

ENTERTAINMENT

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REEL REVIEWS

By TIMOTHY LETHBRIDGE
Brunswickan Staff

Rocky IV

Will this be the last "Rocky"? It probably should be, since the series should end with a splash. Now I am not saying that "Rocky IV" was a great film but it did a good job of adding new twists to a plot, the outcome of which everyone knows. What really made this film were the effects which generated an excellent atmosphere.

The Rocky series are Sylvester Stallone. He wrote, directed and played the lead role of Rocky Balboa, and did a good job in all three capacities. Carl Weathers played Apollo, the black former heavyweight champion who Rocky defeated in an earlier show. In "Rocky IV" we see the difference in the personalities of the two boxers as first Apollo and then Rocky take on the Soviet Union's best—Ivan Drago, played by Dolph Lundgren.

Drago doesn't say much even though Lundgren can speak four languages. His presence is enough to impress the audience as he towers over his opponents. The only insight into his personality we get is that he fights for himself, not his country, much to the annoyance of his Soviet "Superiors".

Rocky has been in retirement for several years at the start of the film. His wife doesn't want him to fight, but supports him in the end. When he decides to take on the Russian, Rocky for some reason trains in Siberia. The film rapidly alternates between Drago's hi-tech training and Rocky's training in the wilderness, both fighters monitored incessantly. Interestingly, the Siberia scenes were filmed near Vancouver.

The fight scenes are superb (even though I dislike boxing and think it should be banned). Apparently at one point both Lundgren and Stallone became so tired of sticking strictly to the choreography that they started to box for real—Lundgren forced Stallone's diaphragm up into his chest cavity, hospitalizing him for several days.

The stereotype we so often see of the Soviets was strongly reinforced in "Rocky IV". They are very sure of themselves; they train their athletes "for the nation"; the Soviet leaders attend the fight in person etc. The American stereotypes are also strongly evident—the overdone Hollywood production in advance of the first fight; Apollo's prancing around dressed as Uncle Sam etc. The whole film

emphasises these stereotypes which are blown apart at the emotional climax when... well I won't tell you what happens just in case you have not found out yet.

After Hours

A westerner gains the skills of martial arts and becomes a hero. Corruption abounds in the military. These are themes we have all heard before; "American Ninja," however, combines them with an interesting plot into an enjoyable film.

Michael Dudikoff plays Joe Armstrong, the title role. Joe was brought up by a Ninja master and trained in ninjitsu skills. He subsequently had an accident resulting in amnesia. Forced to either join the army or go to jail for a violent offence, he enlisted in the army and was posted to an American base in Indonesia.

The movie starts when Joe is a driver in a convoy that is ambushed by rebels. Joe's comrades are not able to put up much of a fight and are ready to surrender. Joe, however, uses his ninjitsu skills to defeat the rebels and disappears into the jungle with the daughter of the base commander, pursued by ninja warriors who were backing up the rebels.

Joe evades his pursuers, but falls into disfavour for his unorthodox heroics. He is also hunted by the leader of the rebels who is in collusion with the base brass.

Joe is not your average hero. He does not remember learning his skills and does not regard himself as particularly special. Joe is, in fact, somewhat withdrawn and never wants to pick a fight.

Joe's affair with the commander's daughter Patricia (played by Judie Aronson) adds an interesting twist to the plot, as she becomes torn between Joe and her father.

This action-packed film's flaws lie mostly in plot inconsistencies that are never resolved. Why, for instance, did the rebels repeatedly attack army convoys? If, as we are led to believe, they were out to capture missiles and other weapons, why did they end up with only one at the end? And why did the base commander not just send them a truck with the goods preventing the need for the attacks? The attacks, of course, were necessary for Joe to come into the plot.

The acting in "American Ninja" was very good, and so was the direction at the hand of Sam Firstenberg. Screen play was by Paul De Mielche.

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That was Then, This is Now

"That was Then, This is Now" looks into the personalities of two young men who have similar backgrounds when one rapidly matures and the other does not.

Emilio Estevez wrote the screen play and co-starred as Mark Jennings. Estevez' acting talents and screen-writing ability are impressive, especially when we consider he is only in his early twenties. He is one of four sons of actor Martin Sheen, two of whom are in the acting business. Craig Sheffer stars with Estevez as Brian Douglas, the mature side of the pair.

