



ANDERSON HANSON
FACSIMILE REPORT

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RE: *PR clip*
DT: *10/4/96*

Page 1 of *2*

Originating Facsimile Telephone Number:
214-490-5194

NOTE: *Good comments about Denton folks!*

Here's Jan's column about "Finding North" - she said she was mal limited by space - she liked John so much she would love to have been able to write more!

James
Summer
10-4-96

Shoot for 'True Women' starts

Gov. Nich- called stur- Texas aks." 38 is a our ries the life



True Women miniseries stars are (from left) Dana Delany, Annabeth Gish and Angelina Jolie.

ters for True sday Ad- beth the e tale s on chil- ight. the com- cent, they lead, or thur am- rson pro- row Tutt ator

for Walker, Texas Ranger, who needs your vehicle. And he promises not to blow it up for the CBS series just back from a Utah shoot.

Mr. Esquerre is looking for standard models, pickups, muscle cars and exotics, such as Mercedes, Lexuses, Porsches, Ferraris and Rolls-Royces.

To make your car a star, send a nonreturnable photo of the vehicle front and back taken from a 45-degree angle to: Tutt Esquerre, Picture Car Coordinator, Walker, Texas Ranger, P.O. Box 816001, Dallas, Texas 75381-6001.

Brownie's legacy

S.F. "Brownie" Brownrigg, a local industry pioneer who died Sept. 20 at 58 of cancer, began his film career at age 18 as a sound recordist for Jamieson Film Co. in the late '50s.

"He was really a remarkable guy, a quick learner," says former partner Bob Redd. "He'd never been around films, and the first thing you know he was editing, had

learned sound and was doing scoring. Then later, when he got involved in those horror pictures (such as *Don't Look in the Basement*), he was able to make them look as good as he did because he knew all those crafts."

In 1961, Mr. Redd and Mr. Brownrigg started PSI, a film processing firm, then opened Century Studios for commercial and industrial production. Later, Mr. Brownrigg took over the studios and, in recent years, operated from his home.

"Everybody loved Brownie," says Mr. Redd. He did many things, but most of all, "Brownie" was a teacher who gave many in the industry today their start at Century Studios. Two of his students — sons Stacy and Tony — carry on as a production sound mixer (*Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls*) and producer (*Cyberstalker*), respectively.

Home boy

Oble award-winning actor John Benjamin Hickey (*Lovelace*, *Compassion*) is back on his old

stomping grounds. He returned to play the lead opposite Wendy Makenna (*Sister Act*) in *Finding North*, now shooting in Denton.

"It's great being able to come back to Texas as a professional rather than as a returning native," says Mr. Hickey, who grew up in Plano and Prosper. In the romantic comedy, written by McKinney native Ken Powers, the Juilliard grad plays a Wall Street trader who comes to Texas to sift through the memories of a dead friend.

"I'm pleasantly surprised how unfazed by moviemaking the people are here. They react much more strongly in L.A. and New York. The folks in Denton are so open-armed. It's incredibly inviting... and there's great barbecue."

The low-budget film, directed by Tanya Wexler, will shoot in Denton until Oct. 10, then move to New York City for a final week. Stephen Dyer (*Late Bloomers*) is producing.

Head shots

Want to be in a new and different video? Award-winning Dallas filmmaker Cynthia Salzman Mondell needs women of all ages, shapes and sizes for hair and makeup scenes in her latest documentary *The Ladies Room*. If you can volunteer, leave your name at (214) 828-4070 or just show up Saturday between 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. at St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church, 6525 Inwood Road at Mockingbird Lane.



Heavy star Liv Tyler

'Heavy' c

By Rick Holter

Staff Writer of The Dallas Morning News

Despite a weighty pedigree, some powerhouse acting, and a lethargic as its overweight metabolism.

Writer/director James first feature has been a fawart for two years, winning a prize at Sundance and a prestigious Director's Fortnight at Cannes. It aims to be a perspective, almost dialogue-free near shut-in's painful emergence from his self-imposed cocoon.

But the process is so artfully labored, that the takes wing.

