



Mad City

LOS ANGELES — With such films as *Z*, *State of Siege* and *Missing*, Costa-Gavras established himself as the foremost exponent of political thrillers. Now he has directed a lacerating satire of television news that makes *Network* seem like a tea party.

Mad City exposes the worst of broadcast journalism: the pack mentality, the hounding of crime victims, the fierce competition for "hot" news events, the cynicism of youthful network executives, the egomaniacal anchor persons.

It all starts because a dim-witted museum guard (John Travolta) has been laid off. He is so desperate to regain his job and support his wife and two children that he enters the museum with a rifle and a bag of dynamite. At first, he merely pleads with the museum boss, Blythe Danner, to be rehired.

Dustin Hoffman, a defrocked network reporter reduced to field work at a TV station in a medium-sized California city, happens to arrive at the museum to cover a humdrum story. He is there when the erratic Travolta threatens to hold hostage the boss, a flock of school kids and their teacher until his job is returned.

When Travolta accidentally shoots the guard outside the front door, Hoffman sees the making of a sensational news story, one which would return him to network status. He begins to manipulate Travolta's mind, planning each move to guarantee that the story will grow, ensuring Hoffman of exclusive coverage.

As the police and news crews converge, Hoffman gets permission from the authorities to televise Travolta's plight. And the nation sees this as simple-minded plea for a return to his previous life.

Hoffman's exclusive humiliates network anchor Alan Alda, still nursing a vendetta against the

Internationally-renowned singers express feelings at Hà Nội show

Internationally-acclaimed singers from several continents shared the stage during a special performance held here last Saturday to usher in the 7th Francophone Summit.

The event was co-organised by Việt Nam's Culture and Information Ministry, the French Embassy and Alliance Française.

Việt Nam News took the event as an opportunity to speak briefly with the performers about their feelings regarding their visit to Việt Nam.



Marie - Jo Therio



Enzo Enzo

Marie - Jo Therio (Canadian singer): I come from the mountainous province of New Brunswick and in that respect I represent the North American continent's French-speaking community. Like my colleagues, I feel nervous tonight, but I'm very happy to be here to discover Việt Nam and its people.

Charlène Couture (French singer): I have gone on many performance tours in Asia. However, this is the first time I have had the chance to visit Việt Nam and enjoy your landscapes and your tastes.

Enzo Enzo (French singer): This is my first time performing in your country and I am very proud of it, since it is among the activities to welcome the Francophone Summit. I love you and your country.

Ismael Lo (Senegal): Even though it's the first time I've visited Việt Nam, I already know a couple of things about your multifaceted culture. In particular I know about your food, because a large number of Vietnamese people are now living in Senegal. I am happy at the warm welcome I've gotten. — VNS

Musical Holmes offers lost Mendelssohn score

UTRECHT, Netherlands — A hitherto unknown concerto by German composer Felix Mendelssohn has its world premier on Friday, 150 years after the composer's death.

This rediscovered concerto was originally written solely for strings, but Mendelssohn added a separate arrangement

His Leipzig home was reopened last week as a museum and cultural center after extensive renovation. In a ceremony

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