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VIDEO SPOTLIGHT: 'Glory'

By **DON ATKINSON JR.**

"Glory," starring Matthew Broderick and Denzel Washington, is without a doubt one of the finest films available on video in 1990.

Set during the Civil War years of 1862-1863, "Glory" chronicles the creation of the first black fighting unit, the 54th Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. The story is largely seen through the eyes of commanding officer Col. Robert Gould Shaw (Broderick).

Shaw, the son of wealthy parents and an abolitionist, gets his first taste of war during the bloody and indecisive Battle of Antietam. Disillusioned, he returns home a hero and is promptly offered command of the 54th, a yet-unformed regiment.

Although he lacks command experience, 25-year-old Shaw is full of idealism and he struggles endlessly with his new position.

He makes many mistakes but never gives up.

His unit, the 54th, is made up largely of runaway slaves and newly-freed blacks with total membership eventually reaching 1,000.

Among the soldiers are Trip (Washington) and Rawlins (Morgan Freeman). Although both are runaway slaves, they share little in common. Trip is full of hatred towards the world, whereas Rawlins is a gently but strong-willed man.

Aside from being a much-needed history lesson, "Glory" is much more.

The film shows the importance of human dignity. To the soldiers of the 54th, dignity was so important that they were willing to die for it. By volunteering to fight and die, they showed a largely racist society that they deserved respect.

The 54th Regiment eventually proved its battle-worthiness during an attack on Fort Wagner in South Carolina. Because of the valor shown, the Union Army opened enlistment to more than 180,000 blacks. President Abraham Lincoln later credited the black fighting units with being decisive factors in helping the union with the war.

During the climactic final assault on Fort Wagner, the soldiers finally received the dignity they had so long been denied.

Winner of three Academy Awards, "Glory" is truly an exceptional film. With the exception of one historical goof (soldiers were not allowed to be flogged at the time), "Glory" is accurate in every detail.

Featuring a strong message as well as a powerfully dramatic storyline, "Glory" is definitely worth renting.

Grade: A
Video Courtesy of 2-Day Video

Pianist keys up for chamber series' opener

By **RUDY CORDOVA JR.**

The sound of music will be in the air tonight as the University Chamber Series presents its first concert of the year. Lori Sims in her Bryan-College Station debut will perform a program of works by Mozart, Schumann, Brahms and Samuel Barber.

Sims, a winner of numerous competitions including the Kosciusko Foundation Chopin Competition, is a graduate of Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore and a graduate student at Yale University. Originally from Denver, Colorado, she has pursued her goal of becoming a world-famous pianist since she first began to play the piano.

"I started out listening to my parents play the piano," Sims says, "and they began to teach me as they saw my interest in piano grow."

Sims has studied with many of America's most notable teachers including Leon Fleisher, Claude Frank, Daniel Pollack and Larry Graham. Last year she won the Concerto Competition Award for first-year recital at Yale. "Private recitals are something I used to do for family and friends," she says.

Sims has learned what it takes to be a performer through the 18 years she has endured in studying the art of music. "I feel I'm a temperamental person," Sims says, "but you have to have a certain professionalism when you become an artist."

Her professionalism extends to her opinions about the age of recording. Live performance has lost much of its popularity since the onset of audiotechnological inventions.

"Nowadays, everything can be mechanically manipulated," she says. "Don't get me wrong, it has its place, but it can't show human emotions, which is what art is all about."

Like other female artists, Sims has had to deal with the problem of gender. Of the well-known pianists of the world, very few women top the list.

"There is a certain stigma that women could only play certain repertoire," Sims says.

When asked if there was anything she could not handle, she confidently replies, "No."

The University Chamber Series is a part of the Music Program and sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts and the Department of Philosophy and Humanities.



Lori Sims

Their 1990-91 season will present six concerts including Sims' performance which is presented in association with the Bryan-College Station Music Teachers Association.

"The University Chamber Series presents opportunity to students so that people can appreciate the contribution of the great masters," Dr. Daniel Fallon, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, says.

"We have some of the best students in the state," Fallon says. "Many have studied music, but the cultural opportunities have not been well developed."

"If you hope to have a broad education, you can't do it without some kind of fine arts," Fallon says. "Within a year or two, we hope to offer a minor in music."

Tonight's concert begins at 8:00 in the Rudder Theatre. Tickets are available at the MSC Box Office and Foley's. Individual tickets are \$5 for students and senior citizens and \$8 for adults. Series tickets for all concerts start at \$20. For more information dial 846-3355.

'Old Army' exhibit salutes Corps in MSC gallery

By **RUDY CORDOVA JR.**

The MSC Visual Arts Committee is just one way that Texas A&M students can explore their interests in the arts. Beginning today, Visual Arts will present "Old Army," a collection of works on paper by Timothy Vanya.

A native of Texas, Vanya is a graduate of the University of Houston, and a veteran police officer with the Houston Police Department. He brings his work to Texas A&M in an effort to capture student life on campus. This

first exhibit will highlight the Corps of Cadets and their contribution to the university.

Vanya is a member of the Houston and Pasadena Gulf Coast Art Leagues and has recently been accepted by the Archway Gallery in Houston. By firmly establishing the past, Vanya hopes to search for the future.

Joe Fenton, Visual Arts adviser, says "Timothy is a very likable, down-to-earth person with a lot of talent."

"Old Army" is an exhibit in pencil drawings. "If you can't draw, you can't be a great artist," Fenton says. "Pencil drawings are a cleanliness and freshness that's real, instead of being covered up by charcoal and paint," he adds.

"Old Army" will be on display at the Visual Arts Gallery through October 31. The gallery is located on the first floor of the MSC.

A reception honoring Timothy Vanya will be held Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. outside the Visual Arts Gallery. Vanya will be present at the reception and every Saturday in October to visit with the public.

The Visual Arts is looking forward to an exciting year with 11 major exhibits and one juried student show. Their theme for the year is "something for everyone."

They hope to satisfy everyone's interest in the visual arts with a variety of displays. "We want for the visual arts what OPAS has done for the performing arts," Fenton says.

With 210 active members, the committee hopes to inform, educate and entertain through visual arts. As well as being artists, the students serve as tour guides for the Forsyth Galleries. Through the 1990 Fall "Art Lesson/Appreciation Project" they wish to promote the art of drawing and an appreciation for the visual arts.

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