

# At the movies

## 'Hanoi Hilton' pinpoints suffering

Vietnam War movies seem to be the genre these days. That's not necessarily bad; each one seems to pinpoint a piece of an era chocked full of societal impact.

Review by  
Jackie Barry

"Hanoi Hilton" pinpoints the suffering of war prisoners. Although not a new Vietnam War treatment, the makers of "Hanoi Hilton" added a new twist when they chose to illustrate the suffering of a group of American prisoners, rather than an individual.

The story follows a chronological line, beginning when Air Force flyer Patrick Williamson, played by Michael Moriarty, crash lands, gets captured by Viet Cong and is taken to a prison in Hanoi. Williamson's fear of being stuck in this rat-infested hell hole until he dies is established right away and becomes a common thread throughout the film.

This common thread bonds hundreds of prisoners alluded to in the film, as well as a cast of about a dozen other American soldiers. These characters band together and attempt to fight a battle of wills against their captors. They wish to be honest about the horrors they experience in captivity, and they don't want to provide information to the enemy. Their captors wish just the opposite, and promise early release to any prisoner who will succumb.

This is not a movie for the squeamish. Graphic portrayal of and allusion to torture makes this film gruesome throughout.

The players deliver staggering performances in most cases, with Moriarty topping the list as a man trying to grasp control in an emotionally overwhelming situation.

Near the start of the film, Moriarty makes his first contact with another American prisoner after 14 months in solitary confinement. While taking his first bath at the public sink, he finds a recent message scrawled on a brick.

After returning to his cell, Moriarty shows new resolve. Washed and wearing clean

prison garb, the message has relit a nearly extinguished light in his heart. Moriarty picks up a bowl of food left for him by his captors, picks unwanted creatures from the gruel and slowly downs the unappetizing meal, gagging, fighting back tears, and whimpering all the while.

But while these performances and the treatment to which the prisoners are subjected create riveting statements in this film, other things detract from the total impact.

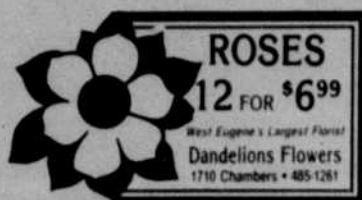
Because of the characters' ordeals, we want to care about them, but don't know enough to care. Tidbits thrown in by scriptwriter and director Lionel

Chetwynd seem like an afterthought.

We find out more than halfway through the story that Moriarty is a hockey fan and that another character has three daughters.

After the captors stage a Christmas party which doubles

Turn to Hanoi, Page 8



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Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan

**MEChA**  
Chicano/Latino Student Union  
Second Annual Conference



**WORKING TOWARDS AN IMPACT**

MEChA, the Chicano/Latino Student Union, is formally inviting you to attend our Second Annual Chicano Conference: *Chicano Issues: La Migra, La Escuela, y El Campo: Working Towards an Impact*. The conference will be held at the U of O campus on Thursday & Friday, May 21st and 22nd. We invite you to share our culture and our ideas.

This year's conference is directed to the University, the administrators, the professors and the students of the U of O who can offer support to the success of the Chicano/Latino students on campus. Through our conference, we want to create awareness and bring attention to: 1) the discrimination by color and ancestry that the new immigration law will create, 2) the high dropout rate of Chicano/Latino students creating the consequent under representation of this segment of the population in higher education, 3) the health conditions and labor problems that our Chicano/Latino population encounter in the fields. Our objective is to work towards seeking solutions.

The workshops we have organized are the following: *La Migra* and its repercussions with the Chicano/Latino population, *La Escuela* and how to recruit and retain Chicano/Latino students; high school and college issues, *El Campo*: health, labor, and environmental issues. We have chosen several reputable leaders and scholars in our Chicano/Latino community to speak and lead workshops at the conference and assist us in meeting our objectives.

Our keynote speaker is **Dolores Huerta**, the Vice-President of the United Farm Workers, a fiery leader of farm working causes. She has worked with Cesar Chavez since 1968. Huerta is one of the main negotiators for the UFW and has spent considerable time in Sacramento, California and Washington D.C., helping push through legislation favorable to farm workers.

**Antonia Castaneda** is active in the Chicano movement and has spoken at many conferences. Castaneda is the co-editor of one of the first anthologies of Chicano literature, *Literatura Chicana*. She is completing her Ph.D. in history at Stanford University, with a specialty in labor history in the Southwest. Currently, Castaneda works at the Office of Affirmative Action at California State University, Sacramento.

**Jose Montoya** is one of the outstanding and better known Chicano poets who has been invited to read in Europe. Presently, Montoya is a professor of Art at California State University, Sacramento, where he has taught for 20 years. In addition to teaching art, Montoya is a musician and an artist. Last year, Montoya took his slide presentation, "Chicanos: the Endangered Species" to Paris and received a standing ovation. He has published a book of Chicano poetry, *Los de Abajo*, and is currently working on another book.

**Thursday, May 21st**  
5:00-6:30 pm Registration of participants.  
- Guest speakers and social mixer reception with music  
6:30 Spanish Choir  
7:00 Mariachi  
8:00 Introduction of guest speakers by MEChA director. Poetry reading by Jose Montoya  
8:30 Folkloric Dance Group  
\* Location: Room 167, EMU

**Friday, May 22nd**  
8:30-9:00 am Registration of participants  
9:00-9:20 General Session (Introduction)

**WORKSHOPS**  
9:20-10:00 Chicano/Latino Education: Manuel Pacheco  
10:00-10:30 Gerard Mosley, Vice-Provost for Student Affairs  
10:30-11:30 Chicano History: Antonia Castaneda  
11:30-12:30 pm Immigration: Ramon Ramirez  
12:30-1:30 LUNCH  
1:30-3:00 Keynote Address: Dolores Huerta  
3:00-4:00 Art Show, (Chicanos, the Endangered Species) by Jose Montoya  
4:00-4:30 Discussion (Wrap-up): Jose Montoya  
\* Location: Room 129, Law School

For more information call  
**MEChA 686-3508**  
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