

Elliot Fisk

Famed Guitarists comes to A&M to promote classical music styles



BY KELLY PREISER
The Battalion

Elliot Fisk is a guitarist with a mission: to introduce audiences to classical music. This Sunday, Fisk will bring his talents to Texas A&M, giving Aggies a chance to learn about the art form that is his passion.

Fisk has performed at schools, juvenile detention centers, prisons and hospitals in order to accomplish his goal.

"I'm obsessed with this idea of trying to broaden the appeal [of classical music]," he said in an interview with *The New York Times*. "My skills are such that I can make a difference, and one of my frustrations is that I cannot put those skills to use as often as I like."

MSC Opera and Performing Arts Society (OPAS) designed the Intimate Gatherings series for performances like Fisk's, which are meant to bring the audience and the music closer with the help of the cozy

atmosphere of Rudder Theatre, which holds only about 750 people. Audience members also have the opportunity to get personal with the performers in an open discussion after the show.

Fisk now performs solo and acoustically, but has played collaboratively with a wide range of musicians including a flamenco guitarist and a castanet player. Critics say Fisk has brought an entirely new dimension to classical guitar performance, such as his rendition of Luciano Berio's "Sequenza XI."

"Intimate Gatherings is a series that we [OPAS] put together to bring music to the students and community in a more personal environment where the music, performances and performers would be both enjoyable and educational," said Jeremy Byrd, vice president of OPAS and a senior psychology major.

Andres Segovia, considered by modern scholars to be the father of classical guitar, coached Fisk privately for several years.

Segovia wrote in 1981, "I consider Elliot Fisk as one of the most brilliant, intelligent, and gifted young musical artists of our time, not only among guitarists, but in all the general field of instrumentalists."

Byrd said Fisk's performance should be appealing to all audiences.

"I know that anyone who has an interest in guitar, classical music or music in

general would love to be in the audience when Elliot comes to A&M. His program has drawn huge crowds, and it will be both an awesome concert and learning experience," Byrd said.

Elliot Fisk's performance in the Intimate Gatherings series will be Sunday at 2 p.m. Ticket prices are available at the MSC Box Office.

Tickets On Sale NOW AT MSC Box Office:

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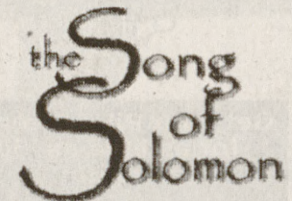
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REEL CRITIQUE

MOVIE REVIEWS

The Beach

Starring: Leonardo DiCaprio and Robert Carlyle
Directed by: Danny Boyle

Continuing Hollywood's recent trend of tackling dark subjects in modern culture with big stars and budgets, *The Beach* is a compelling film which exhibits more depth and plot than the trailers let on.

Richard (DiCaprio), a young American in Thailand, is an adventurer in search of something different. While in Bangkok he meets the intriguing Daffy, (Carlyle) who tells him of a secret beach where the adventure is real.

Feeling that this is what he has been looking for, Richard convinces a young French couple who is also staying at the hotel to go with him on his journey. The three embark on a trip — a trip which takes Richard to many places, some of which he could never imagine, others which he would never want to visit again.

The story is at times clearly a fantasy, yet it closely parallels a world which we can all relate to. Funny and dramatic, *The Beach* is above all a scathing commentary about modern man's existence and the eternal search for a utopia which cannot exist.

Director Boyle (*Trainspotting*) brings a driving intensity to the story, using beautiful cinematography and exotic settings to propel the movie. Taking his characteristic bold risks to a mainstream Hollywood production, Boyle always makes the viewer feel exactly what he wants them to feel, even if it isn't good.

DiCaprio may have received \$20 million for this



PHOTO COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY FOX
(L to R): Etienne (Guillaume Canet) and Francoise (Virginie Ledoyen) watch Richard (DiCaprio) burn a map, which is incomprehensible, but that guy can really act. Demonstrating his contempt for playing it safe with films, DiCaprio plays the tragically flawed hero Richard with such skill that an audience is not sure whether they want to cheer for his character or wish him the worst.

Light and dark, hilarious and disturbing, *The Beach* is

— Matt McCormick

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