1985's movie idols ranged from 'bad-ass' hunks to humanitarians

By JILL S. KOSKO and ANN SKOMRA

films last year was "the tough guy" is so likable, you leave the theater DeLorean.

1985 that were a little softer and more they loo down-to-earth. These are the heros of everyday life, whose problems we can relate to and whose triumphs we can rejoice in. For example, in Back to the Future, Michael J. Fox was ordinary adolescent whose talents got him through a very unusual situation. Sally Fields in Places of the Heart played a poor ordinary woman whose admirable faculties of endurance proved extraordinary.

worse than in any other year. But we just getting better. did see more movies that tried to be shoddily-made teenage sex comedies and budget horror flicks. Instead, Silverado and Pale Rider marked a revival of the western.

The music business pushed its way when background music is forced into scenes where it doesn't belong, de-

tracting our attention from the Movies exert a force that extends beyond their two hours on the screen Rambo and Commando our country ens his message that ability does not

around in fatigues, brandishing toy machine guns and muttering the lead documentary on the social hazards of being old that can be enjoyed by the characters' words. And after Am- entire family. adeus, it has almost become "cool" to

macho male heroes mirrors the counfarm during the depression. What is forced to flee the country.

thriller, thematically it reveals the

rare disease, Mask received much rassment of the school bully and graphic detail. The stark, muddy movies. Also unusual are Harrison

The most influential type of hero in apprehensive classmates. His Rusty the future but he does it in style — in a

Other types of heroes appeared in inside people counts more than how sonalities well within their acting Cocoon One of this year's most

optimistic movies, Cocoon was Ron Howard's third directing effort. Portraying the needs of the 'forgotten' group of retirement home residents. The 'experienced' ensemble cast — Wilford Brimley, Don Ameche, Hume Cronyn, Jack Guilford, Maureen Stapleton, and Jessica Tandy — proves

Cocoon's plotline is reminiscent of a Walt Disney production — four elderly couples discover the fountain of youth, literally, in the next door swimming pool. Their rejuvenation is due a pool filled with cocoons con-

grandson, do not detract from the abandoned elderly was intentional on Howard's part, because it strength-

ciety by comparing it to the peace smash this summer that made Minary in the French embassy. nity. Cocoon opened many eyes to the Future is a delicate mixture of ro- a passport, Pran is removed from the his vulnerable, lonely side is exposed. mance, suspense, and comedy is a embassy and taken to a work camp. When deciding which movies to, work of art and warrants recognition. Schanberg returns to the United pick as the year's 10 best, we only

Fox plays a high school student

States where he receives an award suspense is Witness, starring Harriconsidered movies which opened here who, with the help of his insanely for his coverage of the conflict and, suspense is witness, starting flattlein State College between January and December, 1985. Here, in no partic
who, with the help of his hisalicity in State College between January and penius professor, travels back in time unable to ignore his guilt, begins searching for Pran. After several searching for Pran. After several thriller that is set in the disarming rous attentions. Not only must he years, Schanberg is able to locate and picturesque world of the Amish. unite his future mother and father, Pran in a refugee camp, and the two Filmed in Lancaster, the scenery is a Mask A touching movie of a de- but he is faced with defending his are reunited.

earned plenty of well-deserved atten- years younger, that they are friends. tion for her role as a tough, but well- Although these ideas alone induce meaning biker, the real star is Eric laughter, the film takes it further by Stoltz, whose sensitive performance focusing on the differences between If you were looking for one characteristic feature of the movies of 1985, the movie. You can't easily forget his society. Fox introduces the town to it'd be the reemergence of the Ameri- romance with a beautiful blind girl or skateboards, Calvin Klein and rock his courageous speech in front of his 'n' roll. Of course he must return to

- Clint Eastwood in Pale Rider, wishing he had been a friend of yours It is this unrelenting lighthearted-Sylvester Stallone in Rambo and and feeling sincere sorrow for his ness that makes Back to the Future Rocky IV and Arnold Schwarzeneg- death. Mask didn't martyr or patron- so great. Not once does the plot line ger in Commando, to name a few. ize its characters, but revealed in lose its drive, nor does the audience While each of these men have their equal measure their assets and flaws, members lose the smiles on their own distinct style, they all have in their doubts and triumphs. But the faces. Spielberg wisely used the actcommon a intangible "bad-ass" qual- movie was successful primarily be- ing talents that were available in ity that makes movie-goers worship cause it brought a simple message Fox, Lea Thompson, and Christopher home with zinging accuracy — what's Lloyd, placing the characters' per-

face to determine innocence or guilt. depiction of the old people's empty

But the real winner of this movie is lifestyles. Perhaps the irony of neglected veteran actors portraying the trols the suspense with fine-tuned has millions of little boys running around in fatigues, brandishing tov

acclaimed movies of the year dealt national consciousness. The return to Spaulding, a widow trying to save her Sydney Schanberg (Sam Waterson), over.



