



Jared Leto stars as Olympic distance runner Steve Prefontaine in the Hollywood Pictures film "Prefontaine." COURTESY PHOTO

Too real to be fake, too fake to be real

by Thom Schoenborn
Managing Editor

It was strange to see *Prefontaine* at the McDonald Theatre. I sat next to Steve Prefontaine's college roommate, Pat Tyson. Across the row were his parents, and behind me sat one of his coaches, Bill Dellinger.

In the midst of so much real history, the documentary style with which director Steve James (*Hoop Dreams*) filmed Prefontaine seemed... surreal.

I found myself wishing the interviews with Bill Dellinger (Ed O'Neill of *Married, with Children*), Bill Bowerman (R. Lee Ermy of *Full Metal Jacket*), Pat Tyson (Breckin Meyer of *Clueless*) and Mac Wilkins (Brian McGovern) would have been with the real people instead of the actors.

The problem is, those of us familiar with the Prefontaine legend will spend much of the movie finding faults with its accuracy and exaggeration. The fact is, a lot of people didn't like Pre's cockiness and brashness.

Like a lot of historical fiction, the movie puts a spin on Pre's obsessive nature as pure determination. Some people may buy into it, but they will be the ones whose only exposure to Track Town, USA was last year's national airing of the Pre-

fontaine Classic track and field meet. The meet was star-studded because it was a warm-up for the summer Olympics.

But if viewers are able to step away from what they know and watch the film for its message, they will find a marvelous piece of work.

"Let's face it. The reason we're talking about Pre is because he was a winner. The world needs winners," Dellinger said during an interview in the movie.

There is perhaps no greater sports story than that of Steve Prefontaine: an Olympian cut down in his prime; an advocate for athletes who was killed before he could reap the benefits he sought.

Pre's desire to succeed and his intense commitment to a winning attitude pervades the entire film. Pre bemoans his physical attributes, saying everything he is and will be depends upon his desire to win.

Jared Leto portrays Pre with intensity and selfishness. You believe that he will win the gold medal in Munich, even though you know better.

Watching the race in Munich, Bowerman says, "He knows he can't out-kick those guys, so he's going to sprint 600 yards." It's one of the best scenes in the movie.

The decision to have Al Bundy portray Dellinger is arguably the best casting decision of the year. The type-casted O'Neill played Dellinger to the hilt.

But that's the problem with the movie. We know too much about Pre's story to believe half of the movie. It's not a documentary because too much is made up, but it's not fiction because too much is real. Especially the end.

REVIEW Prefontaine

★★
(sports drama)

■ WHERE: McDonald Theatre

■ STARRING: Jared Leto, Ed O'Neill

■ DIRECTOR: Steve James

■ RATED: PG-13

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IT'S JUST LIKE REALLY BEING HERE, BUT WITHOUT ALL THE RAIN.

Workshop: African instructors have traveled across country

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before leaving his village.

Koumbassa and Dambakate have been working together since 1993, teaching dance workshops across the United States. During the summer they also teach a dance camp in California. Both now live in New York.

"These are among the best teachers of Western African dance nationally," Depompeo said.

Individual dance and drum workshops will begin next week. Dambakate lead drum workshops will be

from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in WOW Hall Jan. 28-30. An additional workshop will occur at the same time Jan. 31 in Gerlinger Annex.

Koumbassa dance workshops in WOW Hall will be from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Jan. 28-30, and from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 1. Another workshop will also take place Jan. 31 in Gerlinger Annex from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Participants in the drum workshops will need to bring their own drums. Each workshop is \$10, and all workshops will be the same.

weekend EVENT calendar

◇ FRI., JAN. 24 ◇

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◇ SAT., JAN. 25 ◇

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Tom Waters Band
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- 2/6 **NORMAN MESMAN**
Classical Jazz Guitar
- 2/13 **ALAN BEAUSOLEIL**
Sitar
- 2/20 **TBA**
- 2/27 **FUNK 'N' WILDE**
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