

FOCUS

Michael Moore Slices Up Health Care in 'Sicko'

Provocative filmmaker shoots next film

(AP) -- First, General Motors. Then gun control, followed by George W. Bush. Now rabble-rousing filmmaker Michael Moore has turned his irreverent camera on health care in America.

"Sicko," Moore's dissection of the health care system, promises to be another hilarious documentary romp, based on excerpts he recently showed at the Toronto International Film Festival.

During a two-hour appearance, Moore discussed his career as a counterculture journalist, provocative filmmaker and liberal standard-bearer, and he played three clips from "Sicko," which he said would be in theaters next June.

The segments presented stories of personal health care nightmares, including that of a woman denied payment for an ambulance ride after a head-on collision because it was not preapproved.

"They try to find every way they can to deny it to you or not sell it to you," he told a packed theater. "Or they try to find anyway they can not to pay the bill."

The "Sicko" excerpts also included a segment comparing Canada's public health care to the privatized system in the United States,



Director Michael Moore arrives at the Toronto International Film Festival to promote his latest film 'Sicko,' a hilarious documentary romp that dissects the health care system. (AP photo)

concluding that Canadians have more equitable access to medical services.

The idea for "Sicko" grew out of a segment from Moore's TV show "The Awful Truth," in which he staged a mock funeral outside a health-maintenance organization that had declined a pancreas transplant for a diabetic man. The HMO later relented.

Health care representatives downplay the potential impact of Moore's documentary.

"We can't control what a major Hollywood entertainer does," said Mohit Ghose, a spokesman for the trade group America's Health Insurance Plans. "Our focus remains on a positive agenda of high-quality health care for more Americans."

Houston, Brown Breaking Up



Whitney Houston and her husband, singer Bobby Brown during a court hearing last year in Decatur, Ga. (AP photo)

(AP) -- Whitney Houston and her husband Bobby Brown are breaking up after a 14-year marriage. The couple has had a sometimes tumultuous marriage, and rumors of their breakup have surfaced of-

ten over the years. They live in Alpharetta, Ga., and have one child, a 13-year-old daughter, Bobbi Kristina.

Houston, 43, had her greatest musical success in the 1980s and

'90s when she won multiple Grammys and had several No. 1 records on Billboard's Hot 100.

She has been less active in music in recent years, but worked as an executive producer on the popular Raven-Symone films "The Cheetah Girls" and "The Cheetah Girls 2."

She has also battled drug problems in recent years, and checked into a drug rehabilitation center in 2004 and again in 2005.

Her musician husband recently reunited with his old soul group New Edition. A show at July Essence Musical Festival got mixed reviews from the audience when Brown jumped suggestively around the stage and made vulgar remarks about his sex life with Houston.

Brown, 37, has had a history of drug and alcohol arrests.



Latifah Hameen

Author Opens Up Her Life To break the cycle of abuse

Latifah Hameen has published a book entitled, *Suffering in Silence: Breaking the Cycle of Abuse*. She opens up her life and shares 20 years of abusive relationships. This is a self-help book geared mostly toward teens and young adults, 14-21 years old, to educate them on the abusive relationships cycle. This is her passion and contribution toward an effort to a better society.

Hameen has been an educator and trainer for the past 15 years. She has taught elementary through college age students. She expresses her creativity through her poetry. Although she is a successful and educated woman, she is an example of the modern day abused woman who suffered in silence.

Hameen is the founder of Healthy Positive Choices, a new agency used as a preventive tool in educating teens and young adults on relationship abuse.

Ellen to Host Next Oscars

(AP) -- Ellen DeGeneres has been tapped to host next year's Oscars.

It will be the comedian and TV talker's first time hosting the Oscars show and first appearance on the award show. She has hosted the Primetime Emmy Awards telecast twice and co-hosted it once, and hosted the Grammys twice.

"Ellen DeGeneres was born to host the Academy Awards," said producer Laura Ziskin in a statement. "I can already tell she is going to set the bar very high for herself and therefore for all of us

involved in putting on the show. Now all we need is a lot of great movies."

The 79th Annual Academy Awards are scheduled to be broadcast live from Hollywood on Sunday, Feb. 25.

DeGeneres is the host of the syndicated talk show "The Ellen DeGeneres Show," which has won 15 Daytime Emmys since going on the air in 2003. She also starred in the ABC sitcom "Ellen," which aired between 1994 and 1998, and the CBS sitcom, "The Ellen Show," which ran 2001-2002.



Ellen DeGeneres

Dylan Hits No. 1; Portland Concert Coming

Bob Dylan, back at the top of the charts for the first time in 30 years, will perform in Portland Oct. 14 at the Memorial Coliseum.

Dylan's latest album, "Modern Times," was released on Aug. 29 and reached No. 1 on the album sales chart in its first week. The critically acclaimed disc is Dylan's first No. 1 album since 1976's "Desire."

Tickets priced can be purchased at the Rose Quarter Box Office and all participating Safeway outlets.

Dylan's influence on popular music is incalculable.

As a vocalist, he broke down the notions that in order to perform, a singer had to have a conventionally good voice, thereby redefining the role of vocalist in popular music.



Bob Dylan will perform in Portland just as a new album puts him on top of the charts.

American Dream Doomed

continued ▲ from Metro

defused when she and the baby are taken in by the family.

Both Tateh and Coalhouse envision a bright future for their children, but soon discover that race and class are factors that can make the American Dream a difficult reality to attain.

After a horrible tragedy robs Coalhouse of hope, he embarks on a spree of violence and vengeance, leading Booker T. Washington to use his wisdom and reasoning skills to attempt to defuse the situation.

Ragtime: The Musical is a deeply moving story told through music as diverse as the population it strives to depict. It draws upon Joplin and

jazz to invoke the spirit of Harlem, traditional Jewish folk sounds to color the voyages of the immigrants and the outrageousness of Vaudeville to capture the spectacle of upper class extravagance.

Directed by Greg Tamblyn (Man of La Mancha, The Full Monty, Peter Pan), the play opened last week and continues through Oct. 29 at Lakewood Center for the Arts, 368 S. State St. in Lake Oswego.

Performances are Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 7 p.m. with added Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. on Oct. 15, Oct. 22 and Oct. 29. Tickets are \$28 for adults and \$26 for students. For reservations call 503-635-3901 or online at www.lakewood-center.org

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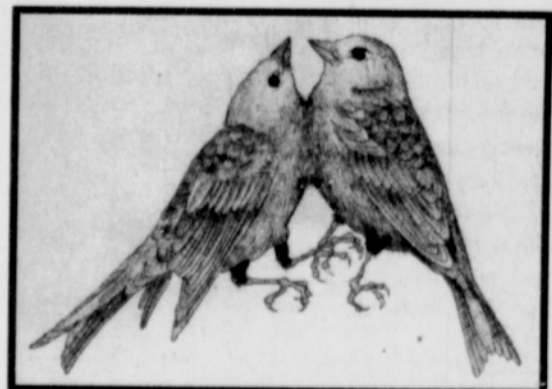
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