

“CIVIL WAR” IS TENSE, GUT-PUNCHING CINEMA

By David Miller

HOLLYWOOD—I cannot tell you a movie that I have seen so potent, so visceral and in your face in decades. I am referring to the 2024 flick “Civil War.” I hate to say this, but it is the best movie of 2024, but I dare think of a flick that is going to outdo the emotional reaction this film is giving moviegoers. I mean with the political climate of America right now, “Civil War” feels like it was placing a spotlight DIRECTLY on America and foreshadowing what could happen with this upcoming Presidential Election if people just don't accept the outcome.

Let me say this right now, try going into this movie knowing absolutely nothing because it is just going to intensify the ride that you take. This movie is really about photojournalists and the images they capture when it comes to war. Right now, America is at war, we don't quite know WHY, but that is beyond the point. The filmmakers don't want us to know why, but chaos is erupting all throughout the country, and you can't help, but speculate as a viewer, WHY?

I have not seen acting of this magnitude from all of our main characters in cinema in a long time. Kristen Dunst is fantastic as veteran photojournalist Lee Smith. She is cold as hell at times, stoic, emotionally cut-off, but at the same time we get tender moments from the character. Dunst delivers a tour-de force performance that should be yielding her



"Civil War" really puts a spotlight on where America could be headed. Photo by Jeff Kingma via Unsplash.

awards chatter in few months. Lee is a character that you admire for her expertise in the field, but also want to soften at times.

Then there is Cailee Spaney, who is really building a resume for herself. I cannot wait to see her in “Alien: Romulus” which arrives in theaters this August. She plays novice photojournalist Jessie Cullen, who has no idea what she is getting into despite being warned by her idol Lee. Jessie is a big portion of the narrative, a character who has no clue of the brutality of this industry, but someone who also frustrates you as a viewer. She does things that make you want to scream, but you understand why she is doing them.

The opening sequence involving Lee, Jessie and her colleague, Joel (Wagner Moura) and a suicide bombing is gripping, violent and scary as hell. Director Alex Garland uti-

lizes sound in a way that is so genius. You're not hearing things you think you should hear and you're hearing things, but not seeing things you want to see. Garland is playing with your psyche, and he does it very interestingly. There are shots in the film where you don't see vicious violence, you want to see it, but it's almost better that you don't get to experience it. Sometimes it is not what you see, but what you don't see.

The scariest thing about this movie is I have no clue who the bad guys are and what their motive is. There is just war and there are lots of casualties along the way. Stephen McKinley Henderson as veteran journalist Sammy shines in the role that brings some levity to the seriousness of the movie. His comedic timing is spot on as the audience journeys with these four as they head to Washington D.C. to get an interview

with the current U.S. dictatorial president portrayed by Nick Offerman.

There is a scene in this movie that is going to shock you; send chills down your spine and it involves Jesse Plemons. It is short, but what Plemons does with that character, I would not be stunned if he earned a Supporting Actor Oscar nomination as a result. That line he utters, “What type of American are you?” Like whoa, same with all the other spectators in the theater.

“Civil War” is so haunting, I have to see it a second time. Rarely do I watch dramas that are extremely heavy because of the emotional punch they deliver. It scared me, it really made me question what the hell would happen in the actual United States of America if it is at war with itself. We all hope it never happens, but the way things are politically right now, it is anyone's guess.

DIMERA FAMILY DRAMA ON “DAYS OF OUR LIVES!”

