



Candy Mountain high

by Ian Johnston

Candy Mountain, the closing film at this year's Atlantic Festival Atlantique, is a road picture with a difference.

Yes, it does concern one man's lengthy search for himself on the highways and byways of New York and Nova Scotia. But where most road pictures have a resolution, *Candy Mountain* offers no clear answers or great discoveries at the conclusion.

In the end, this makes *Candy Mountain* more memorable, setting it apart from, if not always above, other road pictures.

Candy Mountain is directed by cult artist Robert Frank. Frank, a resident of New York

City, is probably best known for a semi-autobiographical film made with Beat Generation symbol Jack Kerouac.

Candy Mountain's main character, Julius, is a Kerouac-like character. An aimless musician, Julius hits the road in search of a purpose and a legendary guitar maker named Elmore Silk.

Like most road travellers, Julius meets strange characters, and learns a lot about himself.

However, beatniks went out of fashion twenty years ago and Frank knows it. Thus, the director imbues Julius with none of the romanticism or quiet dignity of a man of the road.

Instead, Frank gives his central character an Eighties twist, a naïveté bordering on stupidity

and a certain amount of greed. Frank makes it clear that the road is no longer the solution for Julius, although what the solution is is not clear.

But to place too much emphasis on Julius' quest does *Candy Mountain* a disservice. The film is a series of effective and not-so-effective vignettes involving oddball characters, portrayed mostly by New York musicians.

Topping the list is Tom Waits, who is cast against type as a middle-aged businessman with a fetish for hard liquor and golf. Also appearing in brief cameos are Clash frontman Joe Strummer as a guitar-playing, gun-toting security guard, Dr. John as a Canadian deputy sheriff, and others to numerous to mention.

Too numerous to mention because *Candy Mountain* relies to heavily on its weird characters to get it through the film. The big meeting with Elmore Silk at the end doesn't provide the film with a big payoff because the guitar maker Julius has been searching for isn't as interesting as everyone else Julius meets on the road.

Still, *Candy Mountain* contains enough moments of understated humour (of the Jim Jarmusch variety), great music, and scenic beauty to make it more than worthwhile.

The only real victim during the festival's final screening was Nova Scotia itself, which was portrayed in *Candy Mountain* as a desolate, frozen wasteland.

Maybe that's how a New York artist sees the area. Maybe it's accurate. But it seems a little bit of a betrayal at a festival promoting Atlantic films.

The plight of Eritrea brings

War to film

by Janice Bloomfield

Eritrea, situated in the Horn of Africa on the Red Sea, fights to survive on the main oil route to Europe and

Ethiopia's suppression of their language, religion, and human rights forced Eritrea to break free and establish its independence in 1961. Twenty-five years later, it still struggles to provide for itself, despite frequent Ethiopian bombings and extensive famine.

OXFAM-Canada, the National Film Board, and the Eritrean Relief Association of Canada, in concern for these people, have united to present three half-hour films in several cities throughout Canada. Although the films deal specifically with Eritrea, its situation is similar to that of many other third world countries.

The series begins with a presentation of the political situation between Eritrea and Ethiopia. The second film, *A Time to Heal*, unfolds the medical and nutritional problems of an underdeveloped nation, ravaged by war. The closing film gives a detailed report of how international aid has been and will be used to conserve water, prevent soil erosion, create tools, and assist in harvesting.

Eritrea wants to go ahead. It has the potential, but it must have peace in order to succeed. Your awareness and concern make a difference in their struggle to survive.

In Halifax, *The Forgotten War*, *A Time to Heal* and *Songs of the Next Harvest* premieres 8 p.m., Tuesday, November 10 at the NFB Theatre on Argyle Street.



Forgotten War

America. But after twenty-five years of war and six years of famine, Eritrea's population and economy lie dangerously depleted.

Historically, Eritrea was federated with Ethiopia in 1950. But



Where it's summer all winter long...

Get away from your studies, cold weather and life's troubles and relax for a few minutes every week or every day.

We make it easy with Swedish design, fully automatic sun tan beds with built-in stereos and personalized luxury.

Students* Receive
1st Session Free — No obligation!
1/2 price sessions on Sunday
1st Semester Special

Unlimited tanning from now until January 2, 1988
for only \$79.00

(maximum 1 session per day)

* Upon presentation of valid university or college ID

the Sun Room This winter Go South to Dresden Row

1569 Dresden Row, The Courtyard - Call Today: 422-6650 or 429-6650

we deliver!

Now you can sit back, relax and the best fried chicken in town will come to you. One phone call and you can order any of our great menu items — chicken, taters, fries, dessert and more. Keep our number handy and...just call.

Call 425-1513

6443 Quinpool Rd., Halifax
\$1.75 delivery charge

Discounts or coupons not

applicable on delivery orders

MINIMUM \$6 ORDER FOR DELIVERY



Mary Brown's Fried Chicken

Nothing else comes close.