Mr. Mangold's classical approach, relying on un-

erves as 'Bound' technical consultant

route don only

[Jennifer Tilly's] flat affect, baby voice and Betty Boopness mesh to create a cagey, fascinating

Priscilla, *Queen of the Desert*) accepted her statuette in a dress made of American Express gold cards. And "sexpert" Susie Bright, author of *How to Be a Porn Star* and *How to Be a Porn*

BO

Entertainment Chronicle

Aside



Arts

Hispanic Heritage Month celebrated with Selena exhibit at Texas Woman's University



Movies

Get 'Caught' with James Cain

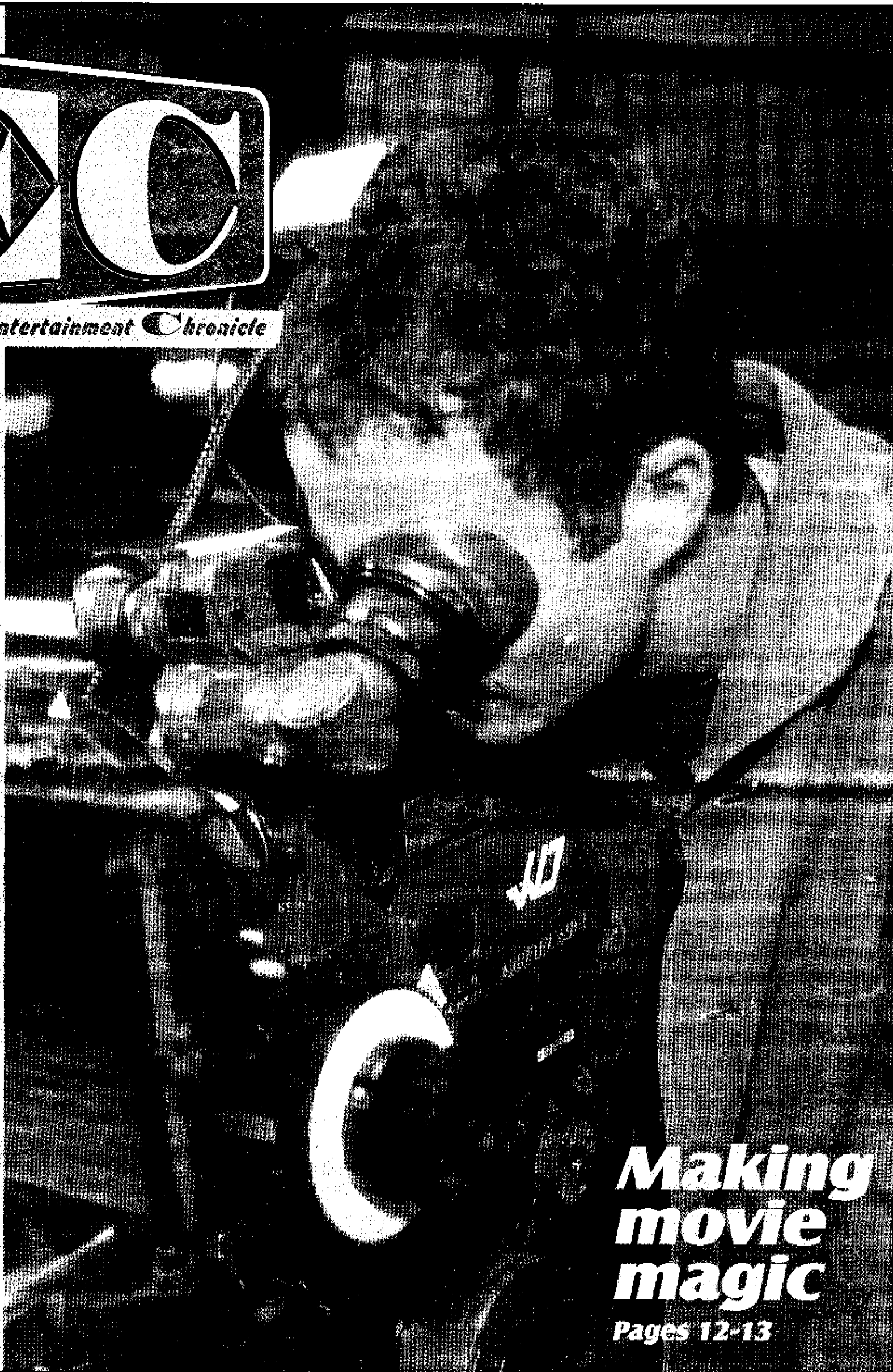


Music

Edie Brickell returns to Denton for a show Friday at Rick's Place



The entertainment magazine of the Denton Record-Chronicle



Making movie magic

Pages 12-13

EC Index

Volume 1 Number 9

Arts

As part of Hispanic Heritage Month, the library at Texas Woman's University has played host to an exhibition of Tejano singer Selena. This week, we'll look at what that exhibition accomplished. Then our exhibits calendar tells you what other exhibits can be found at area art galleries. Pages 3-4.

Theater

What's on stage this week? Well, unfortunately, the theater buff in you will have to leave city limits to see live productions this week. But our theater calendar will help make the task easier by giving you the complete guide to Metroplex productions. Page 5.

