

Monday  
August 4, 1995

## Suave sequel

Rodriguez brings *El Mariachi* magic to first major feature

**MOVIE REVIEW**

**Desperado**  
Starring Antonio Banderas, Joaquim De Almeida and Salma Hayek  
Directed by Robert Rodriguez  
Rated R  
Playing at Hollywood 16  
\*\*\* (out of five)

The war between El Mariachi and Bucho continues until the two finally confront each other in an exciting showdown with a surprising twist.

*Desperado* is Rodriguez's first shot at big-time film, and he makes a respectable debut. His cinematography focuses heavily on the face and emotions of the characters.

Banderas is believable in the title role. He does a good job playing the musician as part-loner and part-romantic, dancing across the line with good balance.

De Almeida and Hayek turn in solid supporting performances, and comes from director Quentin Tarantino and Cheech Marin make the film a little more enjoyable.

The film's strength lies in its over-the-top action sequences with Banderas as the trigger man. He's smooth and brash, going in with guns blazing.

However, the film slides when Rodriguez shifts to a more contemplative, romantic film. The romance between Carolina and El Mariachi could have been left out, and more attention should have been paid to the animosity between Bucho and El Mariachi.

Overall, *Desperado* is a solid follow-up to the first film. Rodriguez is a bit unpolished but still talented enough to overcome the film's shortcomings and present a suave action film.

*Desperado* is a bit of a surprise — a high-budget sequel that delivers the goods. Director Robert Rodriguez's answer to his acclaimed *El Mariachi* features Antonio Banderas in the lead role. He plays a former musician-turned-gunfighter whose legend is just as powerful as the arsenal he carries in his rear case.

This time El Mariachi is back to settle the score against Bucho (Joaquim De Almeida), the drug lord who was responsible for killing the musician's girlfriend in the first film. El Mariachi is out for revenge, and he won't stop until he puts a bullet through Bucho's head.

His search takes him to a small Mexican village where Bucho uses the town people as couriers for his drug business.

He immediately makes an impact when he is looking for Bucho in a local bar and finds himself in the middle of a bloodbath with the drug lord's henchmen.

El Mariachi's revenge quest gets the attention of his prey, and Bucho starts to fight back, sending this cronies all over the city to fight the vigilante. Meanwhile, El Mariachi finds himself falling in love with Carolina (Salma Hayek), a local shop owner who also runs drugs for Bucho.

## Rangoon explores dark side

By Wes Swift  
THE BATTALION

In 1988, the world knew little of the Asian nation of Burma that lay beyond Rangoon, the nation's capital.

Now with the new John Boorman film, *Beyond Rangoon*, we know more. The problem is the story doesn't really make us care.

**MOVIE REVIEW**

**Beyond Rangoon**  
Starring Patricia Arquette and U Aung Ko  
Directed by John Boorman  
Rated R  
Playing at Hollywood 16  
\*\* (out of five)

*Beyond Rangoon* chronicles the struggle for democracy of the small Asian nation. The film also follows the tale of Laura Bowman — Patricia Arquette — an American tourist searching for a new beginning after her life is destroyed when her family is murdered.

Touring Burma with her sister, Bowman gets caught up in the Burmese democratic movement. She befriends Aung Ko, a political exile and former professor at Rangoon University, who takes her off the tourist track and into the real Burmese countryside.

Ko shows Bowman the darker side of Burma, where the military dictatorship guns down all opposition and keeps the rest of the world out.

Bowman's life with the Burmese protesters lands her on a raft flowing down a river with Ko, who is suffering from a gunshot wound. While keeping her friend alive, Bowman tries to find a way to escape the hell she has found.

With such a promising plot, *Beyond Rangoon* is amazingly hollow. The characters, whose constant suffering should scream for sympathy, don't get any from viewers. The characters simply walk through a poorly-developed plot like cardboard cut-outs.

The acting is average. Arquette is surprisingly good in her latest dramatic role. U Aung Ko, a Burmese political activist, plays his namesake with a special fervor. He is the one bright spot in the drab movie.

But Ko's performance cannot



Patricia Arquette plays a tourist in Burma who gets caught up in the country's struggle for democracy.

save a film with a story that just does not work.

The plot jumps around, leaving huge holes in the storyline that seriously damage the story. The story leaps from Laura's difficulty dealing with the loss of her family to her dive into the pro-democracy rally in *Rangoon*. The audience doesn't know Bowman's motivations for getting wrapped up in the rebels' fight. The movie doesn't

show how much the Burmese people are suffering, and the audience doesn't care because of it.

It's a shame that Boorman didn't do more with such a potentially riveting story. He could have explored the emotions and suffering and made it a truly glorious production.

Instead, we get a watered-down attempt at sincerity at best and a flimsy film at worst.

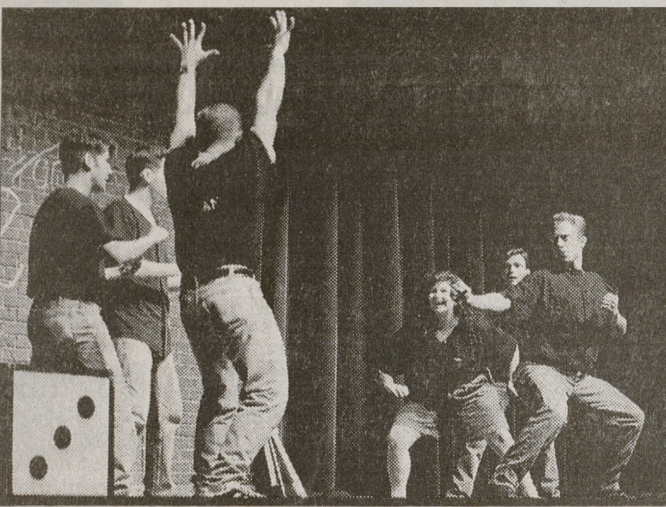
## Cho brings semester's first dose of comedy



Town Hall brought comedienne Margaret Cho (left) to Rudder Theater Friday night. Cho was suffering from throat difficulties and spent hours sitting over a humidifier before the show, but she performed for over an hour to a crowd of 1,057.

Cho made light of the cancellation of her show, *All-American Girl*, but candidly admitted that it was hard to deal with. Alpha Phi Alpha is working with Town Hall to bring another comedy show this semester.

Freudian Slip (below), the Aggie Players' impromptu comedy team, opened the show with a brief performance. The group will have its first full performance of the semester this Friday.



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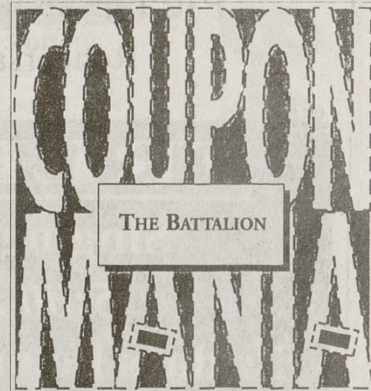
**INFECTED WOUND STUDY**

VIP Research is seeking individuals with infected cuts, scrapes, or sutured wounds for a 3-week research study of an investigational antibiomatic cream. Qualified participants will receive free study medication, study supplies and medical exams. \$100 will be paid to qualified volunteers to enroll and complete this study.

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Every Tuesday  
and Wednesday