

Outlook on Lifestyle



VIDEO BEAT

Tuning in to rock

Ethlie Ann Vare

He's a home-grown success

By Ethlie Ann Vare

In his songs and videos, Midwesterner Henry Lee Summer comes across like a big, friendly puppy-dog of a guy. In his live performances, he's even more effusive: He rushes out into the audience and insists that people jump up and down and have a good time.

In person, this overnight success (after 17 years in the business, like

most "overnight" successes) is every bit as unassuming as he is in the video for "Wish I Had a Girl."

"I'm not a rock star," says the tall, gangly Summer. "I'm not a sex symbol. And I'll never be the next Bob Dylan. I'm the class clown, and all I want is for people to have a good time."

"I party for a living," he smiles. "I'm gonna have the most fun of the

whole day up there on stage. I know this is a cliché, but I'm getting paid for doing something I'd do for free."

The 33-year-old singer/songwriter was raised on the outskirts of Brazil, Ind. — a scene straight out of the movie "Hoosiers," he says. In his church, women weren't allowed to wear jewelry, dancing was verboten, and boys and girls couldn't swim in the same pool. Obviously, rock 'n' roll was an outrage.

Summer shares his heartland-rebel background with artists like John Cougar Mellencamp, to whom he's often compared musically. But rather

than comment lyrically on the despair of a middle America that's seeing its dreams slip away, Summer's message is "Whatever you dream, go

for it and make it a reality."

"You don't have to be the most talented person or the most intellectual person or the prettiest person," says Summer, citing himself as an example of "normal and average." "It's just a matter of going out and saying 'This is what I'm going to do.'"

Summer is a stick-to-his-guns fellow altogether. When he started doing videos, he insisted that he would utilize no scantily clad women in his clips, would not do dance routines, would wear no makeup, and would dress in his own clothes thank-you-very-much. So far, the ground rules have worked in his favor.

He also refuses to commercially exploit his songs, an unusual attitude in an era when beer commercial music is hitting the Top 10. In fact, Summer recently turned down \$40,000 to sing a beer commercial. He refused even to consider a \$250,000 tour support offer from a maker of alcoholic beverages.

a promo for the upcoming movie "Iron Eagle II," to which he contributed a sound-track number. That project acquainted him with producer Mike Chapman (Pat Benatar, Patty Smythe), who will helm Summer's next album.

"All I know is, I got lucky," says Summer of his new-found fame. "I remember when the album came out, I thought if it could just sell 100,000 copies, they'd want me to do another record."

"It's up to about 475,000 now, almost gold. But the same album could have come out at a different time, and not done a thing. I got lucky. But I'll take it!"

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Henry Lee Summer

"I'm on the task force for Just Say No to Drugs," says Summer. "I couldn't be sponsored by a beer company. And I'm real glad somebody offered me big money so that I could turn it down and prove that I was serious."

If Henry Lee Summer ever does end up on a TV commercial, it will be

Jodie Foster shines in 'The Accused'

FILMETER



ROBERT DIMATTEO

By Robert DiMatteo

In Movie Theaters

THE ACCUSED (R) A superb performance by Jodie Foster ignites this fact-based account of a young woman who is gang-raped in a bar. As played by Foster, the woman is a complex creature. Hardly your typical movie victim, she's a rootless low-life — a pot-smoking, heavy-drinking waitress who lives in a trailer with her lay-about musician boyfriend. She favors tight blouses, skimpy miniskirts and a surly, teasing attitude. Led by Foster's fierce and brazen performance, the movie makes the point that no one could ever deserve to be raped, that there is all the difference in the world between being sexually flirtatious — even promiscuous — and having men violently force themselves on you.

The movie also makes another point — that the three men who checked on the rapists were guilty of a crime, too. Initially, Foster's yuppie attorney (Kelly McGillis) plea-bargains to get a reduced sentence for the rapists, suspecting that Foster would fare poorly in court.irate, and feeling betrayed, Foster shames her lawyer into pursuing the case further, charging those who witnessed the rape with criminal solicitation.

The movie is basically the illustration of these two points. Written by Tom Topor, who scripted the courtroom drama "Nuts," it's a little thin — an issue-of-the-week movie of the sort that TV handles better. Director Jonathan Kaplan ("Heart Like a Wheel") seems visually stymied. He also fails to get an interesting performance from Kelly McGillis in an admittedly limited role.

