

Rhythm & Reviews

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New batch of tunes

'Brown Sugar Biscuits' is the latest musical offering from musician Mark Alan/PAGE 9

Blossoming band

The American Girls, a five-member pop band, is striking it big in the music world/PAGE 10

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THE THIN RED LINE

The WW II drama captures war's brutal side but suffers from underdeveloped characters

By Amy Boytz
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Thin Red Line is more than a story about a World War II battle. It is about the human reaction to war, both as an individual and as a member of a group.

The story of this new film by Terrence Malick ("Badlands," "Days of Heaven") centers around a group of Army troops who are brought in to relieve Marines during the battle of Guadalcanal. Throughout the movie's three-hour progression, we witness the war from the vantage point of captains, privates, and occasionally the natives of the Pacific islands where the movie takes place. The screenplay is based on the novel of the same name by James Jones.

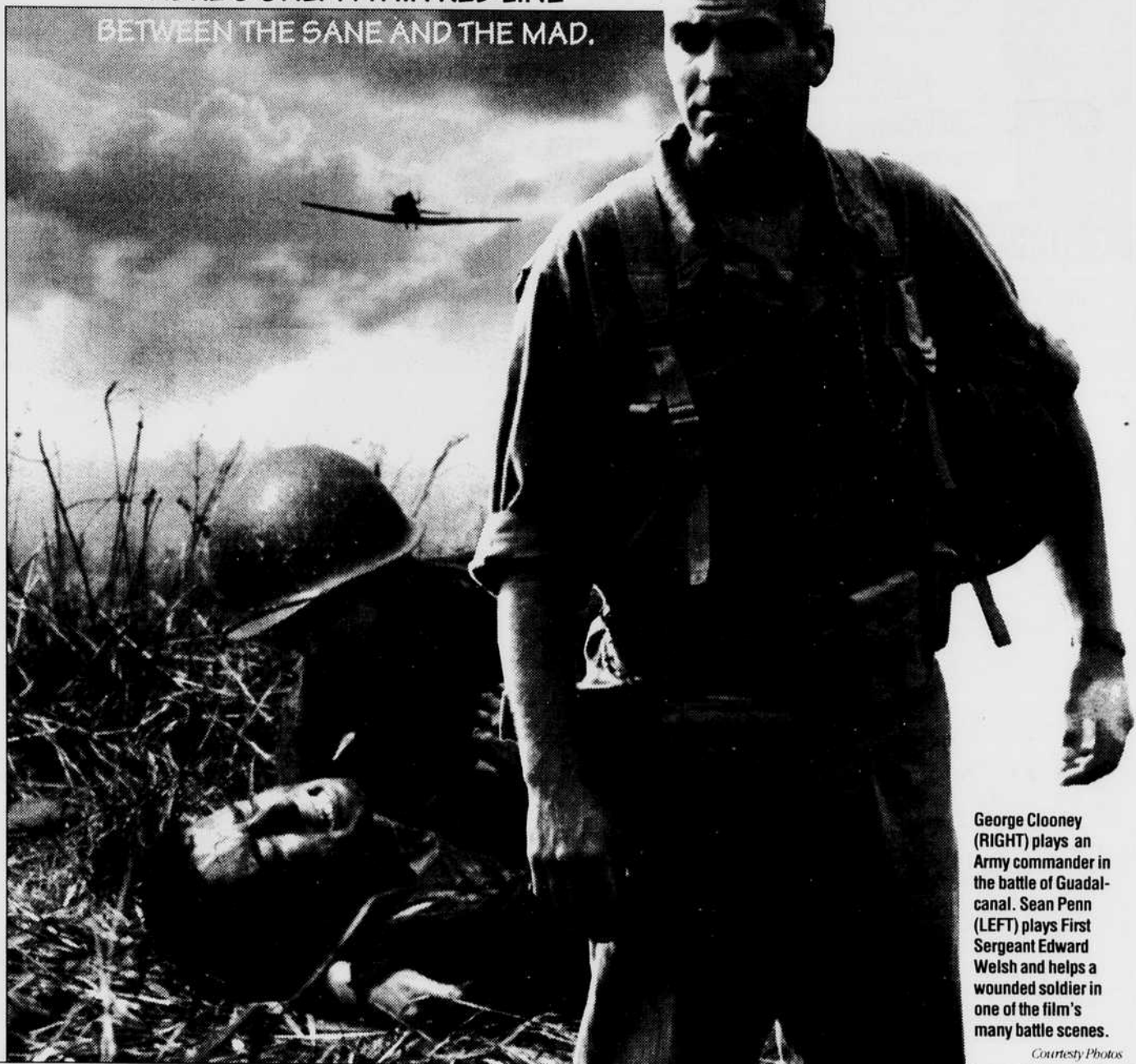
Though the story documents an important battle in U.S. history, it hones in on an even more important battle faced by all: the human struggle. The characters struggle through individual crises, such as being separated from loved ones while away. They fight personal battles against insanity, and combat urges to give up.