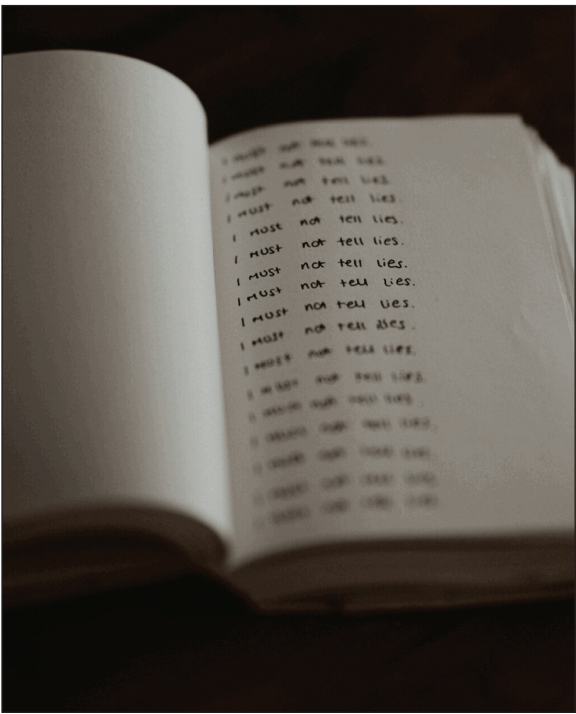
By Donald Thompson

HOLLYWOOD—If there is one family in the fictional town of Salem that you can count on to bring the drama look no further than the DiMeras on “Days of Our Lives,” to bring it. It feels like Chad and EJ are targeting Stefan who was recently arrested and charged for his role in peddling drugs in the town. That is not all that Stefan has been up to because he was the culprit who pulled the trigger shooting a cop, that cop is Detective Harris, who is well aware of what Stefan did.

Look, do not sit here and ask me to explain why Harris is not blowing the whistle on Stefan. I get the goal was to nail Clyde, but he has escaped and is still up to no good as we will talk more about later. He is the Michael Myers of daytime soaps. EJ was not having a great week, as he had to play mediator to Kristen and Nicole who were fighting because of what exactly?

Yeah, Kristen hasn't really been a focal point in the narrative as of late, and after all she has done, I think a break is welcome. She is playing house with Alex, who has no idea that Theresa is actually playing him behind closed doors (more on that later). EJ was forced to deliver a public apology announcing all the charges have been dropped against Tate as Holly came forward with the truth. Yes, Holly is facing the music a bit with her lie and that's mainly Theresa and Brady who are holding the heavy grudge.

Nicole and EJ have moved on, but Kristen is inserting herself where she doesn't belong because she is once again fighting for power at DiMera Enterprises. Yeah, at the moment the only person fit to run



The lies told by the DiMera as of late on "Days of Our Lives" have been relentless. Photo by Annie Spratt via Unsplash.

the company is EJ, with Chad running the paper, Stefan facing legal issues, Kristen is an option, but would you want such a woman running a company? I would not. Holly and Tate are still sneaking around despite their parent's strong conviction to stay clear of one another. You would think Tate would want to run from Holly after what he endured because of her lie, but I guess young love is something that toys with the heart.

Sloan is looking like she is closer to being exposed as Eric has discovered the rent being late on several occasions and there is money unaccounted for. Oh, Eric that money is going to Leo who is working on a big scoop involving EJ. Leo, I don't think it's smart to want to expose the DA especially when you have a secret that is more

criminal and game-changing than what EJ is holding close to the chest to protect his brother.

Yeah, Stefan, threatening the guy who is trying to keep you out of jail just makes no sense, but EJ's time as DA might be short-lived as Paulina is realizing his is more of a problem than a solution. Paulina is dealing with treatment for her health issues, just as Chanel has gone MIA at the Horton cabin, where she was having her honeymoon with Johnny. That was crashed by Julie of all people, looking to escape the Kiriakis mansion that is riddled with kids driving her crazy. Always count on Julie to deliver the laughs people.

The Kiriakis mansion is critical right now because plenty is going on of importance. Why? Thomas has stolen that card

from Konstantin that controls John. Konstantin is in panic mode because he knows without that card he has NO LEVERAGE in his quest to get his revenge for his daughter's death. Why Maggie cannot see that Konstantin is up to no good, I will never know. His VISA is about expire and you're ok with marrying this guy giving him access to millions and so much more. Wake up Maggie, Victor might be turning in his grave, which means we can expect Xander and Sarah to come to her rescue before they say 'I do.'

Xander is ready to clear his name and is getting closer to the truth that he was setup by Stefan. I don't think Stefan wants to go toe-to-toe with Xander. Xander has wicked energy when it comes to exacting revenge and that is exactly what Clyde has on Ava. He wants Ava to retrieve some book from The Bistro that has all his contacts as he plans to take his drug trafficking elsewhere, but I don't buy it. Ava, Ava, if Harris learns your role in Clyde's escape your love affair is over and we know Harris is leaving Salem soon, but whether it will be in a body bag is not yet known.

