



Doors give emotional ride



Val Kilmer (Jim Morrison) successfully captures the ill-fated singer/enigma's obsessive orgy of excess. Oliver Stone, director and devoted Doors' fan presents Morrison as a loud instigator tormented by his insatiable drive to absorb every form of knowledge and emotion there is.

by David Weissman

The Doors
Tri Star Pictures
directed by Oliver Stone

There are things that are real, and there are things that are unreal. Somewhere in-between, a stoned and swaggering Jim Morrison howls into the microphone as the sweat runs down his neck, matting the hair on his bare chest. "Come on come on and TOUCH me baby," he urges the young women in the front row, as they leap on stage in a wild frenzy, grasping for some small part of the lead singer to take home with them. Backstage after the show, a record producer tells Morrison to ditch his friends and go out on his own. "You're the one they're coming to see. You are The Doors." Indeed he was.

After experiencing *The Doors*, it's difficult to ascertain whether the film is more about Jim Morrison's obsession with death and the unknown, or Oliver Stone's obsession with Jim Morrison.

Both men lived through the social uprisings of the sixties. Jim Morrison used the stage as an outlet to compel his audience to look, see, and KNOW, and to live and breathe in the farthest reaches of human experience. Oliver Stone, a Vietnam vet, uses his motion pictures as a medium to say essentially the same thing.

The Doors is a wonderfully repulsive trip through Jim Morrison's life as a poet, songwriter, and rock star, showing how his relentless pursuit of the unknown and excessive lifestyle ultimately drives him to his death.

As a young boy, Morrison witnesses the death of a Navajo Indian family along a desert sideroad in New Mexico, internalizing the experience as though they were his own family. This stoic look at the American Indian is one Morrison recreated again and again in his growing obsession with death.

Val Kilmer's portrayal of Morrison is both haunting and compelling; he makes the difficult distinction between Morrison as a sensitive poet and Morrison as a self-absorbed pontificator of human values, a soul-seeking drifter who can only experience life in its most extreme forms.

Morrison is a loud, belligerent instigator, tormented by his insatiable drive to absorb every form of knowledge and emotion there is.

Meg Ryan plays his girlfriend Pamela Courson, a naive girl instantly drawn into Morrison's exorbitant world of alternative realities. She becomes ultimately exhausted by it.

What is most compelling about any Oliver Stone film is Oliver Stone, who possesses the rare ability to delight and offend his audience at

the same time.

His film is an orgy of excess, a tragic docudrama filtered through a haze of smoke, pills, and of course, music.

The music is the backdrop for the seemingly endless parade of parties, concerts, and booze, which Morrison swills down with increasing abandon and disregard for his own life.

Stone coaxes his audience into the film with a beautiful overhead shot of the flatlands of New Mexico, glowing brightly against the heat of the summer sun. A moment later the music filters softly through the theatre, and the trip is on.

Stone angers you with a self-righteous Morrison, who at times is nothing more than an emotional infant, refusing any responsibility for his actions. A moment later you catch yourself giggling at Ed Sullivan, whose agent delicately tries to explain that the word "higher" just isn't said on television. Before long the film becomes a myriad frenzy of wild parties, rambunctious music, bare-breasted women, shouting, drinking, smoking, fighting, all against the surging montage of an oncoming Vietnam war.

Although devoted fans of the Doors are intimate with the story of Jim Morrison, the emotional and musical ride are enough to leave one delightfully exhausted.

compiled by Trevor Campbell

GALLERIES

On March 4, the Art Gallery of York University, (N145 Ross) presents *Living in the Hot House*, an exhibition by Tony Brown. Call the gallery at 736-5169 for further details.

Glendon College's *Maison de la Culture*, located at 2275 Bayview Ave. (at Lawrence), presents *Portraits of Quebec Writers* by Daniel Gagnon. The show runs from Feb. 28-Mar. 22. Gallery hours are Mon.-Fri., 12pm-4pm,

and Thurs. 6pm-8:30pm.

The Glendon Gallery presents *Reality and Motive in Documentary Photography* from Feb. 27-Mar. 17. Gallery hours are Mon.-Fri., 11am-4pm, and it is located at 2275 Bayview Ave.

Jason Schwartz's photo exhibit entitled *Still Looking*, will be featured at the *Purple Lounge, Fine Arts 2* on Mar. 11-13. The hours of the opening are 7-10pm.

The I.D.A. Gallery, located on the main floor of the Fine Arts 2 building, presents *The Photography Show* on Mar. 11-15. Call 736-5533 for more information.

THEATRE

Theatre Glendon, located at 2275 Bayview Ave. presents *Women Beware Women*, by Howard Barker and Thomas Middleton, on Mar. 19-23, at 8pm. The price is \$4 for students and \$5 for others.

FILMS

York University is running a *Human Rights Film Series* each Thurs. at noon-2pm, in the *Senate Chamber* (S915 Ross). On Mar. 14, *Strengths & Weakness: College Students with Learning Disabilities* will be shown. For

more information call Gloria Georganas at 736-5380.

EVENTS

On Mar. 20-22 the talents of students from all the Fine Arts Departments will be showcased in the *Fine Arts Festival*. The programme features the *4 Strombones*, and *The Drawing Show* at the *I.D.A. Gallery*, as well as many other shows.

The Festival concludes with *Cabaret at York* which will feature different acts by York's finest student performers. It will be held in the *Fine Arts 2 main lobby* from 9pm-12 midnight.

Concerts

York's music department has a busy schedule ahead with its *Student Recital Series* at *Dacary Concert Hall, 050 Mac College*. On Mar. 12 at 2:30pm, flautist *Kimberley McBrien* performs before percussionist *Kenneth Shorley* works his magic at 3pm. Later at 8pm, baritone *Samuel D'Alfonso* sings the classics.

On Mar. 13, at 12:30pm the *Student Composers Concert* gets under way at *050 Mac*.

On Mar. 14 at 8pm, trumpeter *Gregory Prosser* is featured as the recital series continues.