Tuesday,

John

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have

'The Ref'

Continued from Page 3

Chasseurs' upscale, suburban home where Gus tracks down his crime partner. While Murray finds a way out of the city, Gus referees the obnoxious couple's abuse of one another while dodging a search party and a curfew enforced by the stereotypical, doltish police squad.

It doesn't take long for Gus to decide that Hell and prison don't look so bad compared to the intolerable ranting and raving of the Chasseurs.

Their corrupt teen-age son, Jesse (Robert J. Steinmiller Jr.), returns home for the holidays

from a military school and appears to be well on his way to becoming his parents. The hellion has been blackmailing one of his superiors at the school and plans to run away with his earnings.

A holiday visit from their stuffy Boston relatives further complicates the evening. The entertaining holiday reunion is far worse than any family Christmas gathering could ever be. Gus is right — this family needs a mute button.

Gus creatively handles the holiday hostages with amusing results. However unlikely it may seem, he becomes marriage counselor to the Chasseurs during Christmas Eve dinner one of the film's funnier scenes - and gives advice to the

Rapid-fire, comedic insults pepper the film's dialogue and partially redeem the predictable plot. Unfortunately, the weakness of the plot makes "The Ref" drag from time to time. "The Ref's" lively dialogue saves it from being too reminiscent of any number of "marriage on the

As the family Christmas

Exceptional performances by

Leary and Davis carry the film.

gathering wears on inside, the

search heats up outside.

rocks" films. Viewers hoping to see Leary as the loud, foul-mouthed, chain-smoking comedian, won't be disappointed. And as far as comedies about crumbling marriages go, "The Ref" features better acting, better writing and louder screaming than most

'Loser'

Continued from Page 3

teresting. In fact, songwriting is a philosophy for Beck.

He explains it this way: "I think everybody should turn off their TV machines and make up their own songs about whatever comes to mind — their couch, their friends, their loaves of bread. Everybody's got their own

songs.
"There should be so many songs out there that it all turns into one big sound and we can put the whole thing into a pickup truck and let it roll off the edge of the Grand Canyon.

And write about just anything that comes to mind is exactly what Beck does.

Songs such as "F---in with My ead," "Soul Suckin Jerk" and Truckdrivin Neighbors Downstairs" seem rather superficially random. However, they actually provide a snapshot of his life everything from being homeless in big cities to tolerating minimum wage jobs.

Another of Beck's strong points is that he can temper his experimental nature. Unlike many al-



Beck, a 23-year-old songwriter/performer from Los Angeles, h found success with his song "Loser." Beck describes his musical "folk noise" and his album, "Mellow Gold," showcases this unique

ternative artists, he pushes the edge of the envelope, but does not rip it open.

Songs such as "Beercan," "Steal My Body Home" and "Mutherf-er" serve to highlight this restraint. He manages to integrate unconventional sounds and devices into his music in a meaningful manner.

Who knows, maybe Becki just another street musician turned one-hit wonder. Hopeful ly not, though, because he is: talented musician and an ever more talented writer. And more importantly, Beck relays his musical message without annoying or alienating his audience. A rarin these days.

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The final stages of preparation



Stephen Cook and Roberto Gallo spray an Do, I Do" which is to open Thursday at 8 p.m. acrylic finish on the floor of Rudder Theater. The and will run through Saturday. For more info floor was painted to prepare for the the play "I call 845-1234.

Spielberg

Continued from Page 3

stood trembling and shaking after being handed her statuette, then rushed through a series of "thank you." She is the youngest Oscar winner since 10-yearold Tatum O'Neal won in the same category for "Paper Moon" 20 years ago.

The favorites for supporting actress this year had been Winona Ryder ("The Age of Innocence") and Rosie Perez ("Fearless")

Jones, his head shiny and his face ebullient, came to the stage and cracked, "The only thing I can say at a time like this it is that I'm not really bald. I'm happy to be working." It is to be working." He had shaved his head for a movie role as baseball great Ty Cobb.

Among those Jones defeated was Ralph Fiennes, the brutal concentration camp commander in Rock star Bruce Springsteen won the best song

award for his haunting "Streets of Philadelphia" from the movie "Philadelphia."

This is the first song I ever wrote for a motion picture; I guess it's all downhill from here," Springsteen joked as he accepted the award.

"Mrs. Doubtfire," starring Robin Williams as a reected husband who disguises himself as a nanny to be near his children, won for best makeup. "The Age

of Innocence" was cited for costume design. Spain's "Belle Epoque," a sexy romp in the 1931 pre-Franco era, was an underdog winner as best foreign language film..

The ceremonies were held at the Dorothy Chandle Pavilion a day after a strong aftershock to the Jan. 17 Northridge quake shook the auditorium but left no apparent damage.

Host Whoopi Goldberg, succeeding Billy Crystal who declined to return after four years, peppered be remarks with raunchy humor that drew laughter and some gasps from the star-studded audience. 'So they went and gave me a live microphone for three hours. There haven't been so many show business executives sweating and so nervous over one

woman since Heidi Fleiss," Goldberg said in her

opening monologue, referring to the alleged Holly-

wood madam who claimed to have a book of movie executive and celebrities who were her clients. Oscar presenters included past winners Anthony Hopkins, Al Pacino, Gene Hackman, Clint Eastwood Geena Davis, Goldie Hawn, Jeremy Irons and Emma Thompson, as well as Tom Cruise, Nicole Kidman, Glenn Close, Eli, h Wood, Johnny Depp, Jeff Bridge

and Alec Baldwin.