Mark had a history of family problems and moved in as the adopted brother of Brian years before the time-frame of this film. Both boys were the tough sort and had involved themselves in various misdemeanors. In the film we see Mark involve himself ever more deeply in questionable acts while Brian tries to avoid conflict. Brian's personality is tempered by his girlfriend who is played by Kim Delaney.

Both adopted brothers are supposed to be of school age although they both look far too old for that.

The character-portrayal in "That was Then, This is Now" is the strongest point of the film, and this is true of many characters, not just the boys. The mood-setting is also excellent.

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RATINGS OF RECENT FILMS

Film	Cinema	Ratings									
		L	Y	G	S	E	S	N	T	Y	Y
Dance With a Stranger	Plaza	A-	A+	A-	A+	A+	B+	A-	A-	A-	B
That Then, This Now	Na'sis	A-	A-	A	A+	A-	A-	A	A	B+	B+
Rocky IV	Plaza	A-	B	A	B+	B+	A+	A+	B-	B	B+
American Ninja	Na'sis	A-	B	B+	B+	B+	A	A	A-	B	B+

The film was directed by Christopher Cain and is based on a novel by S.E. Hinton.

Dance With a Stranger

"Dance With a Stranger" is a tragedy starring Miranda Richardson as night-club manager Ruth Ellis. The film traces the alternating relationships between Ellis and the two men in her life.

Ian Holm plays Desmond Cussen the stable benefactor who always bails Ellis out in her moments of emotional and physical turmoil. Their relationship never becomes very deep but is consistent and caring.

Rupert Everett plays David Blakeley who contributes to Ellis' downfall. Ellis' and Blakeley's love appears deep,

but both characters take actions seemingly incomprehensible considering their relationship.

As in a true classical tragedy, Ellis causes her own downfall. By self-admission she has slept with virtually everyone in London. She is attached to an institution of low moral standard and persists with Blakeley despite his obvious erratic behavior.

The sad part of the story is the effect of Ellis' lifestyle on her son Andrew. Her son is often deserted and lives in the midst of the debauchery and lives a generally unstable lifestyle. This, we are told, greatly affects him in later life.

"Dance With a Stranger" is a quality film, but will not be appreciated by everyone. The screenplay was written by Shelagh Delaney and the film was directed by Mike Newell.

What's Alternative Country?

By MANFISH

Are you having difficulty sleeping nights because you can't tell the difference between Rockabilly and Tex-Mex Rock? Embarrassed because your friends know that country punk and alternative gospel are two distinct forms of music? If you answered "yes" to even one of the above two questions, then you need the Rod Wood Show - Thursdays, 9-11 pm on CHSR-FM. "There is no other type of music," says Rod, "no one else likes this kind of music so I figure I should."

Exactly what kind of music does Rod play? "Good music," claims Mr. Wood, "Alternative Country!"

Alternative Country??? "This is an alternative station. If you want to hear regular country, listen to those other stations."

How did Rod get interested in Alternative Country?

"I've always liked Rockabilly; all of the stuff I play has its roots in Rockabilly." Rod feels what he plays on his show could be considered a combination of Rockabilly and Punk. (If anybody doubts the significance of the Rockabilly-Punk connection, remember Sid Vicious died almost twenty years to the day after Buddy Holly.)

"I stretch the meaning of country to its outermost limits. Don't expect The Oak Ridge Boys or Tammy Wynette on this show."

Who can we expect to hear on Rod's show? Elvis Costello, The Blasters, Los Lobos, George Jones, Elvis Costello. You'll hear regular features on artists and bands.

Robert Gordon, Eddie Cochran, Jerry Jerry and the Sons of Rhythm Orchestra, and K.D. Lang and the

Reclines have all been featured on the Rod Wood Show.

In the future you'll hear a feature on Los Lobos, a very rare live recording of The Stray Cats, specials on X, and all sorts of other swell stuff. Rod stresses the fact that there will be no Alabama features. As a final reassurance of his belief in Alternative Country, Rod states, "I don't own a cowboy hat or any big belt buckles... but I am from out West..."

Thursdays, 9-11 pm on CHSR-FM - The Rod Wood Show.

If you want to be rich and world-famous just like Rod, or if you just want to be a regular mortal programmer, drop up to CHSR-FM in the UNB SUB. In this, our twenty-fifth year of operation, we need more help than ever before. Come on up and get involved!! See ya!