Stephanie, open your eyes to Everett aka Bobby Stein who is still lying, keeping secrets and his refusal to sign the divorce papers that Jada has requested says he has something to hide. Why not get divorced from someone you don't remember if you don't love them? The writers have stalled this a bit, but I feel like as May Sweeps near we're going to get a bit more meat in this storyline that I hope delivers a shocker, but you never know to be honest.

NINA AND DREW SIZZLE ON “GENERAL HOSPITAL!”

By Donald Thompson

HOLLYWOOD—I knew it, I just felt it in my bones that the writers on “General Hospital” were going to have a pairing between Drew and Nina. Let me just say, those two sizzle as they had hate sex. Yeah, that is what it is people, as much as you might NOT want to hear it. Drew has had a bone to pick with Nina ever since it was revealed that Nina told the SEC about him and Carly being involved in insider trading.

That led to Drew being incarcerated, losing time with Scout and nearly dying. Drew has been a mess ever since Jason has returned to town. He realizes his twin brother is the Golden Child and he is second best. When Jason isn't around, Drew is the Knighted One, but he will never be able to live his life outside of Jason's shadow. So the thought of Drew giving Crimson back to Nina was surprising. I thought he was about to make some sort of power move as he plans to enact his ultimate revenge. However, that is NOT the case here.

Drew gave into a bit of lust, but it was the aftermath of the tryst that was slightly funny because Drew has a sharp tongue and when you screw him over, he makes it clear which Nina discovered. This situation is chaotic because NO ONE at the moment knows what has unfolded. Can you imagine Carly when she discovers that Drew has slept with Nina, how about Sonny? Hell, how about Ava? Hell, how about Willow and Michael. This would be the second guy that Carly has lost out on after Sonny, but I don't think Carly cares that much at this time.

Why? She has other issues with Jagger who was recently pummeled in an attempted mugging, but we all know that



The romance between Nina and Drew is sizzling on "General Hospital." Photo by Jamie Street via Unsplash.

was BS. I was hoping the writers were not looking to do a pairing of Carly with Jagger, but it feels like we are moving in that direction, especially after Nina spilled that tea to unsuspecting parties, but it's not true. Nina is aiming to do more damage to her enemy, but this has become a lopsided rivalry. Carly just doesn't care about Nina anymore. She has other bigger issues to deal with in terms of Jason's return from the dead, Sonny's spiraling behavior, Jagger and so much more.

So imagine her highlight with news of Jason trying to barter an agreement to purchase Carly's half of the Metro Court back to give it to her. Intriguing, Jason having to align with Nina to protect his bestie? Well, at least Carly and Nina are back in their respective roles doing what they are both best at. I find this intriguing because the audience knows Son-

ny is spiraling as a direct result of Valentin and Pikeman screwing with his meds. Meds that are NOT as effective as Sonny and those closest to him suspect.

This is interesting because Ava has tried Sonny's meds in hopes of getting some sleep, but realizes the meds might have been tampered with or not properly working. Did I expect Ava to be the one to solve this mystery? No, but with Sonny's family realizing something about his behavior is off, it is clear that trouble is brewing, major trouble is brewing. Especially since Anna has connected the dots that Brennan and Valentin were close in the past, but guess what they are working together and Valentin's deflection is not helping his situation one bit.

Chase and Brook Lynn are still panicking about their impending nuptials, just as Joss and Dex may be getting back to

a rekindling with that concern of him being a Port Charles cop coming front and center. The narrative for these two is just not intriguing anymore now that he's out of Sonny's organization. Alexis has received the good news that she might have a chance at practicing law again, which means her nightmare of dealing with Nina at that magazine could be coming to an end.

Do I want to see the Legal Eagle back to utilizing her prowess in the courtroom and against her daughter Molly? It was fun seeing those two ladies showcase their legalese. Cody and Sasha, I wish would just kiss already. The chemistry is there, and the writers are dragging that moment as long as they possibly can to the point when it happens, I don't think anyone will care all that much if at all.

RENEWABLE ENERGY JOBS IMPACT ECONOMY IN LA

By Staff

UNITED STATES—The renewable energy sector in California is poised for remarkable growth in the coming years, with California's Antelope Valley region, just north of Los Angeles, emerging as a significant hub for clean energy development. A recent report by the Staffing Industries Association (SIA) predicts a surge in job opportunities within the renewable energy industry globally, with much of this growth focused in solar-forward “hubs” like the Antelope Valley region. In 2022, the state already boasted a significant workforce in the energy sector, with over 911,345 workers employed. (Notably, more than 76% of the electric power generation workforce in California was dedicated to wind, solar, and hydroelectric power).