Sam Elliott and Cher starred in what many critics thought was one of the most compassionate movies of the year, Peter Bogdanovich's Mask. The film is about the true story of Rocky Denis, who suffered from an disfiguring illness. As his mother in the film, Cher got much praise and is an early favorite for an Academy Award for Best Actress. The best performance, though, was by Eric Stoltz as the courageous lead character. He succeeds in making Rocky humane rather

Jagged Edge Many critics thought newspaper publisher accused of the Teddy Barnes, a lawyer played by she nevertheless falls in love with him. The unpredictable plot reveals

they wonder, who-done-it? Yet doses trayal of the Cambodian's struggle phy.

Year of the Dragon Complaints of insights we gain about Mozart, as we ing a live performance the 'director' racism and unrealistic violence made watch the soaring peaks and disastasits in the audience). So when Attenit difficult for this vastly underrated rous pitfalls of his life. film to find public and critical accep-, The Killing Fields Although audiwith an American journalist's strug-turbing impressions that don't fade cal makes any success a small miragle to find his Asian colleague. The easily. The movie's suspense, attrib-cle. Places in the Heart A wonderful Killing Fields, a reference to the uted to Michael Cimino (award-win-But more importantly, as was espemovie about love, courage and deter
Cambodian work camps, depicts the more importantly, as was espemovie about love, courage and deter
Cambodian work camps, depicts the ning director of The Deer Hunter), call, the story line revolves around 16 respect to the film industry. New But more importantly, as was especially apparent last year, movies mination directed by Robert Benton. life of Cambodian photojournalist keeps audiences taut in their seats for dancers who are auditioning for an trends are evolving in movies. Teen-keeps audiences taut in their seats for dancers who are auditioning for an trends are evolving in movies. ciany apparent last year. Inovies reflect the trends in our society, re-Sally Field turns in a fine, Oscar-Dith Pran (Haing S. Ngor) after his over two hours, and leaves them unknown number of positions in a agers are being portrayed more intelled turns in a fine, Oscar-Dith Pran (Haing S. Ngor) after his over two hours, and leaves them

macno male neroes mirrors the country's recent conservative attitudes.

The story focuses on stainey white, her me story focuses on stainey white, a policeman fighting against the cor
really holds this movie together and both waterson and Ngor perform a policeman fighting against the cor
a policeman fighting against the cor-Unfortunately, these portrayals of makes it the best of the last year's excellently, showing the many emoviolent, rock-hard men perpetuate save-the-farm movies is the side plots tions that the two encounter as they violent, rock-nard men perpetuate male stereotypes and defeat progresmale stereotypes and defeat progresinvolving a black farmhand (Danny struggle to remain alive in a warring alienates and hurts those closest to inability to act and physical inadeinvolving a black farmhand (Danny involving a black farmha male stereotypes and defeat progressive plans to implement more liberal attitudes.

Involving a black farilliand (Daily strength of the streng But movies are also taking sensisus sweetness sometimes borders on hocan embassy is evacuated, even flawed "hero" who must decide if to anguish, it is the director, Richard every film was a fantasy — today's But movies are also taking sensi-tive looks at more human and social kiness, the movie succeeds in captur-though it will endanger his assistant's winning is worth the price. As White, Attenborough, and not the dancers audiences are rediscovering moral issues. Although Witness is a murder ing a place in audiences' hearts.

