



Roland Watts (above) is one of the artists featured in new SECCA exhibition.



Staff photo by Templeton

'Sounder' Director to Appear

Martin Ritt, director of *Sounder*, Norma Rae, and many other critically acclaimed and popular movies, will be the featured speaker at the N.C. Film Festival May 4 at 8:30 p.m. in Stewart Theater on the campus of N.C. State University in Raleigh.

"We are thrilled that Mr. Ritt will appear at our film festival," said coordinator Lorraine Laslett, a N.C. Museum of Art staff member. "Not only has Martin Ritt made his mark on the feature film, he has survived the dramatic changes that have affected Hollywood in the last 30 years, his aesthetic and dramatic senses intact."

For the first time this year, the Film Festival is

being sponsored by the state Museum of Art. A competition for resident filmmakers and video producers, the Festival is also a two-day series of workshops, lectures, and panel discussions on the promises and problems of movie-making in North Carolina. All events are open on a general admission basis free of charge.

Ritt has directed numerous pictures about the South. *Conrack*, a film about a white school teacher on a South Carolina island peopled by poor, illiterate Blacks, earned John Voight a Best Actor nomination for his performance. *Sounder*, starring Cicely Tyson and Paul Winfield, was acclaimed as "a breakthrough in Black films," and earned an Academy Award nomination for best picture in 1972.

In 1958 Ritt demonstrated his interest in the

southern experience with a production of *The Long Hot Summer*, a film based on a short story by William Faulkner and starring Paul Newman, Joanne Woodward and Orson Welles. The following year Ritt directed Joanne Woodward, Yul Brenner and Ethel Waters in a production of Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury*.

Perhaps Norma Rae is destined to become Ritt's most famous film in North Carolina. Directed by Ritt, the film is a part of the on-going dispute between labor unions and southern textile manufacturers. The film's focus is on a North Carolina textile dispute in particular -- the film has generated special interest in the state. Movie critics nationwide have praised the film for Ritt's deft directing and the acting performance of Sally Field, a performance which has been termed "perfect."

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Ebony Etchings

Warren Lanier

Last week the diligent efforts of Rev. Jesse Jackson were coupled with the lending hand of celebrities in support, as his PUSH for Excellence campaign for high school students brings off a first for the organization and the Los Angeles area.

On Saturday April 21st, Rev. Jackson, PUSH for Excellence and the assisting celebrities held the first annual "Push-A-Thon" at Dodger Stadium for deserving students, their parents, and the general public.

The purpose of this event is to recognize the ten thousand students throughout the Los Angeles area, who have successfully adapted to the principles of Rev. Jackson's PUSH-for-Excellence program. In short these principles for the pupils are...hard work, respect for parents and teachers, character building and discipline.

The importance of this event is truly magnified at the present, a time when drug abuse, teenage pregnancy, school vandalism, and drop out problems are at alarming new levels in many of the schools. Rev. Jackson's PUSH-for-Excellence incentive has already gathered national attention for its spreading of the positives in the conscientiousness among the student population here in Los Angeles, and this event serves to heighten attentions of these efforts on several levels.

Besides recognizing these students who've opted to excel and not to be expelled, the event will also have a portion of its festivities set aside to say a special thank you to the parents of these students, who've shown their support of Rev. Jackson's PUSH-for-Excellence by becoming actively involved.

"Hollywood Hotline": The tragic plane crash death of Gordon Parks Jr. in Nairobi, Kenya brought the 44 year old film director and still photographer the most publicity he has had since he gained fame for directing the famous "Superfly." His other films included "Three the Hard Way," "Tommy and Bushrod," and "Aaron loves Angela." Abiding by an oftexpressed wish to leave some of himself in Africa, his body was cremated and some of the ashes spread over the land there. The rest were returned here. Services were held in Nairobi on Thursday and in NYC on Saturday at the UN Chapel.

Choreographer Alvin Alley has been named winner of the 1979 Capezio Dance Award, a \$1,000 prize established in 1952 by the Capezio Foundation in recognition of significant contributions to the world of dance.

Singer Roberta Flack, a board member of Ailey's American Dance Theatre, will present the award April 23, 1979, at the Library of the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center. Ailey's company opens a three-week spring session, May 2-20 at City Center and will give three premieres.

Roscoe Lee Brown is drawing raves for his role as the neighbor in CBS-TV's new comedy, "Miss Winslow & Son."



Jesse Jackson

Prized Pianist to Perform

Nanette Kaplan, winner of the 1979 Pittsburgh Concert Society auditions, will play a guest piano recital Sunday afternoon, April 29, in Crawford Hall at the North Carolina School of the Arts. The recital will be at 4 p.m. - not in the evening as previously announced - and is open to the public without charge.

Ms. Kaplan's program will include the Mozart Sonata in C Minor (K. 457); the second series from Debussy's "Images"; Samuel Barber's Sonata in E Flat Minor (Op. 26) and a Chopin group of two etudes, the E Flat Nocturne (Op. 5, No. 2) and the Fantasie in F. Minor (Op. 49).

The young pianist received early training at the Juilliard School as a scholarship student in the pre-college division, studying with Edgar Roberts and the late Mme. Rosina Lhevinne. With A.B. and Master of Music degrees from the Yale University School of Music, she is currently completing doctoral studies at Boston University and is assistant professor of music at Slippery Rock State College.

Disco With Shelly Bynum

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