EVENTS

'Everybody Wants Some!!' captures grace of baseball

BY MICHAEL CAVNA **WASHINGTON POST**

When Richard Linklater starts talking sports, his hands move with great sweeps and waves as if a favorite game were suddenly being realized before his very eyes. It is the deep muscle memory of a man who, long before he was composing extended tracking shots for a living, was tracking down deep fly balls in the endless Texas air.

A couple of summers ago, when Linklater sat to talk "Boyhood," the conversation kicked up a few notches when we began talking about our own boyhoods of being competitive junior athletes in the '80s, and of the role that sports can play in paving one path to man-

Linklater has a new film out this week, "Everybody Wants Some!!," which is being billed as a "spiritual" sequel, of sorts, to his coming-of-age classic "Dazed and Confused" of a quartercentury ago. The new film centers on a band of small-

college Texas ballplayers in 1980 — material that draws inspiration from the director's own freshman season as a Texas baseball player on schol-**COMMENTARY** arship,

before he

got injured and his passion turned fully to film.

As you watch "Everybody Wants Some!!," it is easy to pulled in by the bonding rituals of physically gifted manchildren who are still testing their way in the world. They are freshly launched balloons of fresh optimism and mild entitlement. And they feed on all forms of competition as if sucking back Lone Star longnecks.

Yet there is one element that Linklater holds back till the late innings of the film. We see all manner of casual sport, but only once, and late, do we finally hit the diamond for their sport. Baseball is their ultimate focus and purposeful release, so seeing them test each other on the field effectively functions as the climax in a movie that pur-



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Glen Powell and Blake Jenner in "Everybody Wants Some!!'

posefully avoids any standard dramatic arcs. This 'sports" film is not some vision quest; it is far more simply a vibe.

College baseball is fiercely competitive, of course, and yet being on a team provides the security of being its own Neverland. Even some lost boys nearing 30 might angle to extend their stays on this suspended field of dreams.

Yet when the young actors finally take the field, they move like ballplayers. They don't just jaw at each other like real teammates; they glide over the mound and in the batter's box and around the horn like guys who have lived and breathed this game. And they have the subtle tics and hitches that ballplayers invariably pick up: the mitt motioning

toward a catcher, or the juggling of the resin bag, or the waggling of the bat head before timing and turning on an inside pitch.

I spotlight all this because filmmaking, like illustration, is very much a visual sport. As a budding teenage sports cartoonist, I used to sketch then-San Diego Padres star Kevin McReynolds, as well as his Hall of teammate Fame Tony Gwynn. So in "Everybody Wants Some!!," when a leftyswinging ballplayer named McReynolds belts a battingpractice homer, I'm reminded of what it's like to try to capture pure physical grace through a visual medium.

Linklater has an unerring eye for this grace, not only as a visual stickler, but also as a former left fielder and fleet base stealer who studied the subtleties of the game like an artist.

That might sound not so uncommon, but trust me, it is. Hollywood is littered with the embarrassing clips of actors who tried to fake playing athletes on film and failed. Watching even a great talent such as Anthony Perkins or Robert De Niro or Ray Liotta trying to impersonate a ballplayer breaks the suspension of disbelief of anyone who has really studied the game.

Still, when I used to work in a newspaper sports department while in college, we watched films such as "Bull Durham" (written by former minor leaguer Ron Shelton) and "The Natural" and appreciated that stars could move like college-level ballplayers. And though Liotta looked awfully awkward in "Field of Dreams," Kevin Costner sure tossed with Dad like a natural and even the film's whitehaired Burt Lancaster harked back to old films in which this gifted athlete and circus artist had credibly played Jim Thorpe

In the art of motion pictures, it's not such an easy thing to find actors who can convincingly play the motion of sports.

A round of applause, a high-five and a fist-bump are earned by the filmmaker who has the eye to render such grace.

Things to Do

AUGUSTA - All Breed Fun BLUE HILL - Friends of Day hosted by Kennebec Valley Shetland Sheepdog Club, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, April 3, Buker Community Center gymnasium, 22 Armory St. Registration on-site. Conformation handling skills, 9 a.m.noon, \$10; rally obedience run-throughs. 12:30-4 p.m., \$10 per dog per class; obedience run-throughs, 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m., \$10 per dog per class. Colleen Golding, 453-2631 or woodlandfarm@roadrunner.com.

