

'Volcano' plods, despite top acting

The following conversation may or may not have taken place:
 Calling Andrew Sarris in New York . . . come in, Andrew Sarris . . .
 "Sarris here. What's the problem?"
 "I've just seen this movie, see, and it almost defies description."
 "Ah! You must be talking about *Under the Volcano*."
 "Yes — and I'm trying to write a review of it. Can you help me?"
 "Sure. How about: 'John Huston's *Under the Volcano* is a masterful melodrama of a stumbling but nevertheless soul-searching inebriate seeking a psychological, albeit pseudo-cerebral, shaking of the hands of sorts with his ex-wife.'"
 "Pseudo-what? Why don't you just say it's about a drunk trying to get back together with his wife?"
 "Silence, boy. I was on a roll. Let's see . . . 'with his ex-wife, who, unbeknownst to him, pines for the same plateau in their racked-with-rancor relationship.' How's that for starters?"
 "Er, OK, I guess. The problem is I'm not too sure I liked the movie."
 "Come again? Huston's directed a number of critically acclaimed movies in his time — classics like *The Maltese Falcon*, *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*, *Key Largo* and *The African Queen*. And you're 'not too sure' you liked his latest movie?"
 "It's just that Huston's direction — in *Volcano*, anyway — is, well, a little on the boring side. Some of the conversations drag. *Volcano*'s messages aren't very coherent."
 "Think so? Then why don't you go watch *Bachelor Party* or something?"
 "Don't get me wrong. *Under the Volcano* is an intelligent film. It's nice to see a director — an American director at that — who's interested in film as art, not film as money."

Ed Brackett

Review

But *Volcano* still lacks punch and vigor. As a whole, it's a little stale, a little dead.
 "To each his own. In any case, the acting is quite superb."
 I agree. If there's any justice, Albert Finney will receive an Oscar nomination for his role as Geoffrey Firmin, the drunkard. Jacqueline Bisset deserves one also for her portrayal of Yvonne, Geoffrey's ex-wife.
 "You said it. Every time she cried, I wanted to console her. That Jackie Bisset is one hot mama!"
 Mr. Sarris!
 "Sorry. Got a little carried away there."
 Alex North's music is good, also. By *orchestrating* his music, he creates a score, not just a soundtrack.
 "Then what's so bad about *Under the Volcano*? It's a faithful adaptation of Malcolm Lowry's 1947 novel, which has attracted a cult following. Huston himself spent some 30 years searching for the definitive screenplay adaptation before he finally decided that Guy Gallo's script was the best."
 I know, I know. But *Under the Volcano* still isn't as good as it could've been. The story, as is, is a bit too plodding, too ponderous. And whatever symbols it employs are, for the most part, dramatically irrelevant though painfully obvious, including the volcano near the Mexican village where Geoffrey lives and the villagers celebrate a Halloween-like Day of the Dead holiday.
 "Hey — you're starting to sound like me. Congratulations."
 Uh . . . thanks, I think.

String ensemble sets high standards

As the first entry in the Carolina Concerts Series, sponsored by the Carolina Union, the string ensemble I Solisti Italiani certainly set a high standard Monday night in Memorial Hall.
 Playing with the kind of consummate artistry that defines the term "virtuoso," the 12-piece orchestra did not even need a conductor as the players effortlessly went through their baroque and classical program.
 Their first piece, Handel's *Concerto Grosso in D minor*, was by far the orchestra's most impressive rendition.

Steve Carr

Review

Aided greatly by the solo and ensemble work of harpsichordist Edoardo Farina, the strings had superb control and intonation, integrating the sound of 12 players into a perfect whole.
 Although the next work was a late piece of classical composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, it clearly showed

baroque influences. The *Adagio and Fugue for Strings* still has a drive and passion foreshadowing Romanticism, and the orchestra played with just the right amount of emotional intensity.
 Without the services of Farina, however, the strings had trouble staying together at some points, and their pitches were not as clear and full-bodied as they had been in the Handel concerto.
 In marked contrast to the *Adagio and Fugue* was the *Divertimento for Strings in D Major*, also by Mozart. This early work is much more typical of the classical period. Its clear melodic lines and deceptively simple tonalities give an aura of grace and formalism, and the orchestra played the piece with just the right touch for its light and airy textures.
 Mendelssohn's *Octet for Strings in E-flat Major* was the latest piece on the program, dating from 1825. Clearly classical in tonality, rhythms, and distinct forms, the octet still posed many technical challenges, over which the group glided effortlessly.
 Despite a few flaws, such as intonation problems and unwanted harmonics, I Solisti Italiani provided as about a perfect a sound as could be heard, either in performance or in a recording.

