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Delta Kappa Alpha



National Honorary Cinema Fraternity

AWARDS BANQUET

JUNE 13, 1976

DELTA KAPPA ALPHA

1976 DKA AWARDS

HONORARY MEMBERSHIPS

LYLE WHEELER

GLENN FORD

DELMER DAVES

PIONEER IN FILM AWARD

HAL ROACH

LYLE WHEELER

Mr. Wheeler, a graduate of the USC School of Architecture, entered the motion picture industry in 1931 as a Sketch Artist and Designer at MGM, becoming an Assistant Art Director on TALE OF TWO CITIES in 1934. At the request of David O. Selznick, he became Supervising Art Director for Selznick-International in 1935. He worked with Alexander Korda from 1941 to 1943, then returned to MGM for a brief period. Mr. Wheeler joined Twentieth Century Fox in 1943 as Supervising Art Director and Color Director, an association which lasted seventeen years. Since becoming an Independent Production Designer in 1960, he has worked on films produced by Otto Preminger, Lawrence Turman, Sam Spiegel, Jerry Lewis, William Frye, and M.L. Frankovich. During his career, Lyle Wheeler has been the Supervising Art Director or Production Designer for more than 700 motion pictures and over 200 television segments.

Mr. Wheeler has received 42 nominations for Best Art Direction, and has won five Oscars, for GONE WITH THE WIND, ANNA AND THE KING OF SIAM, THE ROBE, THE KING AND I, and THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK. His other filmic achievements include ALL ABOUT EVE, TITANIC, DADDY LONG LEGS, JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH, and THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL. One of the most prolific and consistently inventive art directors in Hollywood, Mr. Wheeler has earned the admiration and respect of the film making community.

Steve Robertson

GLENN FORD

"I never really set out to be an actor... I only knew that I wanted to be connected with the theater in some capacity." So said Glenn Ford, one of the most modest and versatile actors around, who can play the most intensely serious character with the depth and concentration that he gives to the lighter comedic roles. A typecast Glenn Ford is hard to imagine.

After graduating from Santa Monica High, he became active in five local theater groups, with a different function in each one. At The Players group in Santa Monica he acted in over 50 plays before some Hollywood talent scouts saw him, which soon resulted in a screen test and a contract with Columbia in October, 1939.

After service with the Marine Corps during World War II, his career took a strong turn upward with roles in A STOLEN LIFE and GILDA. He has won many awards for his social and humanitarian involvements, as well as a number of film honors, including two "Silver Spur" awards as the outstanding western star.

His strongest, most thoroughly expressed dramatic characters were created in THE BIG HEAT, THE BLACKBOARD JUNGLE, TRIAL, EXPERIMENT IN TERROR, and THE BROTHERHOOD OF THE BELL. As for the comedy roles, the most distinctive were in THE SHEEPMAN, TEAHOUSE OF THE AUGUST MOON, POCKETFUL OF MIRACLES, and THE COURTSHIP OF EDDIE'S FATHER.

Perhaps if it weren't for eating that dish of chocolate ice cream in his first play, Tom Thumb's Wedding, at the age of four, the world would have been denied a great, consummate, thoroughly likable talent. In the actor's own words, "That sold me on becoming an actor."

Dale Winogura

DELMER DAVES

With a total of 28 hobbies, its a wonder that Delmer Daves found any time to write and direct movies. But he did, and the world is all the richer for his contributions to the western, war film, epic and romantic melodrama. He is one of the best liked directors in Hollywood, and was one of the first major discoveries in the French auteur theory circles.

Mr. Daves got his first studio job in 1927 as an assistant property man with James Cruze productions at the old Metropolitan lot. A year later, after submitting 20 pages of ideas to director Sam Wood, he was made technical advisor on THE DUKE STEPS OUT, thus beginning his writing career. At Warner Bros. in 1934, Daves was the scenarist for his own story, FLIRTATION WALK, a Frank Borzage musical with Dick Powell and Ruby Keeler.

After a period of free-lancing, Daves returned to Warners to write and direct his first picture, DESTINATION TOKYO, released in 1943. In subsequent films, there emerged a varied and unique body of work that proved to be stylistically intriguing and consistently personal. Film buffs have been quick to point out such unusual technical flourishes such as the subjective camera in DARK PASSAGE (reportedly the first ever executed by an Arriflex), the use of infrared film to create the youth's state of mind in THE RED HOUSE, and the red filters to create the drought effect in 3:10 TO YUMA, so essential to the story. Daves was one of the first to consistently use actual locations in his films, with only DEMETRIUS AND THE GALDIATORS shot entirely on the studio lot. For some reason he has not been given enough credit for making SPENCER'S MOUNTAIN, the film which spawned the popular TV series THE WALTONS.

As to his own feelings on film-making, Daves has said:

"a greatly talented director needs to acquire practiced skills, a soaring imagination, a fountainhead of energy, an ever-reliable sense of humor, the ability to get the absolute best out of not only the cast but the crew, the blessing of flexibility, and the ability to think swiftly whenever the inevitable emergencies arise. And - to put it in the lingo of the new generation - 'without ever losing his cool, man.'"

Andrew Sarris provided Daves's work with a most affectionate defense: "Call it Camp or call it Corn. The director does not so much transcend his material as mingle with it."

Dale Winogura