

Actor Ray Walston shoots *From the Hip*

By KEVIN PASQUINO

He's been Popeye's father, a swindler in *The Sting* and Mr. Hand in *Fast Times at Ridgemount High*. However he's probably best known for his role as Martin in *My Favorite Martian* and can currently be seen in the new motion picture *From the Hip*, directed by Bob Clark.

Actor Ray Walston played all of those characters, and in a brief phone interview Walston described a career that has spanned more than 50 years in theatre, television and motion pictures as well as explaining how he got the role of a judge in *From the Hip*.

When Walston first received the script for *From the Hip* he expressed interest in the role of Bennett, the accused murderer whom actor Judd Nelson defends. He was told that the part had already been cast (John Hurt received the role, and the character was then renamed Benoit) but Clark's representatives were interested in him for the part of the first judge.

Although disappointed, Walston was interested in the part for two reasons. Through his agent, Walston

told the *Hip* people that he would take the role if he got paid ads—billing on the movie posters and in full-length newspaper advertisements.

Clark's people balked at the suggested and Walston said, "Thanks, but no thanks." From there it became a waiting game.

"They phoned six weeks later, asking if I had reconsidered appearing in the movie," said Walston. "I asked them if they had reconsidered the ads. They said it was impossible, and I told them I still wasn't interested."

Walston explained it wasn't a case of money, it was a matter of being recognized. "Billing is important because as an actor it shows that you're still working and available," he said. He had taken a part in *Johnny Dangerously* without considering ads and later regretted it when he saw that everyone in the film had placed that requirement in their contract.

"Clark's people phoned back a couple of more times and finally told my agent they had (another actor) for the role, but they were still interested in me," Walston continued. "I finally asked my agent for the name



HERE COMES THE JUDGE: Ray Walston blows up at Judd Nelson while Darren McGavin looks aghast. *From the Hip*, by Porky's director Bob Clark, had good intentions but combines comedy and a strong dramatic performance by John Hurt to mediocre results.

of the person he had been speaking to. I phoned him and I said, 'I understand you have (the other actor) without giving him billing. If he's willing to take the part without ads, that's great, but if he isn't...'"

Walston got the part of Judge #1 ("He didn't even have a name," confessed Walston) plus the billing in ads that he had struggled for. Most importantly, however, he had a chance to work with director Bob

Clark, who likes to re-use his actors in later films.

A well-recognized character actor, Walston has appeared in *The Sting*, *Popeye*, *Fast Times at Ridgemount High* and *South Pacific*. But his favourite film was *Paint Your Wagon*, a little known musical/western that starred Lee Marvin and a singing (!) Clint Eastwood.

"*Paint Your Wagon* was a big Hollywood extravaganza," said Wal-

ston. "We worked for six months in Oregon—Gold Rush country—and it was just beautiful."

Walston has appeared in recent episodes of *Simon & Simon* and *St. Elsewhere* but is "terribly unrelaxed" because he is not presently working. "Character actors in town spend their time waiting for the phone to ring," explained Walston, who is looking forward to future acting endeavours.

2 NOMINATED FOR ACADEMY AWARDS
INCLUDING
BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR - DENNIS HOPPER

"GREAT ENTERTAINMENT..."
a wonderful, exciting, heartwarming movie.

— SISKEL & EBERT & THE MOVIES

"...SUCH STUFF AS ROCKY BALBOA AND THE KARATE KID are made of..."

— Richard Schickel, TIME MAGAZINE

"...SLEEPER OF THE SEASON..."

— Scott Haller, PEOPLE MAGAZINE

"...GENUINELY STIRRING..."

— David Ansen, NEWSWEEK

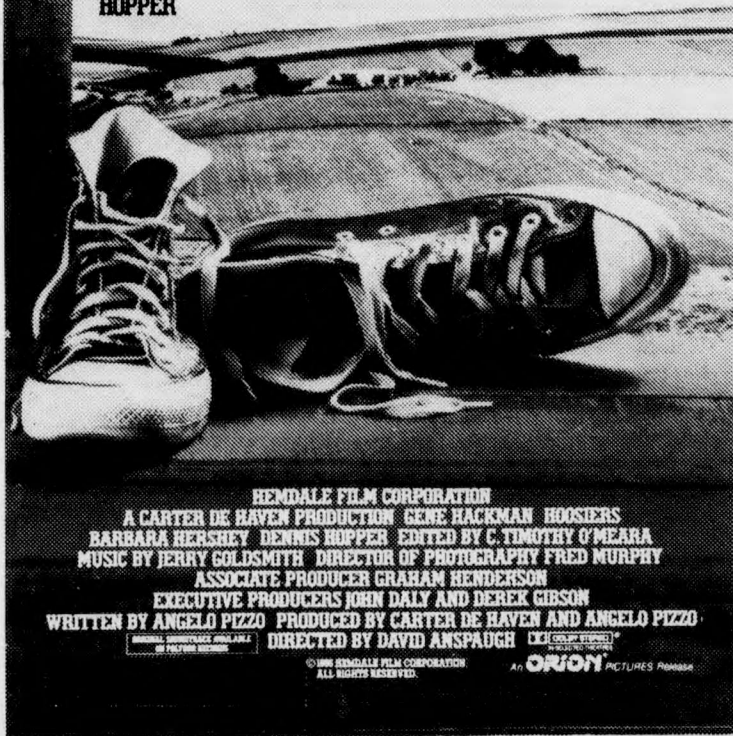
GENE HACKMAN

HOOSIERS

It'll go straight to your heart.

BARBARA HERSHEY

DENNIS HOPPER



HEMDALE FILM CORPORATION
A CARTER DE HAVEN PRODUCTION GENE HACKMAN HOOSIERS
BARBARA HERSHEY DENNIS HOPPER EDITED BY C. TIMOTHY O'NEARA
MUSIC BY JERRY GOLDSMITH DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY FRED MURPHY
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER GRAHAM HENDERSON
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JOHN DALY AND DEREK GIBSON
WRITTEN BY ANGELO PIZZO PRODUCED BY CARTER DE HAVEN AND ANGELO PIZZO
DIRECTED BY DAVID ANSPAUGH
© 1987 HEMDALE FILM CORPORATION ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. AN ORION PICTURES PRESENTATION

OPENS FRIDAY, FEB. 27th
AT A THEATRE NEAR YOU



P/OP MULTIPLIED

Pop and Op Multiples from the Art Gallery of York University Collection

February 19 to
March 27, 1987

Reception:

Thursday, February 26, 6-9 pm

Art Gallery of York University

Ross N145 736-5169

Mon/Tues/Fri 10-5

Wed/Thurs 10-9

Sunday 12-5

Allen Jones (Janet in Wearing) lithograph

PLAN TO ATTEND

Wednesday, March 4, 1987
3-4:30 Senate Chamber (S915 Ross)

WHAT DO I DO WITH A DEGREE IN... FRENCH STUDIES or LANGUAGES, LITERATURES and LINGUISTICS

featuring:

Christian Marjollet

Professor,
Department of French Studies

Steve Baccalmasi

Principal,
Woodland Public School

Ruth King

Professor,
Department of Languages,
Literatures and Linguistics

Vince Papa

Coordinator of Special Events,
Columbus Centre

A CAREER PLANNING OPPORTUNITY SPONSORED BY THE CAREER AND PLACEMENT CENTRE

N105 & N108 Ross

736-5351