

Arts

Former Fightin' Christian football player directed 'Norma Rae'

Hollywood talent Ritt, to discuss films here

By Chris Quad
Staff Writer



Martin Ritt

College campus the first week of May. According to Dr. Lamar Bland, associate professor of English, Ritt is exactly the kind of figure a liberal college should be interested in. "Ritt is a humanitarian, he has a social conscience and is interested in human stories," said Bland. "His best films reveal this." During his stay at Elon, Ritt will be visiting classes and will be available for mealtime con-

versation. On May 3 a panel discussion entitled "An Evening With Martin Ritt" will be held. Along with Bland, the panel will include Dr. Anne Ponder and Bob Nowell, both communications instructors at Elon College.

It is a rare opportunity for students to get this close to a major Hollywood director," said Bland. "I am hopeful that people will take advantage of this opportunity."

Three weeks prior to Ritt's visit, the college plans to show some of Ritt's films. The Liberal Arts Forum on campus is funding a showing of some of his films.

On April 10, the film *Sounder* will be shown at 7 p.m. in Whitley Auditorium. "*Sounder* is Ritt's single best known film and is praised by critics as being an honest film about black people in the South," said Bland.

Norma Rae will be shown on April 18 at 3:30 p.m. in Mooney Building. Sally Field won an Oscar for Best Actress for her portrayal of a Southern woman trying to unionize textile workers.

The movie *Hud* will be shown on April 26 at 3:30 p.m. in

Mooney. The film, starring Paul Newman, is a modern Western, examining the manner in which the values of the Old West function in modern society.

The Front, a film that deals with Ritt's experiences of being blacklisted in the 1950s, will be shown on April 30 at 7 p.m. in Whitley Auditorium.

Conrack will be shown on May 1 at 7 p.m. in Whitley Auditorium. "This film is about a young teacher who goes into a community in coastal Georgia," said Bland. "Ritt describes it as a film about the love affair between a teacher and the students in a public school."

"These films are being shown to build in a familiarity with the man's work, so everyone can profit from his visit," Bland said. "We are getting Ritt at a good time in his career. He has shown in the last 10 years that if he can do what he wants to do, he can do fine work."

According to Bland, Ritt is a director who is in the business for more than money. His films are not just money makers, they are also socially meaningful. "Ritt wanted to make the movie *Sounder* so much that he did so for only 10 percent of his usual salary," Bland said. He got 50 percent of his normal salary for doing *Norma Rae*."

"They're here."



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Hollywood. Just the mention of this famous city evokes images of shapely, platinum-haired actresses and muscular, sun-tanned actors driving slick red Ferraris.

This land of directors, producers and stars seems worlds away from Elon College, N.C. One Elon College alumnus, however, has made a name for himself in this famous city as a talented and respected director.

Martin Ritt came to Elon College in 1932 from Brooklyn, N.Y. During his two-year stay at Elon, Ritt played football under Coach Peahead Walker, participated in various theatrical productions and took in all he could about the South, a region that would provide the setting for eight of his films.

Today, Ritt is the established and respected director of such films as *Norma Rae*, *Sounder*, and *Conrack*. In a business where money is the bottom line, Ritt has managed to direct movies with meaningful social content while still remaining bankable.

Ritt will be visiting the Elon

What's 'Afoot'?

NC band has fine debut LP

By Mike Wheaton

Let's Active's first album *Afoot* on IRS records is definitely a welcome addition to any new music fan's collection.

This pop trio from North Carolina features Mitch Easter on guitar, Faye Hunter on bass and Sara Bromberg on drums. In fact, their album was recorded at the famous Drive-In Studio in Winston Salem.

Album review

Side one of their album begins with a song entitled "Room with a View." It has the greatest potential of any song on the album to be a hit.

"In Between" is a fair song and features a good musical arrangement. "Leader of the Men" is a decent song that features some excellent singing.

The real gem of the album is "Every Word Means No," the first song on the second side. Although this song is sort of hard to describe, it comes across as being very poppy. Maybe it could be classified as New-Psychedelic.

From the entire album, the

least impressive song is "Make up with Me." It's not nearly as fast paced as "Every Word Means No." Ending the album is a slower song that features an excellent musical arrangement labeled "Edge of the World." Mitch Easter's skilled

guitar playing becomes clearly evident on this cut.

Overall, this band comes across as being very fresh sounding and original. *Afoot* is recommended to anyone who likes progressive music or just good old-fashioned pop!

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