

The

NORTH SHORE NOW

THE ENTERTAINMENT AND DINING SOURCE PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY BY THE NORTH SHORE NEWS



BEYOND REALISM

West Van artist Sharon Christian Holmes captures the moment with her vivid art: 19

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COMPLETE
T.V.
LISTINGS INSIDE



NEWS photo Mike Wakefield

Abstract-realist

LOCAL ARTIST CREATES OWN STYLE

IN THE dark, hands fly over plastic buttons, knobs and wheels, sending beams of flashing light and swirling color across the room. This is the scene that appears through the lens of Sharon Christian Holmes' 35 millimetre camera.

The artist has situated herself in front of a video arcade in the University of B.C.'s Student Union Building, waiting for just the right moment.

Back in her West Vancouver studio, she transforms the scene onto a canvas using bright reds, yellows and blues.

"I almost always use photographs for reference," says Holmes. "When I look at a photo it helps me recall a par-

ticular scene."

Holmes has taken thousands of photos over the years, many of which have served as models for her contemporary paintings. A brightly-hued scene of children laughing, painted in fluorescent pinks and reds, was modelled after an old snapshot of a family birth-

EVELYN JACOB



spotlight feature

day party.

Although the camera helps her create a sense of realism, Holmes says it's important the photograph

be used loosely; shapes and feelings from her vivid imagination complete the picture.

She calls herself an "abstract-realist," someone who paints with equally high degrees of abstraction and realism.

"I don't take something realistic, draw it out and work it in stages. I consciously use abstract elements and purposely mix the two elements."

In many works formless brush strokes — abstract shapes — are juxtaposed with a realistic subject. Swirling shades of yellow and blue float effortlessly through the air and line the ground.

See People
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Film NOW

Package full of violence

Package** (Orion) Rated Mature (at the Granville, Park & Tilford and Coquitlam Cinemas).

IT MAY be December, but it's springtime for Glasnost. The Russians and Americans are meeting to offer the world a Christmas present — a treaty to ban nuclear weapons.

But, it's not all goodwill toward men. Just outside the summit, Sgt. Johnny Gallagher's (Gene Hackman) security patrol is ambushed, leaving four men staring sightlessly at the sky.

Gallagher's punishment is the trivial chore of escorting a soldier (Tommy Lee Jones), or package, back to the States for court-martial. More bad luck, however, dogs his trail and the prisoner escapes. A murder rap is pinned on Johnny and he finds himself on America's Most Wanted.

Somehow, without knowing it, he's stumbled on to a conspiracy and with no one else to turn to, he contacts a superior officer, his ex-wife, Eileen (Joanna Cassidy). Working from the inside, the U.S.

Colonel tries to root out some clues to help Johnny.

What they find could shatter world peace, end both their careers permanently, and generally put a real damper on the holiday spirit.

During a car chase, the filmmakers throw every possible obstacle in Hackman's way, until it looks like a demolition derby. The script has similar problems, with unnecessary clutter tossed in, as if confusion equals mystery.

Sill, Hackman, the busiest and most consistent actor in Hollywood, makes up for these shortcomings. (Has he ever given a poor performance?) Tommy Lee Jones is equally good as the cool, cynical soldier who's more than

TIM BELL



film review

he appears.

But one mystery remains. Why do all murder victims land on their back, eyes open? Must be "de rigueur" mortis.

Taps (RCA/Columbia Home Video) Rated R**

Max Washington (Gregory Hines) is having a hard time filling his daddy's shoes. The son of a legendary hooper, Max prefers to use his balance and flexibility as a second storey man. But the fast buck has a down side. The last time he pled his trade, he netted a two-year stint at Sing Sing.

Now that he's served his time, Max is caught in a tug-of-war between one of his Dad's cronies (Sammy Davis Jr.) to go "legit", and the crime world who wants him to stay "illegit."

Forget this predictable plot and enjoy the dancing. Hines is a dazzling tap dancer, but he doesn't hog the whole show. Oldtimers Davis, Harold Nicholas and a young newcomer, Savion Glover, burn some shoe leather as well. Not only is this a tribute to tap, it may even revitalize the art form.

NORTH SHORE VIEWS

West Van Odeon: When Harry Met Sally, Parenthood, Uncle Buck

Park Royal: Batman, Dead Poets Society, Indiana Jones & the Last Crusade.

Park & Tilford: Parenthood, The Abyss, When Harry Met Sally, The Package, Uncle Buck, Night of the Demons.

Auditions set for boys' choir

THE B.C. Boys' Choir invites boys and young men aged eight to 24 to audition for the 1989-90 season.

Rehearsals are three sessions a week for sopranos and altos, and two sessions a week for tenors and basses, at St. David's Church, 1525 Taylor Way in West Vancouver.

Auditions will be held Sept. 5 to 15. For appointment phone 926-5230.

McCartney not too maudlin

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*** Paul McCartney — *Flowers in the Dirt*, Capitol Records 1989

With a Classic Rock cash-in tour by the Beatles simply out of the question, we have to be contented with seeking out the reflected glory in the shards of the super group. This piece is well-polished and offers one or two moments of Beatlesque tailoring.

McCartney chose well to try to take some of the saccharine edge from his own creative inclinations by teaming with Elvis Costello. The king of pop and circumstance brings out the best in McCartney on *You Want Her Too* and *My Brave Face*.

But the embarrassment sets in when Paul's alone and dishing out great gobs of gooey icing like *Motor Of Love*. That's not to say that there are no good love songs here — there are. *This One*, with its great melodic lines, and the torqued up *Figure Of Eight*, are freshly-minted vintage McCartney.

People painting preferable for artist

From page 19

What one immediately notices in Holmes' work is its variety of composition — from a video arcade to a still life, to a typical Prairie scene. "People often say that I don't have a style," she admits. But for Holmes, technique is a tool to express an idea.

"For me, I feel that if you paint who you are and what you love and use the techniques that best communicate your idea, then your style will be there. In other words, you can't help but have a style."

The daughter of a prairie farmer, Holmes captures rural Canadian life in a collection of early works called the *Draught Horse* series.

With advancements in technology, Holmes witnessed the change from working horses to

machine-powered combines. Many of her paintings show old wooden wagons and trucks — detritus of a forgotten technology abandoned in empty fields.

"My father had seven sections of land in Stettler, Alberta. I grew up with horses," she explains.

Holmes enjoys painting people most of all because she finds their forms exciting. "People stir a late me. The variety, color and line — it's all there. They are able to express things that a landscape doesn't."

It was that love of people that inspired Holmes to create a series of Calgary's Chinatown. Over a span of three years she painted more than 100 works portraying the people of that community.

"I lived just above Chinatown in Calgary, and one day when I

was walking down the street admiring the old buildings, I noticed they were tipping up the concrete around one empty building. They had made the people vacate. I thought to myself: if at they were going to tear down Chinatown, I started taking pictures and painting almost every building and Chinese person. I would pay people \$2 and \$5 to pose for me."

Holmes believes that artists have an obligation to discuss the contemporary world they live in. The family is important to her as are "things you can't buy."

Most of her paintings have a happy feeling to them; they sometimes look like art meant for children. She says she doesn't choose to portray the violent or depraved at this point in her career.

"Although I have painted people in lesser circumstances, I choose to look for the more beautiful in life."

Holmes' work will be on display at the Humberston Edwards Fine Art Gallery in West Vancouver from Sept. 6 through Sept. 17.

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