Events

The Good/Bad Art Collective is known for showcasing up and coming talent in the most unusual genres imaginable. This weekend, the art gallery at 120 Exposition will present its third Video Night, featuring works by local filmmakers and a live music performance. We give you the rundown on what's going down, then our events calendar gives you some hints on other area activities. Pages 6-7.

Movies

New this week is the James Cain film "Caught" and the hotly anticipated "Surviving Picasso." Movie critic Boo Allen checks out both films and tells you whether they're worth the ticket price. Pages 8-9.

Videos

Kurt Russell could be entering a brand new era of his career with the action thriller, "Executive Decision." And, as video critic Ricky Miller points out, this could be just what his career needs following recent disappointments at the box office. Page 10.

Books

Clive Cussler has reigned as a novelist and now, with his first non-fiction offering, he proves just how versatile a writer he can be. Cussler comes to Denton this week to sign that book, "The Sea Hunters," and we'll tell you what it's all about. Then check out a cookbook from the heart of Texas. Page 11.

Music

Don't even think about staying in this weekend; there's simply too much good music out there for your listening pleasure! For starters, Edie Brickell returns to Denton with original members of the New Bohemians; we'll also tell you about shows with The Sportos, Chomsky, sax-master David Carr, Jr., and more. Pages 14-18.

On the cover: It's not exactly little Hollywood, but Denton is getting plenty of attention from the movie industry. On our cover, cinematographer Michael Barrett works on the film, "Finding North."

Cover photo by F. Nabil Mark
Art design by Randy Patrick

Where's the real mo

At first glance, Denton appears an unlikely prospect for an alternative to Hollywood. Lacking the glitz and glam of its California counterpart, Denton appears to bear none of the earmarks of a movie-making mecca.

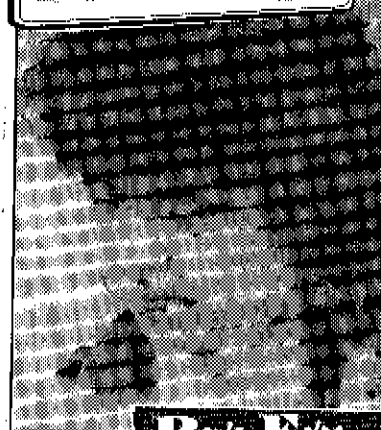
Those who pass through on the Interstate see little more than a sleepy college town dotted with chain restaurants and supermarkets.

But those who follow the exit signs beyond the service roads find much more; they discover a community that differs greatly from the initial impression it delivers. Rather than a drowsy township, they find a flourishing creative scene that begins somewhere near the underground level and escalates to the loftiest, most respected heights imaginable — and hits on literally everything in between.

That is part of what makes Denton such a great prospect for movie making. Official responses from the film community will give such uniform answers as the Realtors' mantra, "Location, location, location" as an explanation of the burst of filmic activity here.

They will talk about the diverse landscapes, the unique blend of architecture and the historic significance of some of the buildings. But we all know Denton offers much more than that.

Post Script



Paula Felps

What really makes Denton such a promising hotbed of activity is the town itself. It has more wacky characters per square inch than a David Lynch film. OK, so we don't have a log lady. Or a dancing dwarf. But we have far better things than that. (Of course, I hesitate to make pointed references toward specifics, since I spent the better part of an afternoon going over the most recent changes in libel laws earlier this week.)

Stick around town for awhile and sift through the city's clean-cut appearance, and you'll discover an alter-ego to Denton's outwardly conservative politics and visible arts scene.

It is only once you dip beneath the upper crust that you'll find the wild heart and sometimes demented soul of Denton. And it is there you'll find a cast of characters that no Hollywood filmmaker could dream up.

If you doubt out the Video Night Good/Bad Art Collective this weekend. This 3-year-old arts group presents its take on the local scene with its third annual one-night showcase on Saturday. You'll see it isn't necessary to look far to find some rather unusual perspectives on life. And that's merely the tip of the iceberg.

The eclectic assortment of personalities which populate Denton are priceless. And, more importantly, they come with their own plot lines. The police blotter of the *Denton Record-Chronicle* alone is enough to at least come up with a few good subplots for any movie project.

Even better, Denton provides its own soundtrack. Whatever it is your ears are craving, whether it's Corn Mo cranking out Motley Crue covers on an accordion or Little Jack Melody melding Beethoven's Fifth Symphony with Nena's "99 Luftballons," there really isn't much in the way of music that isn't covered here.

So, Denton as a movieland makes sense, even if it initially seems like an unlikely prospect. I just think that by sticking to some preconceived script they're missing one heck of a good story.

Paula Felps is the editor of Entertainment Chronicle.