But they also struggle with finding a place within the group. By living and fighting next to one another over the course of the war, bonds develop that are stronger than the ties to battle. War becomes more than attacking and killing the enemy; it is about protecting and honoring one's comrades.

The cast — a walloping list of big-name actors — delivers remarkably. The movie enlists film veterans Nick Nolte, Sean Penn, John Travolta and John Cusack in leading roles. Penn and Nolte execute especially fiery performances in their roles as First Sergeant Edward Welsh and Lieutenant Colonel Gordon Tall, respectively. But newcomer Jim Caviezel, who portrays the film's lead character, Private Witt, can also stand tall among the ranks of the others. And

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THERE'S ONLY A THIN RED LINE
BETWEEN THE SANE AND THE MAD.



George Clooney (RIGHT) plays an Army commander in the battle of Guadalcanal. Sean Penn (LEFT) plays First Sergeant Edward Welsh and helps a wounded soldier in one of the film's many battle scenes.

Courtesy Photos



University student Brian Henderson (TOP LEFT) and Thurston High School student Nick Smith (TOP RIGHT) play two teen-terrorists in 'Like Totally Weird.'

Teen violence topic of new play

The Lord Leebrick Theatre Company will host a premiere of 'Like Totally Weird'

By Michael Burnham
Oregon Daily Emerald

You might not think television and film violence are "like, totally weird" after watching renowned playwright William Mastrosimone's production at the Lord Leebrick Theatre Company tonight.

Although the playhouse has a reputation for not shying away from racy plays with adult themes, tonight's performance about two seemingly normal kids and cinema violence might leave adult audience members feeling totally bothered.

The play is Mastrosimone's "Like Totally Weird," and tonight's performance dealing with youth violence will be its West Coast premiere.

The audience is subject to an uneasy trip through somewhere between boyhood gun-play and big-screen brutality, as the play follows two kids from the Southern California valley as they terrifyingly merge Hollywood

violence with Hollywood reality.

The two teens, "Jimmy" and "Kenny," played by University sophomore Brian Henderson and Thurston High School senior Nick Smith, respectively, break into the Hollywood mansion of their big-screen idols, a film producer and his leading lady. The teens steal into the mansion because its on-stage residents, "Russ Rigel" and "Jennifer Barton" have starred in a handful of bloody, body-bag flicks produced by Rigel. But the movie-moguls soon find themselves in real danger, as the teens hold them at gunpoint and make them reenact violent scenes out of one of Rigel's films. Although LLTC co-founder Randy Lord would not divulge the play's final outcome, he alluded to it having an "explosive" ending.

"This is definitely a controversial play," said Lord, who also plays Rigel in the performance. "It speaks of what the problem is and how we got to where we are."

Lord described his character as the true villain of the play, despite the menacing actions of the gun-wielding

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