

AGGIElife

THE BATTALION

Quiet on set!

Current Event

OPAS



REEL CRITIQUE

MOVIE REVIEWS

Men of Honor

Starring Cuba Gooding, Jr.
and Robert DeNiro
Directed George Tillman, Jr.

Men of Honor, based on the life of Navy diving legend Carl Brashear, is a surprisingly powerful film, considering it covers familiar ground. How often have audiences seen a film about a man who is deprived of rights but will not give up?

That is the plot of this film. Brashear (Gooding) beat all the odds to become the first African-American diver in Navy history, and this film chronicles his struggles. The first half of the film is similar to the fictional *G.I. Jane*, as Brashear is the target of discrimination during his training.

Brashear even has a set of barracks all to himself, just like Demi Moore's character.

This movie is based on true accounts, but one

cannot help but think of this film in terms of the clichés on which it relies so heavily — the bigoted men whose minds are changed by uncommon valor, the hard-nosed but likeable commander.

But credit director Tillman (*Soul Food*) for his casting and direction. Somehow, each challenge presented to Brashear does seem grueling.

Tillman avoids camera tricks, letting the actors carry the movie.

Gooding delivers a mesmerizing performance. His posture, expressions, the manner in which he speaks — all ring true.

DeNiro's character is a composite of several actual people in Brashear's life, and it shows.

His character is as two-dimensional as they come, but DeNiro finds the man's heart in this pile of rubbish and manages to make his character seem human. (Grade: B-)

— Matt McCormick

Footloose

OPAS brings Broadway musicals and children's programs to B-CS

By Rachel Landry

The 2000 season of the MSC Opera and Performing Art Society (OPAS) has already begun and members are hoping it will be as popular as ever.

OPAS members said this year's theme, "A Season for all Ages," will hopefully attract larger and younger crowds to the performances at A&M. The current show on OPAS' main stage is the musical *Footloose*, the story of a boy and his mother who move to the small town of Bomont.

Footloose's musical soundtrack includes several hits like "Let's Hear it for the Boy," and the show has been one of Broadway's most popular.

A few of the highlights of this season are the Boys Choir of Harlem in December, *Jekyll and Hyde* in January and *Peter Pan* in February.

Jeremy Byrd, OPAS chairman, said the Broadway shows should draw large crowds.

OPAS also has a children's program called OPAS Jr., which featured a production of *Amelia Bedelia* Oct. 8 at Rudder Theater. *Amelia Bedelia* is based on the children's books. The performance was very popular, boasting two sold-out performances.

Allison Diertert, director of OPAS Jr. and a junior agriculture economics major, said OPAS Jr. also does community outreach. OPAS Jr. visits Boys

and Girls Clubs and the North Bryan Community Center to teach children about all types of art.

OPAS Jr. also puts on school performances for Bryan-College Station children in the third through sixth grades. The children are bused to A&M to see the shows during the school day.

Diertert said that, later in the season, the show *Bugs and Balloons* will come to Rudder Theater, as well as a version of *Cinderella* performed by puppets with life-size puppets.

Last year, OPAS started a new program called Intimate Gatherings, which brings varieties of music to the community that would not normally come

to A&M due to high booking costs.

"We wanted to have a series of music in a smaller setting in a theater," Byrd said. "It's not just classical music; we have a variety of entertainers."

After the show is over, the audience can interact with the entertainers.

The next Intimate Gathering will showcase Daniel Heifetz and the Classical Band. Diertert said that Heifetz is a multitiered entertainer who will have a great show.

Bobbie Eftekhar, a junior psychology major, said many people enjoy the

Intimate Gatherings. She said she thinks OPAS will have a good season this year.

"I think it's going to be a really good season," Eftekhar said. "*Peter Pan* will be cool, and I'm looking forward to *Footloose*."

Eftekhar said OPAS' performances bring in a variety of people. She estimated the attendance at shows to be about half students and half older adults. Eftekhar said the "big name" shows, such as musicals and ballet, are usually popular.

Kevin Edwards, a sophomore computer science major, said he has been to several OPAS shows.