Who's who & what's what

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Editorial & Art

Editor - Paula Felps
Events/calendars - Dawn McMullan
Movies - Boo Allen
Music - Michael Hill, Kelley Reese
Videos - Ricky Miller
Books - Darren Victory
Photography - Al Key, Nabil Mark
Art - Carolyn Martin, Randy Patrick

Advertising

Advertising director - Sandra Kelly
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Entertainment Chronicle encourages your input. Letters to the editor are limited to 250 words. Submit letters, guest columns and stories to us at P.O. Box 369, Denton, Texas, 76202. Submissions must include your name and a daytime telephone number to be considered for publication.



Denton Record-Chronicle
CLASSIFIEDS

Celebrating Selena

Chancellor
Writer
...of-a-kind
...hibit on Tejano
...singer Selena
...antilla-Perez
...mplished its mission,
...rding to the director of
...ultural Services at
...s Woman's University.
...s purpose was to show
... Selena was all about. It
...wed that she was more
...n a singer; it helped to
...ng across the message
...at there are role models in
...e Hispanic community,"
...Patrick Vasquez said. "There
...aren't a lot of role models for
...Hispanic women."



F. Nabil Mark/Entertainment Chronicle

IN MEMORY: Photos of Selena were donated by the late singer's family for an exhibit at the library on the Texas Woman's University campus.

"Selena: Texas Woman on a Mission" was the brainchild of two TWU students, Edna Lucio and Magda Jungman. "They approached my office and asked about the possibility of putting together the exhibit. They already had good contacts," Vasquez said. "It really goes to show what can be done with proper planning."

us 'no,' because they thought we wanted to use Selena's actual clothes from her concerts, but we were more interested in her designs from her boutiques."

Besides clothing designed by the singer, the exhibit included some of her music awards, photos, press clipping and a signature perfume. The items were donated by the Quintanilla

family. "I think the fact that it was a woman's university helped persuade them," Vasquez said. "Education and women's issues were her focus. She often spoke to students about those issues."

He said one of Lucio's and Jungman's main intents was

Please see page 4

Lucio said she began by writing the Quintanilla family. "We went to Corpus Christi and spoke with the Quintanillas about the proposal. They originally told



F. Nabil Mark/Entertainment Chronicle

Magazines, photographs and other memorabilia helped tell the story of the short but eventful life of Tejano singer Selena. The exhibit is part of the TWU celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

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Exhibits

What *When* *Where* *Details*

Denton	This Rich Territory... A Sesquicentennial History of Denton County	Through Dec. 15	Rare Book Room Willis Library UNT	Documents, maps, scrapbooks, photographs, books, family and business histories. FREE.
	Materials: Hard and Soft	Through Oct. 25 1-5 p.m. Sunday-Friday 1-7 p.m. Thursday	The Center for the Visual Arts, Meadows Gallery 400 E. Hickory St. 382-2787	This 10th annual exhibit features contemporary works in glass, fiber, clay, wood, paper, metal and mixed media. FREE
	AIDS, Culture and Society	Through Friday	UNT's Cora Stafford Art Gallery Oak at Ponder streets 565-4005	Mark Mahan's "The AIDS Portrait Project," and James Watral's "Yesterday and Tomorrow." FREE
	Tori Arpad	Through Oct. 18	Fine Arts Gallery at TWU 898-2530	This new TWU ceramic instructor transforms the gallery for her exhibit, "Assumed Histories: Immersion." FREE
	Photographic Artist's Coalition	Through Oct. 25 1-5 p.m. Monday through Friday	Greater Denton Arts Council 207 S. Bell Ave. 382-2787	See this TWU student's organization's second-annual member show, featuring exhibits with multicultural aspects and a focus on women's issues.
	Denton County Historical Museum	Ongoing 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday	Courthouse on the Square 565-8697	Exhibits of turn-of-the-century living areas, railroads, mile markers — everything you wanted to know about Denton's history. FREE
	Fort Worth Hot Shots: Nine Artists	Through Nov. 9 Noon to 8 p.m. Monday and Tuesday Noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday	UNT Art Gallery Corner of Mulberry and Welch 565-4316	Focuses on a group of relative unknown, talented and emerging artists from Fort Worth. FREE.
Fort Worth	Contemporary Japanese Clayworks	Through Oct. 19	Arlington Museum of Art 201 W. Main St.	Thirty Japanese ceramists in celebration of Japan's most notable young artists
	Affinities of Forms: Arts of Africa, Oceania and the Americas	Through Oct. 13	Kimball Art Museum 3333 Camp Bowie Blvd. 817/332-8451	Features 100 masterpieces spanning a 3,000-year period
	Horizons of Flight	Through Dec. 4	SimuFlight Training International 2929 W. Airfield Dr. D/FW Airport. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Saturday	Features the work of 30 well-known and emerging aviation artists.
Dallas	Rock & Roll	Through Oct. 26	Photographs Do Not Bend 3115 Routh St. 214/969-1852	A photo exhibit featuring the legends of rock and roll. Portion of sales go to The American Foundation for AIDS Research.
	Africa: One Continent, Many Worlds	Through Jan. 5	Dallas Museum of Natural History Fair Park, 3535 Grand Ave., Dallas 214/421-DINO	An expansive exhibit providing an overview of the continent with hands-on activities to a robotic rhinoceros. \$4 for adults, \$2.50 kids

