

At The Movies

The Grey Fox

Directed by Phillip Borsos.

The Grey Fox is a very, very nice film. The recent winner of seven of the Canadian film industry's "Genies," including Best Picture, Director, Original Screenplay, and Performance by a Foreign Actor, it's an old-fashioned kind of movie, with a good story to tell and an extremely likable character to tell about. The story and character are true: the opening titles inform us that Bill Miner was a 19th-century stagecoach robber, the so-called "Gentleman Bandit," who pulled off 26 carefully planned jobs before doing a 33-year stretch in San Quentin. Released in the first year of the 20th century, he tries working a straight job (oyster-picking on the Washington coast). Miner soon embarks on his second career as a specialist in train holdups.

The magical Richard Farnsworth plays Miner with integrity and warmth. The casting of Farnsworth as Miner is perhaps the film's greatest cinematic success. A veteran stuntman who doubled for John Wayne in *Stagecoach*, Farnsworth turned actor about 10 years ago. He won a National Society of Film Critics award and an Oscar nomination for his work as the old ranchhand in Alan Pakula's *Comes a Horseman*. Farnsworth's authenticity as the Gentleman Bandit is superb from the moment that he steps onscreen.

Canadian director Phillip Borsos has obviously given **The Grey Fox** a lot of painstaking work and affection. With cinematographer Frank Tidy (of *The Duellists*), Borsos meticulously portrays the colors, tones, and weather of the Northwest as part of the film's mood and movement. The camera is attentive to detail of the time period. The visual images create a narrow world—a world which is Bill Miner's world. **The Grey Fox** is not a film with a "world view." It is, rather, a story: a myth, a folktale, a yarn, a fable. As such, it is a thoroughly entertaining film.

—Cathy Sarkowsky

(Film reviews by Cathy Sarkowsky can also be heard on KLCC 89.7 FM.)



Jackie Burroughs as Kate Flynn and Richard Farnsworth as Bill Miner in *The Grey Fox*, now playing at the Bijou.

Film Festival Offerings

The Nuclear Resistance Film Festival premieres for Eugene a new documentary drama about the Berrigan brothers, **In the King of Prussia**, made by one of America's leading leftist filmmakers. Emile de Antonio, known to many for his expose of the McCarthy hearings, *Point of Order*, along with other films such as *Rush to Judgment* and *Millhouse: A White Comedy*, says he was reluctant to get involved in this new project until it became plain to him that no one else would do it, and he realized that the film had to be made. It deals with the trial of the Berrigan brothers, Philip and Daniel, along with six other people, for the symbolic action of entering a GE plant in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania and damaging two nose cones intended for nuclear missiles. This group called themselves the Plowshares Eight (beating "swords into plowshares"), and their trial, like that of the Chicago Seven, was presided over by a most unsympathetic judge who stuck strictly to the legal issues of burglary, refusing to allow the defendants to bring up the larger issues of nuclear weapons and the justification for civil disobedience. The judge also refused to allow de Antonio to film the trial, so the filmmaker and the defendants (who played themselves) recreated the trial from court transcripts in one weekend before the Eight were sentenced on Monday. (They received sentences of from one to ten years.)

Martin Sheen, donating his time as well as some money for the film, was the only professional actor involved, playing the part of the judge. De Antonio purposely left the film rough, to emphasize its rushed and urgent quality; but by all accounts it is eloquent, especially in a long defense of his own actions which Daniel Berrigan delivers. (This was not allowed in the original trial by the judge; such additions make this a "fictionalized" documentary and a more complete story.) De Antonio and Martin Sheen were both so impressed by Daniel Berrigan during the making of this film that they claim the experience changed their lives and politics.

Several other films will be shown during the Festival, including *If You Love This Planet*, *The Final Epidemic* (both featuring Dr. Helen Caldicott), *The Time Has Come* (filmed at the June 1982 demonstration in New York), and *In the Nuclear Shadow* (moving interviews with children). Check the Friday and Sunday calendar listings and Highlights for details.

—Pamela Seaworthy



Daniel & Philip Berrigan with Martin Sheen during filming of *In the King of Prussia*, part of the Nuclear Resistance Film Festival, Friday and Sunday.

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