The faint-hearted should know that the movie includes a graphic recreation of the events leading up to and in-

cluding the rape. Rather than being exploitative, this is a canny way for the film to implicate us in the case. We watch as Foster flirts and cavorts that night in the bar, and we cringe in horror as we see that this sexual play is being interpreted as "asking for it." **GRADE: ★★★**

WITHOUT A CLUE (PG) Some things would seem foolproof — this revisionist view of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson starring Michael Caine and Ben Kingsley among them. But, after setting up a potentially clever situation, the movie turns out to be a mirthless dud.

The gimmick of Gary Murphy and Larry Strawther's script is that Watson (Kingsley) is the real sleuth mastermind of the duo. To guard his reputation as a doctor, he has hired a lowly actor (Caine) to enact the character of Holmes, and thus take credit for solving the cases.

Once the movie sets up this inverted relationship, it settles for being no more than a slightly comic version of a typical Sherlock Holmes mystery. Very slightly comic. Caine gives one of his rare mediocre performances, and the twinkly eyed Kingsley conveys more effort than fun. Viewers who long to see a witty take-off on the Holmes tales would do well to keep an eye out for the 1976 "Seven Percent Solution" instead. **GRADE: ★½**

BAT 21 (R) In this engrossing little Vietnam War drama, Gene Hackman stars as a 53-year-old, retirement-oriented Air Force career officer who is called off the golf course one day to

helm a reconnaissance mission. shot down and left stranded in an area that is soon to be the location of an American bombing effort, Hackman hides out in the jungle while a dedicated pilot (Danny Glover) tries to rescue him.

Essentially, the movie is one more war rescue drama, but it's crisply directed, and it knows enough to stay close to its two central characters — building feeling through the performances of the two lead actors. The men don't meet until near the end of the picture, but they communicate by radio code — in golf terminology — and we feel their growing bond. **GRADE: ★★★**

New Home Video

DA (PG) Virgin, \$79.95. This adaptation of Hugh Leonard's Broadway hit is best regarded as a way to see Bernard Hughes recreate his Tony-winning performance. Hughes plays a sly old Irish coddler whose death catalyzes the memories of his New York playwright son (Martin Sheen).

Moving back and forth in time, the movie is full of bittersweet insights about father-son relationships, life, love, death, the whole shebang. It comes across rather synthetically on the screen. In a role that is all reaction, Sheen can be flatly earnest. But there are fluid, lyrical moments. **GRADE: ★★★**

(Film grading: ★★★★★ — excellent, ★★★ — good, ★★ — fair, ★ — poor)



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I'm confused - are you? Is Free Trade good for us, or isn't it? I'm up to my neck in listening to politicians yell and scream at each other, television commercials that have gotten down right nasty by hurling abuse at each other over this election - and personally - I don't like any of the party candidates very much. Not only do I not really understand what is fact and what is fiction - I have growing anxiety over just what is going to happen to our taxes when all the dust settles. There has been some talk of a VAT tax - just like in Great Britain, and that is scary stuff. It will mean that we will be paying a whole lot more tax and all of a sudden it will hit us pretty squarely in a spot that is most dear to my heart - real estate and the transactions around it. From your point of view, it could mean paying your lawyer a tax over his fees to close your deal and you already pay a Land Transfer Tax which is the most expensive part of your closing transactions. This would not make the added tax very popular to say the least. For real estate agents, we would be taxed on our commissions, (and I don't mean income tax) This could add up to a lot of money over the years. I smell a problem coming up.

I watched the US election without much pride in our friends to the south of us. For a bunch of people that are going to run such a big show for the next four years, I was pretty upset with such a dirty election. I had thought Canadians were above all that - at least I liked to think so, but our campaign is not a whole lot better. It is going to be a long four years I think, in the USA. At least here in Canada, we don't lock ourselves in for a term, and perhaps if one of these loads doesn't match up to our expectations, we can get another election called sooner than planned. As I have been pleading with you to do, over the past year, "If you are not happy with your real estate agent - change to another one." It would be so much easier if we could do that in politics too - but unfortunately it isn't quite that easy and it is a very costly process for the country too - but I sure wish we could do it - for the problems that I smell coming up, are not in the fragrance of roses!

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