

What's next for Stallone?

by Matthew Rainnie

When I told a friend of mine that Sylvester Stallone wrote the screenplay for *Rocky* in three days, she said, "Well, it showed." When I said I was talking about the first *Rocky*, not the more formulated, less interesting sequels she said, "Well, they're all the same." When I said that *Rocky* won the 1976 Oscar for best picture, beating out *All the President's Men*, *Bound for Glory*, *Network* and *Taxi Driver*, and that Stallone had been nominated both in the Best Actor category and the Original Screenplay category, she said "That shows you how much those awards mean!"

The sad thing is that I can sympathize with my friend's misconception of Sylvester Stallone. If I

hadn't seen the first *Rocky*, I'd probably think what she thinks... that Stallone is a really stupid guy with big arms who couldn't act even if he were possessed by the ghost of Olivier. But I've seen *Rocky*, and this is a guy who can play a real, human character as opposed to a fighting machine. So why doesn't he do it? These Stallone quotes from Halliwell's *Filmgoer's Companion* should provide an answer. "I'm a very physical person. People don't credit me with much of a brain, so why should I disillusion them?" "I'll just keep on playing Rambo and Rocky. Both are money-making machines that can't be switched off."

Stallone began his acting career in a soft-core porno movie called *A Party at Kitty and Stud's*. This movie was renamed the *Italian Stallion* after Stallone achieved fame and now exists on

videotape. He had a very small role as a punk who harasses Woody Allen on a subway in the movie *Bananas* and was also featured in the cult classic *Death Race 2000*. Then came *Rocky*, which Stallone would only sell to producers Irwin Winkler and Robert Chartoff on the condition that he play the title role. They wisely accepted. Then came the three other *Rocky* films (a fifth is on the way), the three *Rambo* films (of which *First Blood* is the first) and a great number of other, less memorable, action roles (*Cobra*, *Over the Top*, *Nighthawks*, *F.I.S.T.*, and *Victory*). *Rhinestone*, with Dolly Parton, marked Stallone's comic debut. He plays a taxi driver who turns into a country singer (need I say more?).

Lock-Up (released to video on Dec. 21) did poor business at the box-office (for a Stallone movie),

not even making it into the twenty top-grossing films of the summer. However, it is much better than some of Stallone's other films. It is an action movie, but the character Stallone plays, Frank Leone, is a somewhat ordinary man who is thrust into extraordinary circumstances, an idea which contradicts that of many other Stallone films. Leone is a well-liked inmate serving the last portion of his time in prison. That's when the sadistic Warden Drumgoole (Donald Sutherland) has him transferred to Gateway, the type of prison you might want to visit but wouldn't want to live in. This film is no classic, but there are some good action scenes and Stallone speaks more dialogue than he has in quite a while.

Tango and Cash is now playing at the theatres and it pairs Stallone with Kurt Russell. They play cops who get involved in the tyranny of the film's villain, Jack Palance. This movie promises nothing new, save for the fact that Stallone, usually a loner on film, is in a buddy movie. Thus far, the response from critics has been quite unfavourable.

What's next for Stallone? *Rocky 5* and *Cobra 2* are both in the works. It's sad to witness such a waste of talent. It's doubtful that Stallone will ever make the project he has been talking about for years, the story of Edgar Allan Poe. It wouldn't make enough money. You know the old adage that says money isn't everything?

Well, to Sylvester Stallone, who reputedly makes over \$10 million per film, money seems to be all that matters.

Rosebud

... worth a listen

by Bob Keeler

Roland Blinn — Rosebud

Hey, there's a fairly new album out by a local Halifax artist named Roland Blinn. It is called *Rosebud* and it was released in November of last year and it sounds alright.

On his first album, Roland gives us a sound reminiscent of early 70s art rock, which at the same time has touch of originality, making it more than just a cheap rip-off of a tested formula.

The press release compares Blinn's pop sense and way with melodies to those of Syd Barrett and Andy Partridge. Listening to the first two songs of the album, "Plastic" and "Rose and Carnations," one can see these comparisons are well founded. A good number of songs are similar in sound to early Pink Floyd and before. The third song, "Soft and Fuzzy" starts out sounding very much like "You Really Got Me" by the Kinks. And "Burning My Candle" could be an early Beatles song if the lyrics were different. They are a bit too depressing for a Lennon and McCartney collaboration.

