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**Oregon Daily Emerald**

# Looking back at best, worst of Elvis' 1960s feature films

By Doug Nye  
(KRT)

While Elvis Presley was in the Army, his manager, Col. Tom Parker, made sure the public didn't forget the king of rock 'n' roll.

New recordings were released periodically during his absence and Parker also made sure there was plenty of newsreel footage of Elvis in uniform serving his country.

By the time Presley was mustered out, Parker had numerous movie deals locked up. Elvis starred in 27 films during the 1960s. Many provided solid (and harmless) entertainment, but as the decade wore on, the quality of his films began to deteriorate.

Here is a look at Elvis' best from that period:

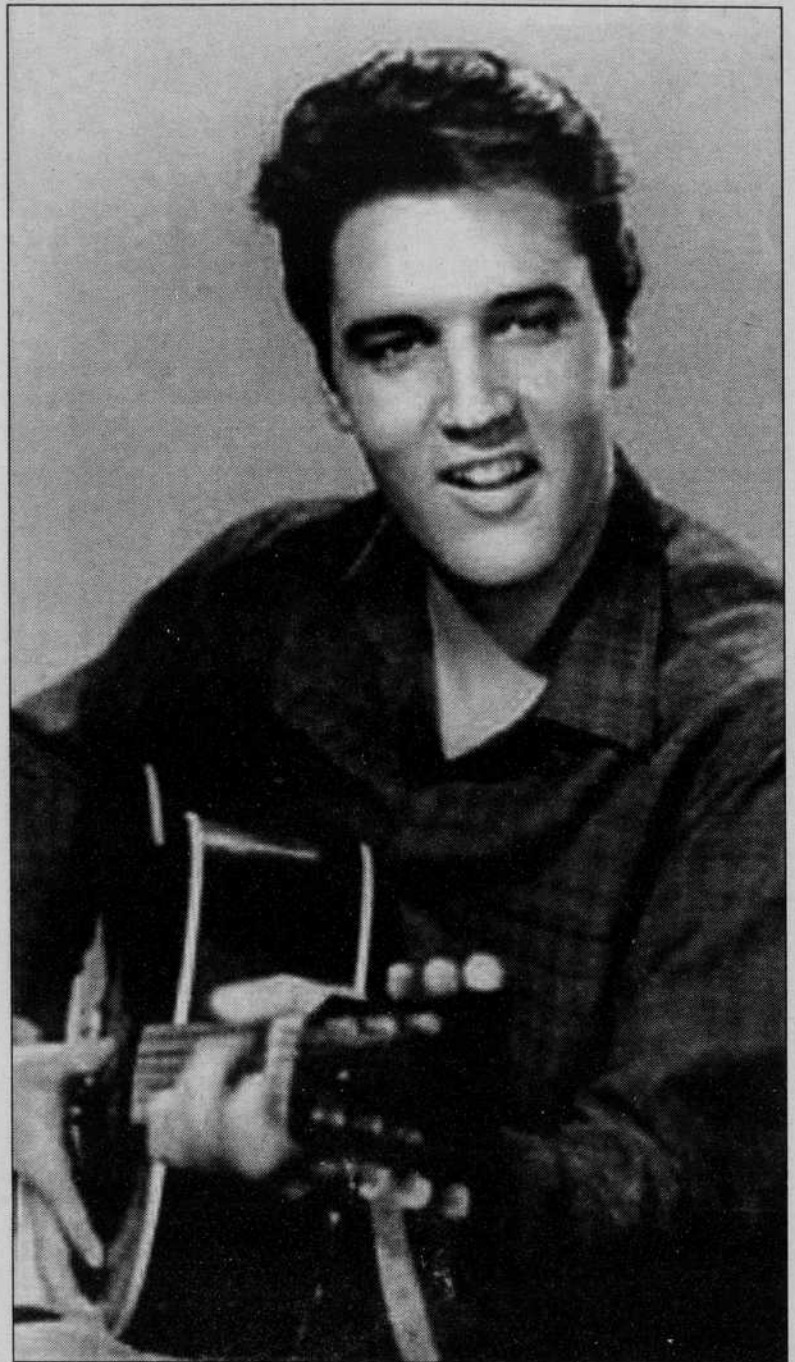
His first out the Army, appropriately enough, was "G.I. Blues" (Paramount, 1960, \$19.99), in which Elvis plays a soldier who woos a dancer named Lili (Juliet Prowse). Among the songs are "Wooden Heart," "Blue Suede Shoes" and the title tune. The film was a hit, ranking in the top 20 films released that year.

Elvis followed that up with two dramatic roles in which he was actually quite good. The Western "Flaming Star" (Fox, 1960) has him playing a half-breed caught in the middle when trouble breaks out between whites and Indians. "Wild in the Country" (Fox, 1961) features Elvis as a rebellious farm boy in plenty of trouble.

Neither of his dramas did big at the box-office and it was obvious his fans preferred the musicals. They got what they wished for with "Blue Hawaii" (Paramount, 1962), which is a short story packed with a parade of tunes, including "Can't Help Falling in Love," "Hawaiian Wedding Song" and the title tune. It was one of his biggest film hits and finished in the top 20 that year.

"Follow that Dream" (MGM/UA, 1962) and "Kid Galahad" (MGM/UA, 1962) struck a happy medium. There are enough songs to keep Elvis fans happy and enough of a story to keep others interested. "Dream" shows Elvis has a knack for comedy as he plays the son in a family that decides to homestead in Florida. "Galahad" has ex-soldier Presley getting into the fight game. Charles Bronson co-stars. These are my two favorites.

Among Elvis' most entertaining



Courtesy Photo

and energetic outings was "Viva Las Vegas" (Warner, 1964). There are numerous electric moments when he and Ann-Margaret team up for several numbers including the title tune and "What'd I Say."

After "Viva Las Vegas," most Elvis movies were almost indistinguishable. It was always the same — Elvis meets girl (or girls) and the songfest begins. Here's a quick look at the worst.

The lame "Kissin' Cousins" (MGM, 1964) with Elvis playing dual roles of a soldier and his hill-billy cousin. MGM released it on VHS a few years back. You might still be able to find it.

"Harum Scarum" (MGM, 1965). Really embarrassing stuff with Elvis making like silent movie star Rudolph Valentino in "The Sheik." Mary Ann Mobley costars.

"Paradise, Hawaiian Style"

(Paramount, 1966) is basically a remake of "Blue Hawaii," but with not nearly the appeal of the original.

The tipoff that Presley had slipped at the box office came with "Clambake" (Warner, 1967). In many cities, it played only at drive-ins.

"Charro!" (National General, 1969) was a change of pace, but hardly a good film. The Western stars Elvis, complete with scruffy beard, as a cowboy accused of stealing a cannon from Mexican rebels.

"Change of Habit" (Universal, 1969) sees Elvis portraying a doctor who becomes involved with nun Mary Tyler Moore. There is simply no chemistry between the two. This was Presley's last regular feature film.

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## Autzen

continued from page 2

sprinkler pipes Tuesday after exclusively receiving blueprints marking the alleged violations from the anonymous source.

Initially, Thrapp said anony-

mous letters are disregarded. But after evaluating the allegations listed and weighing the magnitude of the project, Thrapp and city officials decided an investigation was necessary.

Contact the sports editor at [bradschmidt@dailyemerald.com](mailto:bradschmidt@dailyemerald.com).

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