Selena

From page 3



HATS OFF: T-shirts and concert memorabilia are part of the exhibit celebrating Tejano singer Selena.

for elementary, junior high and high school students to see the exhibit. "It showcased the Hispanic culture. And it was a positive image."

Lucio agrees. "She crossed a lot of barriers, not only in music, but in business with her boutiques," Lucio said.

Selena began recording at age 9 and set a standard for others in her chosen musical genre, Lucio said. Instead of going into the studio and doing one run-through on a demo, Selena would do a song over and over until it was as perfect as she could get it.

Selena also looked at strategies behind music-making. "She looked at what the

English market was doing to capture the audience and applied that to Spanish music," Lucio said. "She didn't do just one style of music, either, although she was known as a mostly Tejano singer because she's from Texas."

The variance in musical style, Lucio said, was one reason she and Jungman wanted to honor Selena during TWU's celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. "A lot of people who didn't know Selena and heard Spanish music listened to the older, maybe a little bit outdated Spanish music," she said.

"They hadn't heard Selena's style. She took Spanish music and sang it in a contemporary style."

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Screen savers

Good/Bad's Video Night returns

By Paula Felps

Entertainment Editor

A cheesy television show provided the springboard for an event that has become an annual soiree in Denton.

The Good/Bad Art Collective will present Video Night 3 Saturday at the group's gallery at 120 Exposition St. What began as some sort of homage to and parody of the obscure television program, "That's Irritainment" has evolved into one of the gallery's most popular events.

"That's Irritainment" was the short-lived brainchild of Boston television station WSMU and showed what Good/Bad's Martin Iles refers to as "cheesy lounge acts and footage from the early '70s."

Iles said that program inspired the original Video Night, which proved so successful it has become an annual event. In fact, Iles said, aside from the gallery's occasional benefit concerts, the Video Nights have proven to be its most popular offering.

"So many people now have video cameras and are able to do so much with them," Iles explained. "It's not just people in television and film (at UNT) anymore. It's gotten easier for artists to create works of art, and a lot of people are getting into it."

That, in turn, creates a bigger interest in the genre. And because of the complexity involved in putting on a Video Night, they only can be held once a year — something that Iles said gives an added boost to their popularity.

With Video Night, local artists and filmmakers are given the opportunity to have their work screened alongside projects by established national avant-garde artists. As expected, the work is anything but ordinary.

This year, p

Video Night 3

WHAT: Showcase of local artists and filmmakers. Intermission musical performance by surf-rock band The Oddfellows.

WHEN: 9 p.m. Saturday

WHERE: Good/Bad Art Collective, 120 Exposition

DETAILS: Free, but donations are encouraged. Call 591-1725 for more information.

artists include Kevin Harrison, who will screen his student project, "Nothing." The work features the music of the Oddfellows, who also will perform live during intermission.

Also featured are works by local artists John Freeman, Dave Seiden, Iles, Chris Weber, Adam Miller and Will Robison.

Iles said some "weirdness" discovered on public access television also will be screened.

"We also got ahold of some videos out of New York City profiling contemporary artists," Iles said. "This is stuff no one in Texas, and certainly not in the Midwest, has seen. It's some contemporary work by good, nationally known artists. So I'd say we're definitely growing with this."

Thanks to some benefit shows, the art collective has purchased three dozen folding chairs, which adds a little comfort and convenience to the evening.

"Up until now, we were borrowing chairs from a funeral home for all our events, and that's a little weird," Iles said.

The event is open to donations.



