. For further information please call or write: P.O. Box 597, Stn. A, Toronto M5W 1G7 665-3377.

JSF has several Israel programs for university-aged students. Leaving May/July. Call 667-3647 for more details.

Record Heaven - Uptown's used record store, Jazz, Rock, Classics, etc., 532A St. Clair W. at Bathurst. 1,000's to choose from, we also buy and trade. 652-1329

Electrolysis - Unwanted hair removed permanently by Registered Electrologist. Student Rates. Bathurst/Steeles Area. For Complimentary consultation call 881-9040

8-Track Recording Studio in Georgetown. Master Quality, Demo or Pre-production capabilities. Drums & Amplifiers on premises. Reasonable hourly or package deals. Recent clients include Cliche. Call Bob Redden at 1-877-2779 for details and specifications.

ANNUAL ELECTIONS!

FOR THE GRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Election Friday, March 25, 1983
Place: GSA Office N922 Ross
Time: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Positions open President
Treasurer
Secretary
Vice-President (Arts)
Vice-President (Science)
2 Senators

All currently registered graduate students within GSA member departments are eligible to vote.
Bring your Sessional Validation Card.

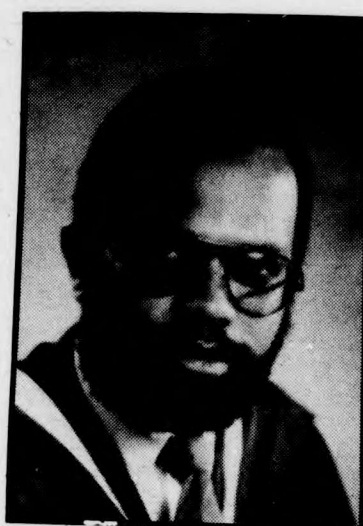
Gypsy HOLIDAY INN YORKDALE
Now Featuring

CARLA CHAREST
March 26—April 2
CHARRINGTON

April 4—16
Terry Stokes
Mentalist

Cover Charge Fri. & Sat. \$2.00
Sat. no cover for Ladies

Holiday Inn Toronto - Yorkdale
Dufferin St. & Hwy. 401
789-5161



On April 6
Vote
For
True
Representation
on
B O G

VOTE CLAUDIO LEWIS

Sheridan College

TRAINED IN COMPUTER PROGRAMMING OR A RELATED FIELD?

Now you can use your computer skills - and add knowledge of hardware and electronics - through a unique one-year certificate program in:

Microcomputer Applications

This post-diploma (applicants must have a degree or diploma in computer science or a related field) program will be offered at our Brampton Campus.

Graduates may find employment as members of a microprocessor design team in applications development.

Program highlights include:

- one-semester field placement in co-operation with industry
- Microcomputer Interfacing
- Product Design and Production
- Automatic Control Systems
- Digital Electronics and Digital Systems

For further information on the Microcomputer Applications program, Complete this form and return to:

Paul Bates,
Co-ordinator, Electronics Engineering programs
School of Applied Science and Technology, Brampton Campus,
McLaughlin Rd., Brampton, Ontario L6V 1G6, (416) 459-7533, ext. 306.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel.: _____