BANGOR — "Through the Looking Glass" annual spring auction, 5:30-9 p.m. Friday, April 1, John Bapst Memorial High School, 100 Broadway. Dinner, dessert, cash bar, raffles, auction to support the school. For tickets, visit http://jbauction.bpt.me/ or call the school at 947-0313 ext 115. Tickets \$50 for individuals; \$350 for a table of eight.

BANGOR — Lobster stew dinner, 5 and 7 p.m. Saturday, April 2, All Souls Church, 10 Broadway, Take out meals available beginning at 4 p.m. Cost of dinner is \$15. Tickets must be purchased in advance. 942-7354.

BANGOR — "Haroutunian: Riffs of Maine," paintings by Joseph Haroutunian, through May 31, Boyd Place, 21 Boyd St. Open daily 9 a.m.-7 p.m. through May 31. 963-6005, 941-2837 or info@ littlefieldgallery.com.

BANGOR - Literacy Volunteers of Bangor's annual Literacy Tea, with 40 tables decorated on themes from children's books, 3-5 p.m. Sunday, April 3, John Bapst Memorial High School, 100 Broadway. Maine writer and illustrator Mark Scott Ricketts will perform his book "Adventures in Vacationland." Tickets \$20. 947-8451 or lvbangor.org/literacytea.

BANGOR - "Search Images," woodblock prints by artist Amy Guadagnoli, through April 14, Robert E. White Gallery, Husson University. Amy Guadagnoli at 370-9202 or art@amyguadagnoli. com, Kathi Smith at smithk@husson.edu.

BAR HARBOR - Folk duo John and Rachel Nicholas, 2-3 p.m. Sunday, April 3, Jesup Memorial Library. Free and open to all. 288-4245 or kchagnon@jesuplibrary.org.

BAR HARBOR — Bob Thaver discussing history, geography and the beauty of Ireland in a slideshow and talk, 7-8 p.m. Friday, April 1, Jesup Memorial Library.

288-4245 or kchagnon@ jesuplibrary.org.

Blue Hill Public Library first Saturday of the month book sale, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, April 2, library's basement book nook. Accepting donations of books in good condition. 374-5515.

BLUE HILL - Flash! In The Pans steel drum band and Planet Pan joint "street dance," 7-9 p.m. Saturday, April 2, George Stevens Academy cafeteria, 23 Union St. Benefits Island Nursing Home and Care Center of Deer

BREWER - Bangor Singles Club dances. 8 p.m.-midnight Fridays, Brewer Eagles Club, 22 Atlantic Ave. Wild Horse, April 1; Murky Waters, April 8; Mainely Country, April 15; Prairie Dogs, April 22; Country Mist, April 29. Marilyn, 827-5751.

EASTPORT — Sunday

Afternoons at the Eastport Arts Center series, 3 p.m. Sundays. Harpsichord Hour with Gregory Biss, April 3; Jay Miner reading from his book "Lincoln's First Nomination: Champagne Deals and Dirty Tricks," April 10; open date for rescheduling possible snow-canceled programs, April 17; Mark DeVoto on Debussy's Pelleas and Melisande, April 24. Free and open to all. Hot drinks and refreshments offered. Donations accepted.

HAMPDEN - Baked bean supper, 4:30-6 p.m. Saturday, April 2, Hampden Kiwanis Civic Center. Features John's awardwinning chili. \$7, \$4 children. Benefits Hampden Kiwanis charities.

MACHIAS - 10th annual University of Maine Cooperative Extension Washington County 4-H Robotics Expo, 9:30-11:15 a.m. Saturday, April 2, UMaine Machias Reynolds Center, 116 O'Brien Ave. Free and open to all. 255-3345.

MILLINOCKET — St. Martin's Thrift Store open house, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 2, at the store, 112 Maine Ave. 723-4513 or barbwaters21@gail.com.

OLD TOWN - Wednesday trivia nights, 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays, through April 6, Old Town American Legion Post 75, 20 Water St. Cost \$1. Teams will be set up. Food, drinks and 50/50. Open to public. 827-4378.