But Solar power in particular is experiencing unprecedented growth, outpacing uptake of other renewable energy sources. According to the same SIA report, solar accounted for 44% of all renewable energy jobs in 2023 and is projected to create nearly 75% of all new renewable energy jobs through 2030. One of the reasons behind this rapid growth is the versatility of solar installations, which can be deployed by both individual residential consumers and utility-scale projects, making it one of the few renewable sectors accessible to the average person rather than exclusively in the purview of industries or the state.

But why California? Two major factors have contributed to the development of the solar state:

1) Incentives and Government Initiatives

The implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act has accelerated opportunities in the clean energy sector, attracting an estimated



Photo courtesy of American Public Power Association via Unsplash.

\$21.2 billion in investment for large-scale clean power generation and storage projects in California by 2030. Currently, California ranks as the second-largest generator of renewable electricity in the nation, with over 33 GW of solar, wind, and storage capacity already in place. Moreover, plans for an additional eight GW of clean energy capacity are underway, demonstrating a commitment to further expansion.

The Inflation Reduction Act also includes tax credits aimed at incentivizing investment in wind and solar energy, which are expected to lead to significant cost reductions. Projections suggest that the costs of solar and wind power will decrease by 24% and 35%, respectively, over the next 30 years in California. Residential rooftop solar, in particular, is expected to become 60% cheaper by 2050.

The Self Generating Incentive Program (SGIP) has also increased interest in Solar in CA. While the incentive is for home batteries, for many homeowners looking at a battery is either an entry point to considering solar, or so crucial that they are unwilling to consider solar without a battery. BNN Bloomberg states that

in California around 85% of solar sales featured solar and storage systems for the last two quarters, up from 20% last year.

2) Sunlight and Weather California's sunny weather has traditionally made it an ideal location for solar energy adoption. With abundant and consistent levels of sunlight throughout the year, the state offers favorable conditions for generating solar power. Consequently, many homeowners have been drawn to the idea of harnessing solar energy to reduce their reliance on the traditional grid and lower their electricity bills.

In addition, the intermittent nature of California's grid energy, exacerbated by weather-related disruptions, has further incentivized homeowners to invest in solar energy systems and increasingly home storage or even solar home generators. By generating their own electricity through solar panels, homeowners can mitigate the impact of grid outages and ensure a more stable power supply, especially during times of high demand or grid strain.

However, recent policy changes have introduced challenges to the growth of rooftop solar installations in California. The California

Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) ended the state's net metering policies in 2022, which previously incentivized homeowners to invest in solar panels by compensating them for excess power fed back into the grid. The replacement of net metering with a “net billing tariff” has led to a decline in rooftop solar project sales by approximately 80%.

Despite these challenges, the momentum for solar energy remains strong. California continues to lead the nation in small-scale solar power generation, with a recent report highlighting its impressive growth over the past decade. However, there is still untapped potential, and policymakers must ensure that state policies support robust rooftop solar growth to realize California's solar energy goals.

The renewable energy sector, particularly solar power, is driving significant economic growth in the region just north of Los Angeles. With supportive policies and continued investment, the Antelope Valley area is well-positioned to capitalize on the opportunities presented by the clean energy transition, creating jobs, reducing emissions, and bolstering the local economy in the process.

Newsroom Staff

Bhaskhar D
Casey
Christina
David M
Davy
Donald T
Glenn

Grady
Hazel
Jason
LaDale
Lacy
May
Michael S

Rose
Sharon
Tony
Trevor
Winter
Zoe

Declaration of Principles

Canyon News promises to: (1) Provide a community newspaper that tells all the news honestly without any political agenda, slant or spin; (2) Allow commentary writers the freedom to express their opinions and views without interruption, censorship or persuasion; (3) Provide members of the community (rich or poor) with the truth and a place to voice their concerns; (4) Abstain from printing anything demeaning, calumnious or potentially harmful to any living being; (5) Maintain the highest level of journalistic integrity.

Contact us at (310) 277-6017 or visit us online at www.canyon-news.com