life. With the approach of the army, issues that we thought were put to the two are forced, along with several year's most believable performovie. violence and mistrust of modern so
Back to the Future A box office hundred Cambodians to seek sanctiomances. Although his actions are often deplorable, he's a likable charand friendship of the Amish commuciety by comparing it to the peace and friendship of the Amish commuciety by comparing it to the peace and friendship of the Amish commuciety by comparing it to the peace and friendship of the Amish commuciety by comparing it to the peace and friendship of the Amish commuciety by comparing it to the peace and friendship of the Amish commuciety by comparing it to the peace and friendship of the Amish commuciety by comparing it to the peace and friendship of the Amish commuciety by comparing it to the peace and friendship of the Amish commuciety by comparing it to the peace and friendship of the Amish commuciety by comparing it to the peace and friendship of the Amish commuciety by comparing it to the peace and friendship of the Amish commuciety by comparing it to the peace and friendship of the Amish commuciety by comparing it to the peace and friendship of the Amish commuciety by comparing it to the peace and friendship of the Amish commuciety by comparing it to the peace and friendship of the Amish commuciety by comparing it to the peace and friendship of the Amish commuciety by comparing it to the peace and friendship of the Amish commuciety by comparing it to the peace and friendship of the Amish commuciety by comparing it to the peace and friendship of the Amish commuciety by comparing it to the peace and friendship of the Amish commuciety by comparing it to the peace and friendship of the Amish commuciety by comparing it to the peace and friendship of the peace and friendship of the Amish commuciety by comparing it to the peace and friendship of the Amish commuciety by comparing it to the peace and friendship of the Amish commuciety by comparing it to the peace and friendship of the Amish commuciety by comparing it to the peace and friendship of the Amish commuciety by comparing it to the peace and friendship of the peace and friendship o

formed adolescent's struggle with a timid father-to-be from the hainspiring depictions of two people in love who are separated by religious

McGillis, an Amish widow, takes her young son, Lukas Haas, to Philadelphia where he witnesses a brutal murder. Discovering that the killer is an influential colleague, and wounded by a murder attempt, police investigator Ford seeks refuge within the Amish community. During his convaescence, the gentle widow and harsh cop develop a forbidden fascination with each other, one that is scorned by the community and McGillis' suit-Alexander Gudunov.

As the murderer discovers and traps the family on their farm, the film comes to its dramatic and shocking end. However, it is not the graphic violence that make this movie so important, but the raw energy displayed by every actor. McGillis portrays her Amish character with ease. and Haas and Godunov are accurate and believable in their film debuts. However, it is the chemistry that develops between Ford and McGillis that should be studied and remembered. Not since Tracy and Hepburn has so much emotion been shown so tastefully. The result is a sensual love story that doesn't rely on blatant sex. The fast-paced plotline and the volatile acting fill the viewer with tense



vably harsh. When Pran escapes the days. In Amadeus, he portrays the Where Witness relies on the actors at every turn hidden information, camp, the torturous route that he eccentric genius Mozart with admira- for the emotional impetus, Chorus surprise witnesses and new suspects. camp, the torturous route that he eccentile genius most follow takes him past mass ble style. (Anyone who has seen the Line uses camera angles, lighting, In many ways, Jagged Edge resembles the old mystery movies of yesteryear, the kind that keeps audiences grabbing their armrests as ences grabbing their armrests as they wonder who done it? Yet doses

taining aliens that were left behind by their fellow extraterrestial explorers when the city of Atlantis fell into the when the city of the cambridge whe compelling performances and create war/drama movies is inevitable, bescent crowd), be assured that there not an entire special effects depart-Subplots, such as the alien Kitty's an intriguing sensuality between since violence is a common factor, is nothing dull about this wild and ment. (Tahnee Welch) romance with Jack them. Especially good is Bridges, but there is more meaning behind this crazy guy. You don't have to be a A Chorus Line was not meant to be but there is more meaning behind this (Steve Guttenburg) and Ben's (Wilwho produces a character so icy
script and the characters. Despite its
lover of classical music or even sefilmed: it was written for the nearly
script and the characters. Despite its in the fascinating and humourous became a part of the auditions. (Dur-

> tance. But whether you hate *Dragon*A Chorus Line Although the film is screen, the movie becomes the work or love it, no one can leave the theater a disappointment to anyone who has of a master. feeling indifferent — its energy and seen the stage play, the problems of vibrant atmosphere create deep, dis-doing a film adaptation of this musi-

reflect the trends in our society, 1e- Sany Field turns in a line, oscal vealing the attitudes that create our winning performance as Edna friend, New York Time's reporter feeling vaguely exhausted when it's musical. Each dancer is called upon lectually, a step up from last year's by Zach, the director, to give his or shallow sex romps. No longer trying The story focuses on Stanley White, her life story. From this basic idea we to make the audience forget their



Michael J. Fox broke out of his Family Ties' television character with two movie Amadeus Tom Hulce has come a roles in 1985. Though Teen Wolf was savaged by critics, Fox got kudos as well long way since his Animal House as mass exposure for his role as a smart-ass teenager in Back to the Future.