WEEK'S FARE

TODAY

25 *One From the Heart* will be shown at 7 and 9:30 p.m. in the Union auditorium.
The Freeze and The Time Has Come will be shown at 8:30 p.m. in 106 Carroll. Admission charged.
Fangs Film Festival will feature: *Blood of the Vampire* at 7:30 p.m., *Brides of Dracula* at 9 p.m. and *Dracula A.D. 1922* at 10:30 p.m. at the Artschool. Call 929-2896 for ticket information.
Falasha: Exile of the Black Jews will be shown at 7:30 p.m. at Judea Reform Congregation in Durham. Call 933-0299 for more information.
Saturday Night and Sunday Morning will be shown at 7 and 9:30 p.m. in the Bryan Center film theater at Duke University. Admission charged.
Ring Round the Moon will be performed by the PlayMakers Repertory Company at 8 p.m. through Friday, at 5 and 9 p.m. Saturday and at 2 and 7 p.m. Sunday. Call 962-1121 for ticket information.
Works by William Carlos Williams will be performed by the UNC Readers' Theatre at 8 p.m. in 203 Bingham.
Teahouse of the August Moon will be performed by the Duke Players at 8:15 p.m. through Saturday and at 2:30 p.m. Sunday in Reynolds Theatre at Duke University. Call 684-6285 or 684-4059 for ticket information.
The House of the August Moon will be performed at 8 p.m. through Saturday in Thompson Theatre at N.C. State University. Call 737-2405 for ticket information.
La Cenicientola (Cinderella) will be performed by the San Francisco Western Theatre at 8:15 p.m. in Page Auditorium at Duke University. Call 684-4059 for ticket information.
The UNC Glee Clubs will perform at 7:30 p.m. at Orange High School in Hillsborough.
Photographs from American Medical Botany and a poster exhibit on the history of dentistry will be displayed in the Health Sciences Library through Nov. 1.
Opening New Worlds, a look at the colonization of Rapaunui Island and the astronomy of the times, will be offered by the Morehead Planetarium weekdays at 8 p.m., Saturday at 11 a.m., 1, 3 and 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2, 3 and 8 p.m. through Nov. 19. Call 962-1236 for ticket information.
Chris Stamey will perform at Cat's Cradle. Call 967-9053 for more information.
The Pratie Heads will perform at Rhythm Alley. Call 929-8172 for more information.

The Crafts of Japan: Artisan and Artist will be displayed in the Craft Center Gallery at N.C. State University through Nov. 19. A reception will be held at 5 p.m.
Sky Rambles, a narrated tour of the current night sky, is offered by the Morehead Planetarium at 7 p.m., prior to the regular show. Separate admission charged for each show. Call 962-1236 for ticket information.
Rolly Gray and Sunfire will perform at Cat's Cradle. Call 967-9053 for more information.
The Pressure Boys will perform at Rhythm Alley. Call 929-8172 for more information.
The X-Teens will perform at a Halloween Masquerade Dance at 9 p.m. through Saturday at the Artschool. Call 929-2896 for ticket information.

Phyllis Rappoport will give a piano recital at 8 p.m. in Hill Hall Auditorium.
 The Durham Symphony will perform its annual Mischief Night Pops Concert at 8:15 p.m. in the Durham Civic Center. Call 682-3836 for ticket information.
 The Meat Puppets will perform at Cat's Cradle. Call 967-9053 for more information.
 Battlefield Band will perform at Rhythm Alley. Call 929-8172 for ticket information.

SATURDAY

27 *My Brilliant Career* will be shown at 7 and 9:30 p.m. in the Union auditorium.
 The Duke University Choral and the Duke University Wind Ensemble will perform at 8:45 p.m. in Duke Chapel.
 Southern Culture on the Skids will perform at Cat's Cradle. Call 967-9053 for more information.
 The Blue Grass Experience will perform at Rhythm Alley. Call 929-8172 for more information.
 Suzy Saxon and the Anglos will perform at 10 p.m. at 202 Old Durham Rd. Call 942-2243 for more information.

SUNDAY

28 *Trash* will be shown at 7 and 9:30 p.m. in the Union auditorium.
 The Giampi Quartet will perform at 8:15 p.m. in the Ernest W. Nelson Music Room on the East Campus of Duke University.
 Paintings by Robert Barnard will be displayed in the Art Classroom Studio Building through Nov. 18.
 The Heartfixers will perform through Monday at Cat's Cradle. Call 967-9053 for more information.
 The Two Als will perform as part of the Sunday Jazz Series at the Artschool at 7 p.m. Call 929-2896 for ticket information.
 Contemporary Dell'Arte Costuming in Italy will be the topic of a lecture by Deborah Bell at 1 p.m. at the Artschool.

MONDAY

29 Bill Viola will introduce and show *Hatsu Yume (First Dream)*, *Chou El-Djihad (A Portrait in Light and Heat)*, and other selections of his video work at 8 p.m. in Stewart Theatre at N.C. State University.
 Stephen Kimbrough, baritone, will present a program of hymns by Charles Wesley at 8 p.m. in Duke Chapel.