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Events

What's Up

	What	When	Where	Details
Denton	Comedy Night	9 p.m. Every Thursday	Rhino's Pub 1776 Teasley Lane 565-8391	Laugh at something besides yourself. \$3 cover
	Denton County Sesquicentennial Celebration Intertribal Powwow	Saturday events begin at 10 a.m. Sunday events begin at noon	Billy Ryan High School stadium 1501 E. McKinney	Arts and crafts, social/traditional dancing and gourd dancing. FREE
	Autograph party with Clive Cussler.	Tuesday at 7 p.m.	Hastings Books, Music & Video 2305 Colorado Blvd. 565-1764	The author will sign copies of his new book "Sea Hunters."
	Scottish Country Dancing	5-8 p.m. every Sunday	Center for the Visual Arts 400 E. Hickory 381-2368	Learn reels, jigs and graceful slow dances with the Denton Celtic Dancers. \$1 weekly donation
	AIDS, Culture and Society Symposium	Through Friday	Cora Stafford Art Gallery UNT Campus 565-4005	Discussion by New York artist Ann Meredith, who photographs women with AIDS, and health-care professionals on an artist's role in the crisis. FREE.
	Celestine Prophecy	7-8 p.m. Every Wednesday	Voyagers Dream 1306 W. Hickory 381-3769	Book/life discussion with meditation to follow. FREE
	Denton Bach Society Choir, Soloists and Orchestra	7:30 p.m. Sunday	Campus Theatre 214 W. Hickory St. 382-1915	Bach Cantata 140 "Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme," Orchestra Suite in D and Bach Magnificent in D. \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors.
	Oktoberfest at Traders Village	Saturday and Sunday 11 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. \$2 parking fee	Traders Village 2602 Mayfield	Will transport visitors to a European fall festival without leaving the area. Gigantic beer garden and all the trimmings. Live entertainment.
	The Living Sea	Ongoing.	Fort Worth Museum of Science and History 1501 Montgomery St. 817-732-1631	The music of Sting and the narration of Meryl Streep set the stage for exploring a colorful and vibrant underwater world.
	Texas Brewer's Festival	Saturday from noon - 9 p.m. Sunday from 1-7 p.m.	Sundance Square	Texas' largest craft beer festival.
Fort Worth	Ring of Fire	Through Jan. 5 2:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday \$6 adults \$4 seniors & children	Fort Worth Museum of Science & History 1501 Montgomery St. 817/732-1631	Viewers of the OMNI-MAX film come heart-stoppingly close to the great circle of volcanoes and seismic activity that ring the Pacific Ocean.
	Independent Showcase	Monday 7:30 p.m.	AMC Glen Lakes Theatres 9450 N. Central Expressway	This month, the series offering is the film "Rhythm Thief." Tickets are \$6.50 general admission, \$5.50 for USA Film Festival members.
Dallas				

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Movies



RED HOT & 'CAUGHT': Maria Conchita Alonso is Betty and Arie Verveen is Nick in the steamy James Cain film, "Caught."

'Caught' off guard

By Boo Allen
Movie Critic

Anyone familiar with the lurid, trashy fiction of James Cain will be able to tell right away how things are going to play out in "Caught." The rich, troubled characters found in this new film from Sony Classics look to be as ill-fated and resigned to their destinies as those found in such Cain novels, and classic films, as "Double Indemnity" and "The Postman Always Rings Twice." While Cain's sleazy world was populated with schemers and plotters too dense to see the flaws in their own designs, the simple people found in "Caught" are overwhelmed by their circumstances, unable, or unwilling, to break loose from the forces they find themselves subject to.

"Caught" has few surprises, something that would seem minimal in a

movie fashioned as a suspense drama. But, despite the plot's inevitable path, director Robert M. Young takes Edward Pomerantz's script and drains every scene for all possible tension. Young consistently plays a form of "chicken" with us, making us squirm as he sets up scene after scene to come unraveled at once but never does until the time is right.

One of the weaknesses of "Caught" is its proximity in plot to Cain's "The Postman," etc., a well-known tale that has been filmed not only twice here in America, 1946 and 1981, but also under different guises by Visconti, "L'Ossessione" (1941), and the brilliant Chinese director Zhang Yimou, who reworked it into his spectacular 1989 "Ju Dou."

In the story, a stranger, here the homeless Nick (Arie Verveen), gets taken in by a couple, works for them,

befriends the husband, Joe (James Edward Olmos), and charms the wife, Betty (Maria Conchita Alonso), thus setting up an Oedipal-like situation that, once set in motion, must be played out to the end. Different "Postman" versions vary at this point, with "Caught" taking the path of Nick being an innocent soul who honestly cares for Joe, despite finding the building, overpowering mutual attraction between himself and Joe's hot-blooded wife.

"Caught" does not have the two secret lovers plot the death of their obstacle, Joe, even if his death would mean a cash bonanza for them. Instead, Edward Pomerantz's story shrewdly arranges things to be beyond the control of Betty and Nick. Joe does come into some money by the possible sale of his grubby little fish shop to a big conglomerate, but

Please see page 9

The Fry Street Development Corp. And these Local Businesses



The Fry Street Community Office to 106 Fry Street

- Jim's Diner
- Cool Bean's
- Riprocks
- CD Warehouse
- Voertman's
- Campus Barber
- State Club Grill & Bar



Bill Stoneburner, Lt. Jeff Davis UNT Police, Major Jack Miller, and Sgt. Scott Fletcher, Denton Police Department.