Centre Stage brings Broadway to region

Collegian Arts Writer

Centre Stage, a theater company I wanted to belong to had always made up of University personnel, belonged all over the country." professionals and State College residents, was introduced to an audience effort between the academic and pro-

Pennsylvania Festival Theatre, community."

man James R. Palmer and director run from June 28 to July 27. movement of theater from Broadway includes Tenessee William's classic Hunter began her career on Broad-

developed around the country and in Winter) Pielmeier will also help with go on backstage tours and participate Europe. Most of the things that you productions.

of local theater people and press by fessional communities "a very sound By JEFF BLISS Alan W. Mianulli, its producing direc- marriage," Rabb said he believed Collegian Arts Writer that universities and the arts "have a

Ellis Rabb emphasized the Centre Stage's 1986 calendar also er.

worse off financially or creatively," the Playhouse Theatre.

come a receptacle for what has John (Agnes of God, The Boys of performance. Her other film credits settle for that."

The formation of Pennsylvania York to San Diego Calif."The theater a chance to meet actor and directors, ca, Mianulli said.

which put on plays in the area for 28 In his remarks, Jordan said that Emily Dickinson would be a major seasons. Accompanying the an- the University was joining such insti- challenge for most actresses. Yet professional repertory companies. as the introverted 19th-century poet In speeches made before Hunter's The group's first production, a revi- in Belle of Amherst last Saturday at Bryce Jordan, State College business- which will be directed by Rabb, will reporters' questions with the confi-

to regional outlets. Problems such as play A Streetcar Named Desire, way in 1947 as Stella Kowalski in high ticket prices, dwindling audi- which begins Sept. 13 and continues Streetcar Named Desire. At the time, ence support and high production costs have led to the demise of New costs have led to the demise of New as seven productions will be included shown as seven productions will be a seven production of the seven productions will be a seven prod York's most famous theater district, in Centre Stage's season, which lasts sections — one for young professionsaid Palmer, president of Centre from June to October. All Centre als and one for veteran players. Since Stage. "(Broadway has) never been Stage performances will be held in her co-star in Streetcar, Marlon country performing an abridged verhe said, noting that "The Great White Up to 70 percent of the casts for enced group, Hunter didn't meet him there," she said, adding that she will Way" supports only 17 theaters now

Centre Stage's plays will be made up until they started rehearing togeas opposed to 50 a half-century ago. In of professionals picked by Mianulli ther. "He had already been in a coucontrast, Palmer pointed out, the and a casting director in New York. ple of shows. That was my first — mouth, New Hampshire. "I'm number of theaters across the coun- An advisory board made up of Hunter Streetcar. Can you believe it?" and Rabb as well as Academy Award- Hunter did well, though, and re- As of now, Hunter has no plans of

see in New York now are the result of Along with this professional aspect, As the main theater outlet for the Last Saturday in the Pavilion something that happened someplace Centre Stage will have a connection 3000-square-mile area between Philawith the University's theater depart- delphia and Pittsburgh, Centre Stage of a growing trend towards the reSuch an atmosphere, he said, enment by using the same equipment
has the potential to be one of the 20 gionalization of professional theater. couraged him to move from New and facilities. Students will also have largest regional companies in Ameri-

Calling a cooperative theatrical Hunter reflects on long career

dence in public of a veteran perform-

the first three movies of the Planet of The new organization replaces the very similiar moral objective in their Portraying the diversity of such the Apes series, in which she played characters as Stella Kowalski and the benevolent psychiatrist, Dr. Zira. nouncement was a shortened version tutions as Yale, Harvard and PrinceKim Hunter seems to have no trouble the cast of the famous Playhouse 90 of The Belle of Amherst by Oscar- ton in having an association with with transformation. After appearing production, Requiem for a Heavyweight. Most recently, she's been performance, University President val of James M. Barrie's Peter Pan, the Pavilion Theatre, she answered tin Luther King, Jr.: the Dream and

> Hunter's real love and she has partic-Brando, was part of the more experision of the play. "I've done it here and



The Daily Collegian Monday, Jan. 27, 1986-15

Rabb, who won a Tony Award for winning actresses Celeste Holm and created her stage role for Kazan's retiring. She talked about an English Actress Kim Hunter meets the press at this weekend's opening of the his direction of The Royal Family, Patricia Neal, actor Don Correia film version of the Tennessee Wil- actress she once worked with who Pennsylvania Centre Stage. The highlight of Saturday's festivities was an also mentioned the loss of Broad-way's vitality. "(Broadway) has be-Singing in the Rain) and playwright

Award and a Golden Globe for her died at 96 on stage," Hunter said. "I'd said that projects such as Centre Stage are promoting the survival of American

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