Roland writes in his unpublished memoirs that when he got his first electric guitar, he wished "to play rock like he was hearing on the radio before 'disco' had almost snuffed it out." He seems to have made his wish come true.

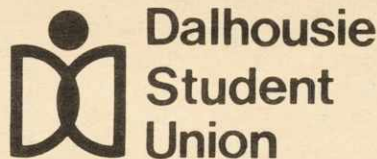
Roland is not a newcomer to the Halifax music scene. In 1985 he sent a demo tape to CKDU. It received significant airplay and he started playing solo gigs around the city. He formed a band with Steve Keeping and Jeff Semple in 1987 called Roland Blinn and the Fishermen. They were very unpredictable in their concerts which involved a lot of smashing, writhing and screaming. As a result, the Fishermen remained an opening act.

Work on *Rosebud* began in 1987 at the Centre For Art Tapes with producer Moritz Gaede. He left the project in the spring of that year and Keeping and Semple left soon after that. Keeping does, however, play drums on the album. Roland then began working with producer David Boyle and a long list of other musicians.

The result is an alright album. It is nothing spectacular, but it is worth a listen. If you are looking to support a local artist this would be a good investment.

DSU NOTICE OF MEETING

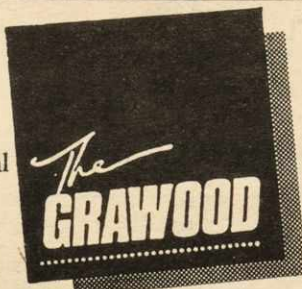
The 1990 Grad Class consists of 'A' Societies who have been sent a mail-out. A representative from the 'A' Societies is necessary to establish the Grad Class and select a Grad Class President and Officers. The Grad Week Chair will be introduced at this meeting:
Thursday, January 18, 1990
6:00 pm. Council Chambers
2nd Floor, SUB



COMEDY AT THE GRAWOOD!

JEFF BRADLEY - FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Jeff Bradley highlights this week, appearing in a special Friday afternoon (January 12, 3-5 pm) performance at the Grawood. Always funny, Jeff Bradley is guaranteed leave your with a permanent smile! Why not warm up for Jeff by coming out to the Campus Comedy competition this Wednesday in the Grawood. A funny week? You bet!



This Week!
 Wednesday,
 January 10
 Campus
 Comedy in the
 Grawood
 Thursday,
 Jan. 11
 D.J. James

makes the beat, you make the dance.

Friday, Jan. 12
 Jeff Bradley makes you laugh
 3-5 pm
 Saturday, Jan. 13
 12 Noon - 4 pm
 Open Mic!

Jeff Bradley,
 Comedy this
 Friday, 3-5 pm

A CAREER IN ORTHOPTICS/OPHTHALMIC MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY

Orthoptics is the clinical science of ocular motility and binocular vision, and related disorders of the eyes. An Orthoptist is an eye muscle specialist who works under the supervision of an ophthalmologist (eye physician and surgeon). An Ophthalmic Medical Technologist assists the ophthalmologist with a wide range of diagnostic tests and procedures — some requiring a great deal of technical expertise.

In July 1990, the Izaak Walton Killam Children's Hospital will commence an accredited twenty-four (24) month training program leading to a Certificate of Orthoptics and Ophthalmic Medical Technology. Applications are now being accepted from individuals at least 18 years of age, who have completed a minimum of two years of post-secondary education, with some emphasis in the sciences. Preference will be given to candidates holding a baccalaureate degree in the Sciences. Work/volunteer experience in the health care field will be considered an asset. Candidates should possess sound judgement, emotional maturity and a demonstrated ability to relate well to small children and to adults.

Financial assistance may be available to qualified students.
Deadline for application is February 15, 1990.

For further information regarding a challenging, interesting and rewarding career in the health care field, please write:

Orthoptic Department
 I.W.K. Children's Hospital
 P.O. Box 3070
 Halifax, Nova Scotia
 B3J 3G9