- Billy Shears
- Lucky Lou's
- Flying Tomato
- Rick's Place
- Muthers
- Voyager's Dream
- First State Bank of Texas



Dining Guide

'Picasso': Art irritates life

By Boo Allen

Movie Critic

It's hard to understand today what a world-wide celebrity Pablo Picasso once was. His status as a brilliant, ground-breaking artist remains unsullied but, since his death, the skeletons have been gathering from his closet to remind us that genius has its drawbacks.

His relatives, so-called friends, and associates have all combined to agree that Picasso was pretty much of an animated, mean-spirited, bully, but one who, uncharacteristically, would play with his children for hours on end.

Seemingly everyone who was exposed to his ugly side would take whatever was dished out for the reward, however brief, of basking in his abusive presence.

The chilling, Mediterranean character of Picasso gets the Merchant-Ivory treatment in "Surviving Picasso," a wart-filled portrait of 10 years in the life of the man who eventually crystalized the 20th century art world.

Thankfully, director James Ivory avoids his usual reverential approach, an otherwise absurd alternative considering the earthiness of his subject. Instead, Ivory gives us the real life,

Caught

From page 8

the twosome never plot to take the money away from him either by murder or by contrivance. Director Wilson would rather tease his audience, slowly building his narrative, repeatedly injecting his two lovers into sexually steamy, compromising situations.

When Danny (Steven Schub), Joe and Betty's contentious Generation X son, comes home to visit, things get even more complicated when he sniffs out the current situation while suspecting Nick of also bedding his own wife. We see a small group of people act out their most extreme insecurities when they are all

chest-beating, trumpet-blowing, wife-abusing ogre that Picasso took pride in being.

Anthony Hopkins plays Picasso in a flamboyant style, dripping with Oscar potential. Not only does the gentle, nuanced Englishman capture the physical side of the eccentric Spanish artist, complete down to the shiny bald pate, Hopkins also works wonders with his bodily movements that seem perpetually in motion. Picasso is played as an impish elf, who, when we first see him, is cuddly and lovable. Later, however, the constant exposure of the cameras complete a harsh examination and we see him as the consummate destroyer of people, especially women.

Director Ivory has taken the script of his long-time collaborator Ruth Prawer Jhabvala and has filmed a story that concentrates on Picasso's 10-year relationship with Francoise (Natascha McElhone), his mistress and mother of two of his children.

Through convenient flashbacks, we meet three of his earlier women, two of whom have also given birth to his babies. And, before Francoise's departure, the precocious Jacqueline

stuck in positions that invite action. Paranoia runs out of control on all sides, ending in the only way it could possibly end, especially when the movie's title implies everything.

Despite the obviousness of the plot, and its derivativeness, it is amazing that director Wilson keeps all his balls in the air as long as he does. He certainly knows how to milk a scene, wringing out every possible bit of tension in what is essentially a complex character study.

The 72-year-old Wilson has had a long and notable directing record, consisting of "Dominick and Eugene,"

appears to take her place in line. With such an approach, a noted fragmented feel to the movie is hard to avoid, but at least it is understandable.

When we first see Francoise, she is a naive young art student, willing and eager to be seduced by the great, but already old, man. He willingly obliges and before long she has moved in with him. She learns, as we do, what an all-consuming job it is not only to be Picasso the Legend but to be connected to him in any way. His love for her seems real — while it lasts. But Picasso's own insecurities won't settle for anything less than complete obedience, as displayed in the scene when the atheist bully takes his woman to an empty chapel and compels her to confess that she will love him forever. This short scene capsulates the all-consuming power and energy extracted by the man on those who surround him.

No one but a great artist could live the way Picasso did and behave the way he did and get away with it, arrogantly expecting everyone to tolerate such selfish, childish, boorish, behavior (locally, the name Michael Irving springs to mind). A servant of 25 years,

who has just been fired, tells him, "The day will come when you will have no one left." The words hauntingly echo after film fades out.

Director Ivory only briefly tries to capture the creative act, something that almost always seems either totally false, or lacking, in films about artists of any sort (see: "Basquiat"). But here, the short painting scenes serve as elementary lessons in the craft, topped off by Picasso's advice: "You can try anything in painting, provided you never do it again."

James Ivory's direction maintains the wise decision of remaining zeroed in on Hopkins and his fanatical portrayal of this complex person. The movie sags when Hopkins does and soars when he does, which is often. Like the man himself, "Surviving Picasso" is often irritating yet ultimately fascinating.