TUESDAY

30 *Mau Mau* will be shown at 7:30 p.m. in 101 Greenlaw.
Knife in the Water will be shown at 7 and 9:30 p.m. in the Bryan Center film theater at Duke University. Admission charged.

WEDNESDAY

31 *Diabolique* will be shown at 7 and 9:30 p.m. in the Union auditorium.
I Married a Witch will be shown at 7 p.m. at the Chapel Hill Public Library.
 Gumbo Ya Ya will perform at Cat's Cradle. Call 967-9053 for more information.
 The Blazers will perform at Rhythm Alley. Call 929-8172 for more information.

MOVIES

Plaza I—*Thief of Hearts* at 3:15, 5:15, 7:15 and 9:15 moves to Plaza III Friday at same times. *Terror in the Aisles* starts Friday at 3:20, 5:20, 7:30 and 9:30.
 Plaza II—*Teachers* at 2:50, 5, 7:10 and 9:20.
 Plaza III—*Songwriter* at 3 and *Purple Rain* at 5:10, 7:20 and 9:30 end today. *Thief of Hearts* starts Friday at 3:15, 5:15, 7:15 and 9:15.
 Varsity I—*The Bostonians* at 2:30, 4:45, 7 and 9:15. Times change Friday to 2:30, 4:45 and 9:15 only. *Under the Volcano* starts Friday at 7.
 Varsity II—*Under the Volcano* at 2:45, 5, 7:15 and 9:30 moves to Varsity I Friday with one daily show. *The Adventures of Backaroo Banzai* starts Friday at 3, 5, 7:30 and 9:30.
 Varsity Lateshows—*Liquid Sky* and *This is Spinal Tap* at 11:45 Friday and Saturday.
 Carolina Blue—*The Jigsaw Man* at 7:15 and 9:15 ends today. *First Born* starts Friday at 3:15, 5:15, 7:15 and 9:15.
 Carolina White—*The Little Drummer Girl* at 2, 4:30, 7 and 9:30. Times change Friday to 7 and 9:30 only.
 Carolina Classic—*How to Marry a Millionaire* at 3:15 and 5:15 ends today. *To Catch a Thief* starts Friday at 3 and 5.
 Carolina Lateshows—*Dawn of the Dead* at 11:30 and *The Exorcist* at 11:45 Friday and Saturday.
 Ram I—*Places in the Heart* at 7:05 and 9:10 moves to Ram III Friday at same times. *A Soldier's Story* starts Friday at 7 and 9:15; weekend matinees at 2 and 4:15.
 Ram II—*The Razor's Edge* at 7 and 9:25; weekend matinees at 2 and 4:25.
 Ram III—*All of Me* at 7 and 9 ends today. *Places in the Heart* starts Friday at 7:05 and 9:10; weekend matinees at 2:05 and 4:10.
 Ram/WCHL Lateshows—*Dracula* and *Young Frankenstein* at 11:45 Friday and Saturday.
 Carolina (Durham)—*Le Crabe Tambour* at 7 and 9:15 ends today. *Another Country* starts Friday at 7 and 9; weekend matinee at 5.
 Carolina (Durham) Matinee—*Unfaithfully Yours* at 3 ends Friday. *Red River* starts Saturday at 3, extra weekday shows at 5.
 Carolina (Durham) Lateshow—*The Candidate* at 11:30 Friday and Saturday.

Compiled by Jeff Grove, arts editor.

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Friday, November 2
 10:20 and 11:30 a.m. JAZZ CLINICS by visiting Italian jazz artists Mary Duke Biddle Building, Rehearsal Hall \$2 General Admission — Duke Undergrads Free
 7-9 and 9-11 p.m. AN EVENING OF JAZZ: Franco D'Andrea, Piano; Giovanni Tommaso, Bass; Roberto Gallo, Drums King's Club, \$6 General Admission — \$3 with Festival Package RESERVATIONS: 493-1414/968-4900 Ext. 4

Saturday, November 3
 8:15 p.m. ART BLAKEY AND THE JAZZ MESSENGERS in concert with the Duke Jazz Ensemble, Page Auditorium — \$8 General Admission — \$7 Students.

Sunday, November 4
 10:35 a.m. ALL SAINTS SUNDAY Celebration with Duke Chapel (St. Stephen's Altar, Uif.) and the Duke Jazz Ensemble (Paul Jeffrey, Dir.) Duke Chapel — FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.
 2-4:30 p.m. JAZZ ON THE QUAD with Italian and American Jazz Artists and Duke Jazz Ensemble Main Residential Quad, West Campus (Rain Site: Bryan Center Film Theater) Reserved Seating: \$3 General Admission — \$2 Students
 7-9 and 9-11 p.m. AN EVENING OF JAZZ (See Above Listing) TICKETS ON SALE AT PAGE BOX OFFICE, FESTIVAL PACKAGES: \$10 — MORE INFORMATION: 684-4454, 684-4059

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