"I enjoy the broad variety that OPAS brings to the A&M campus and the cultural enrichment that it brings," Edwards said. "Last year, my favorite show was *Romeo and Juliet*. It was really good. This year, I'm going to see *Peter Pan*, *Footloose* and *Aeros*. But, I'm thoroughly looking forward to *Peter Pan*."

Tickets for any OPAS event can be obtained through the MSC box office or by calling 845-1234.

Upcoming Event



Peter Pan

CRAFTMASTERS' MALL
"AN ARTIST AND CRAFTSMAN'S GALLERY"

Over 170 Booths of Handcrafted Items

AGGIE BANNERS • FLAGS
AND HOLIDAY ITEMS

GIG EM AGGIES! **BEAT THE HELL OUTTA OKLAHOMA!**

Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Thurs. til 8 p.m.
Sun. 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Stop by and get that perfect gift for any occasion.

1857 Briarcrest Drive, Bryan • (979)776-0870

CATHOLIC BOOKS & GIFTS

Come check out our new location!

10% OFF

any item • one coupon per person • exp. 11/30/00

Catholic Books & Gifts
4413 S. Texas Ave.
268-0644
4413 S. Texas Ave.
Open: Mon. - Sat.

VICTOR'S
QUALITY MENS & LADIES BOOT & SHOE REPAIR

Custom Hand Made
Aggie Senior Boots

www.seniorboots.com

For more information on
Senior Boots price and warranty
(updated information as of 9/21/00)

3601 Texas Ave. (at Dunn), Bryan
1 mile north of University Intersection

Serving Aggie's Since 1966 **846-4114**

Hours Mon.-Fri. 8-6:30 Sat. 9-3

"I'm an Aggie..."

"I'm an Aggie..."

"We're all Aggies..."

...and there are over 2,500 students just like us at Texas A&M.

Veteran • Over 24 years of age • Aggies with Kids • Married

Non-Traditional Student Appreciation Week

STUDENT LIFE

LEARN TO **FLY NOW** AT UNITED FLIGHT SYSTEMS

Easily awarded student loans now available. You can learn to fly for as little as \$50.00 per month. Located next to campus at Easterwood Airport.

Discount Discovery Flight (with presentation of coupon)

- Student Loans
- Aviation Career Tracks
- Private thru advanced training
- Aircraft rental, Pilot Shop
- F.A.A. approved 141 school
- VA Eligible Benefits

United Flight Systems, Inc.
Easterwood Airport
College Station, TX
409 260-6322

FRIDAY

50¢ WELLS

\$1.00 YOU CALL IT'S 'till 11 pm

OUTER LIMITS @ **CHARLEY'S**

701 University Dr. 691-0484

The Texas A&M University Student Media Board is accepting applications for

Editor THE BATTALION
— Including radio and online editions —
Spring 2001
(The spring editor will serve from Jan. 8 through May 11, 2001)

Qualifications for editor in chief of *The Battalion* are:

- Be a Texas A&M student in good standing with the University and enrolled in at least six credit hours (4 if a graduate student) during the term of office (unless fewer credits are required to graduate);
- Have at least a 2.00 cumulative grade point ratio (3.00 if a graduate student) and at least a 2.00 grade point ratio (3.00 if a graduate student) in the semester immediately prior to the appointment, the semester of appointment and semester during the term of office. In order for this provision to be met, at least six hours (4 if a graduate student) must have been taken for that semester;
- Have completed JOUR 301 (Mass Communication, Law and Society), or equivalent;
- Have at least one year experience in a responsible editorial position on *The Battalion* or comparable daily college newspaper, — OR —
- Have at least one year editorial experience on a commercial newspaper, — OR —
- Have completed at least 12 hours journalism, including JOUR 203 and 303 (Media Writing I and II), and JOUR 304 (Editing for the Mass Media), or equivalent.

Application forms should be picked up and returned to Francia Cagle, Student Media business coordinator, in room 014A Reed McDonald Building. Deadline for submitting application: noon Friday, November 17, 2000. Applicants will be interviewed during the Student Media Board Meeting beginning at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 21, in room 221F Reed McDonald.

An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer Committed to Diversity.