UNITED ARTISTS

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Videos

Executive's button-down terrorism

By Ricky Miller

Video Critic

Equal parts "The Hunt for Red October," "Patriot Games" and "Executive Decision" (suggested retail: \$39.98) is producer Joel Silver's answer to the growing breed of high-tech modern action-thrillers.

If Kurt Russell was filling the shoes of Jack Ryan from the trio of films mentioned above, his role as David Grant would be the perfect substitute. Grant, like Ryan, is an American intelligence analyst whose sharp mind and quick wit finds him becoming part of a secret mission, a la "The Hunt For Red October."

After giving advice on the overseas hijacking of a 747, Grant is sent into the skies with a U.S. Army special forces counter-terrorist team, led by Lieutenant Colonel Austin Travis (Steven Seagal).

Grant, along with the group, must stop a group of terrorists from flying over American airspace, since their cargo contains a suitcase full of DZ-5 nerve gas. A gas so lethal, that the amount on board the plane could wipe out almost half of the eastern seaboard.

Russell, one of America's most underrated action heroes, gives David Grant the proper demeanor. Although the previews showed him playing the tough guy, he barely holds a gun, evoking an everyman approach when tackling new tasks a la Harrison Ford in "Patriot Games."

Although Seagal and Halle Berry ("Losing Isaiah," "The Last Boy Scout") receive relatively high billing, neither performer has much to do with their role. Also pointless in her supporting role is Marla Maples Trump, as a flight attendant.



TOUGH 'DECISION': Above, Kurt Russell and Halle Berry, and Steven Seagal (left) provide the cast for the hard-hitting action film, "Executive Decision," which could be the dawn of a new era for Russell's film career. The movie now is out on videocassette.

Instead, supporters John Leguizamo ("Carlito's Way," "Romeo and Juliet") and Oliver Platt ("The Three Musketeers," "Flatliners") have their moments, courtesy of the one-liners in the script by Jim Thomas and John Thomas ("Predator"). Leguizamo and character actor B.D. Wong ("Father of the Bride," "Jurassic Park") are especially fun to watch, since both are playing atypical action roles.

The opening scene and ending are the weakest links of the film, each of which plays out with a certain amount of problems. The opening

sequence seems like action from a bad Cannon film such as "Invasion U.S.A." or "Missing in Action." The ending is a major throwback to disaster films of the 1970s, such as "Airport" or "The Poseidon Adventure," resulting in a ridiculous conclusion.

The middle segment, however, makes up for these problems, with some well-crafted moments of suspense and a nice little plot twist.

Joel Silver, whose credits as producer include the "Lethal Weapon" trilogy, the first two "Die Hard" films and "Demolition Man," obviously knew what he was doing when he

brought editor Stuart Baird on board.

Baird makes his directorial debut with this picture, after serving as editor on Silver Films such as "Lethal Weapon," "Lethal Weapon 2" and "Die Hard 2: Die Harder." As a director, Baird does a competent job of keeping the suspense heightened.

The disc really delivers with the SilverFilm transfer, since Joel Silver pictures usually have a slickness that is all their own ("Fair Game" might be the exception).

"Executive Decision" has been touted as an action thriller, but there are not a plethora of action

Making the Grade

The Steven Seagal Report Card

"Above the Law" (1988)	B+
"Hard to Kill" (1989)	C-
"Marked for Death" (1990)	D+
"Out for Justice" (1991)	C
"Under Siege" (1992)	C-
"On Deadly Ground" (1994)	D-
"Under Siege 2: Dark Territory" (1995)	C-
"Executive Decision" (1996)	B-
"The Glimmer Man" (1996)	D+

sequences. Instead, viewers are treated to noteworthy scenes of slow-mounting suspense where technology sometimes plays a key role.

What disaster movies such as "The Poseidon Adventure" and "The Towering Inferno" were to the 1970s, terrorists are to the films of the late 1980s and 1990s. Movies such as "Die Hard," "Under Siege," "Speed" and "Passenger 57" are prime examples of this, since they play out as a variation of the terrorist theme. "Executive Decision" rolls these two together for an engaging ride through the skies.

Although rated R, "Decision" does not contain anything more offensive than PG-13 films such as "Clear and Present Danger," "Mortal Kombat" and the "Batman" trilogy. The violence is minimal, with kudos going to a surprising death scene in the films' first half.

"Executive Decision" could be the start of a new franchise for Russell, especially since "Tombstone" and "Escape from L.A." do not seem likely headed for sequelland.

For the movie: ★★★

For the presentation: ★★★★★

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