

Absence of Malice

absorbing drama about the press

by Terry Dupuis

Absence Of Malice is not an action-oriented film, but it is a thoughtful, absorbing drama on an important topic: the responsibility of the press. As a star vehicle, it presents Paul Newman with his best role in many years, and it also provides Sally Field with another strong role to match the part she had in Norma Rae. Absence Of Malice is also a feather in the cap of Sydney Pollack.

First, the topicality of the drama. The news media has come under increasing fire in recent years. The most bitter and extreme movie on this topic was Paddy Chayevsky's Network, which was a scathing satire on the television news media. In Absence Of Malice, it is the printed word which comes under question. The result is the finest study of the newspaper industry since All The President's Men.

In Absence Of Malice, Paul Newman is a Miami businessman who runs a wholly legal liquor wholesale business. A union boss disappears for months and it looks like it may be a mob murder. The FBI is investigating this case, and reporter Sally Field is trying to get some information about their investigation. Through circumstances, Field picks up on the fact that Newman is under investigation. She reports this in the paper. And the result is that Newman, who is the son of a late Irish gangster, is unjustly accused of being involved in a mob murder.

This movie studies the responsibility and power of the press, and shows how an individual's life can be drastically affected when an error occurs. As a result of the news story, Newman's union workers refuse to work for his company, and someone close to him commits suicide. The reporter played by Sally Field is a decent person doing what she thinks is her job. There is certainly no intent of malice on her part; yet her story threatens to unfairly ruin the life of another citizen.

Moviegoers will be amazed at how fit Newman still looks at age 57. He is completely gray now, but he looks as much the movie star as he ever did in his 28 years of acting. Furthermore, in Absence Of Malice he does not trade on his movie star presence and merely walk through his part, as he has been inclined to do in recent years. His characterization in Absence Of Malice is convincing, fully-developed and well-thought out. It deserves to gain him an Oscar nomination next month. If he's nominated it will be for the first time in 14 years, since Cool Hand Luke.

Sally Field wowed movie audiences three years ago in Norma Rae, which gained her an Academy Award. But since then her roles had not been as rewarding until Absence Of Malice. This performance is also worthy of Oscar consideration.

Budd Watson to address group

In July of 1982, Budd Watson of Midland will be addressing the Professional Photographers of America's 82nd national convention in Las Vegas, Nevada.

His address, entitled "It's About Time", will be on his personal philosophy as a landscape photographer. The pre visualization necessary to find photographic subjects

and the equipment necessary to capture the image with the photographic print as the end result.

Budd is quite possibly, the only photographer in Canada who owns his own colour laboratory, makes his own prints and has his own gallery. His personal control over every photograph bearing his signature is probably much envied by many photographers who only "take the

picture" and someone else controls the quality, the distribution and the price.

For two years now Budd has been a member of the "Canadian Photographic Artists Group." Eight photographers who get together twice a year to discuss their work, hold shooting sessions and give seminars for professional photographers.

The Group membership includes photographers from Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia with two American guests from Ohio and Washington State.

Five of the C.P.A.G. members are on the P.P.A. programme this year and one member, Mr. Jay Stock, from Ohio turned down this

year's invitation because he has been on 13 consecutive national programmes.

Also, this year Budd Watson will be on the speakers list at the National Convention of the Professional Photographers of Canada in Edmonton, Alberta. "This is really quite a thrill to be on both National programmes in the same year."

Bridge club grows bigger as interest ever mounts

The new "Combination" night, allowing instruction and relaxed play on every second Monday, and affording the opportunity to bridge players to play each week, instead of twice a month as previously, got off to an excellent start last month at the Coldwater Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. Four new players were introduced to the club.

They were Mrs. Barbara Watt and Mrs. Ellanor Brown of Coldwater, and Mr. and Mrs. Bob and Ileana Emo of Port Severn.

The subject of instruction was "Minimum Requirements for the opening bid of one in a suit" and covered hand evaluation, biddable suits, and touched on selection of the suit to open.

The next combination Monday evening, with a slightly shorter lesson and more play, will be on Feb. 8, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Instruction will summarize the salient

points of the first lesson, and detail the whys and the wherefores when choosing suits. It is the utmost importance that the opening bid be thoroughly understood and properly used, because it is the foundation of all subsequent bidding.

The remainder of the evening was spent playing the always hilarious "Progressive Party Bridge", with constantly changing partners. One table was set aside for play by those players who are either fairly new at the game, or have not played it for several years. This division of play into two sections, will continue for as long as needed.

Plus scores were the champion of the evening, Verna Williams with 2,150 pts; followed by Bob Emo 1,330; Marie Plue 1,100; Ellanor Brown and Peter Shaw 880; Stan Frankland 850; Harold Snow 740; Barbara Cooper 440; Charles Carter 150; Anne MacBean 120; and JoAnne Kitchen with 70

pts. Pure bridge, on a pair basis, was the order for the next evening on Feb. 1; Combination the 8; the Individual Championship the 15; Combination the 22; and Duplicate again on March 1.

Although it is difficult to see why each member would not be bursting with enthusiasm to play in the Individual, several have not yet signed the list.

The last date for signing is Monday Feb. 1, although a telephone call after that date to Anne MacBean at 686-7533 or Friedel Shaw 756-8325, may allow you to be squeezed in.

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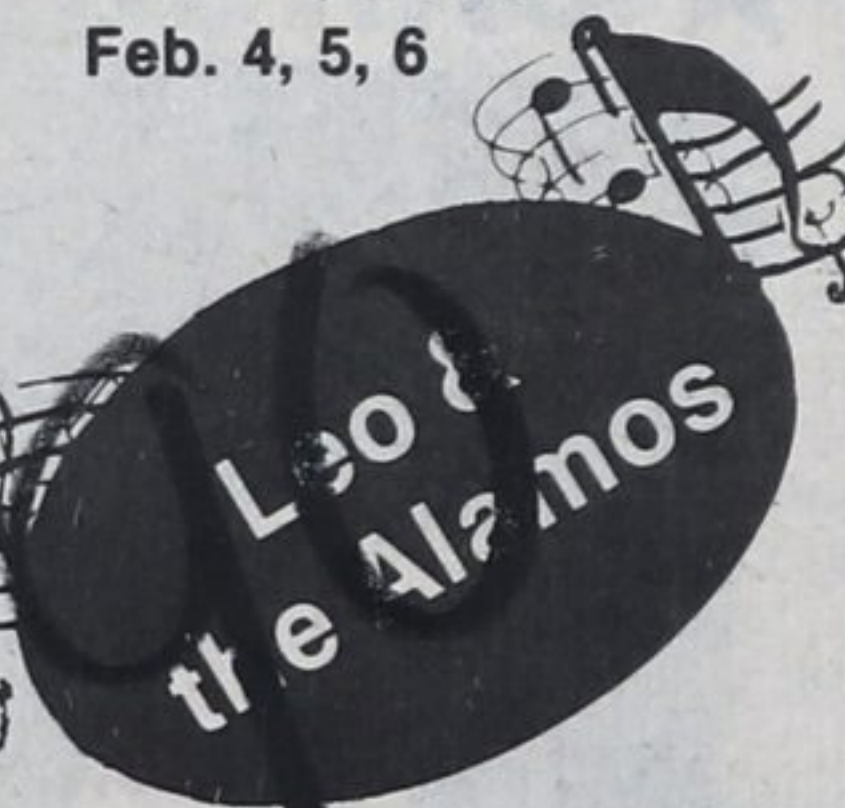
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