ORONO - Orono Land Trust 30-year anniversary celebration at annual membership meeting Friday, April 1, at Keith Anderson Community House, 19

Bennoch Road. Social gathering 6:30 p.m.; short annual membership meeting 7 p.m.; followed by guest speaker Professor David B. Field on "The Appalachian Trail in Maine - What is it Supposed to Be?" **Explorations in Maine** from 1925 to 1933 focused on access and scenery. Today's impact of greatly increased numbers of users threatens the integrity of the physical footpath and the social environment of the trail. Trail managers struggle to balance user freedom of choice and the responsibility to protect natural resources and the user experience.

ORONO - Popovich Comedy Pet Theater, 3-5 p.m. Sunday, April 3, Collins Center for the Arts, University of Maine. Blend of comedy and juggling by Gregory Popovich and his performing 15 cats and 10 dogs that were rescued from animal shelters. 800-622-8499 or collinscenterforthearts.com/ event/popovich-pet-theater. Tickets are \$20 adults; \$12 ages 12 and younger. Fees may apply.

ORRINGTON - "Hee Haw Hayride," musical in two acts staged by 96 members of Center Drive School drama club, 6-8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 1-2, school gymnasium, 17 School St. Includes 15-minute intermission when concessions stands will be open. Pie auction held after each show to raise funds for next year's performance. \$5, \$3 students and senior citizens. Pauline Dickey, drama club director, 825-3697.

PORTLAND - Maine Acoustic Festival Showcase Concert, 4-5:30 p.m. Sunday, April 3, Hannaford Hall, University of Southern Maine, 88 Bedford St. 846-9559 or maineacousticfestival.

PORTLAND - "Evangeline, or The Belle of Acadia" by Edward E. Rice, an American musical, performed by Longfellow Chorus and Orchestra, Portland Ballet and Woodside One Wheelers of Topsham, 7:30-10 p.m. Saturday, April 2; and 3-5:30 p.m. Sunday, April 3, John Ford Theatre. Portland High School, 284 Cumberland Ave. \$20, \$15 students and seniors. longfellowchorus.com or Charles Kaufmann, 232-8920.

PORTLAND — Gleanings from Ireland's Griffith's Valuation workshop, 1 p.m. Sunday, April 3. \$5 members, \$10 others. 232-2001, vinnyomalley@gmail.com or maineirish.com.

SHOW

STARZ

PORTLAND - "400 Years of New Mainers, through April 2, Maine Historical Society, 489 Congress St. Free. Part of the First Friday Art Walk.

SHIRLEY - Maine Maple Sunday open house, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, April 2, and Sunday, April 3, Baker's Maple Syrup, 26 North Road. Free tastings, sugar house demonstrations, sap woods tours. 695-2460 or bakersmaple@ gmail.com.



UNITY - "Barbara Peabody: On the Water and in the Woods," a show of paintings, through April 1, Leonard R. Craig Gallery, Unity College Center for the Performing Arts, 42 Depot St. Refreshments provided Free and open to all.

Gallery hours, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday, and by appointment. 509-7239 or bpotter@unity.edu.

For a complete listing of calendar items or to submit your event, visit www.bangordailynews.com.

SHOWTIMES VALID 4/1 thru 4/7 ALL SHOWS EVERYDAY HOLLYWOOD CINEMAS

God's Not Dead 2 (PG)	11:40	2:00	4:20		6:40	9:00
Batman vs Superman: Dawn of Justice (PG-13)	11:35	2:30		5:40		8:30
Zootopia (PG)	12:15	2:25	4:35		6:40	8:45
Miracles From Heaven (PG)	12:30	2:45	4:50		7:00	9:05
Deadpool (R)	12:45	2:45	4:45		6:45	8:45
Daddy's Home (PG-13)	11:40	1:20	3:10	5:00	7:10	9:00
The Divergent Series: Allegiant (PG-13)	12:00	2:15	4:30		6:45	9:00

Coming Soon: Captain America: Civil War 5/6 and Jungle Book 4/15 WATCH FOR OUR NEW ULTRA MAX THEATER EXPERIENCE \$5 Matinees/\$7 after 6pm. \$5 all day for under 12 & Sr. Citizens. Children under 2 FREE Super Tuesday \$3 all day, all ages! 🖈 SAVE 30% – 50% on concessions at Hollywood Cinemas! 🖈 941-9419 • 268 ODLIN ROAD, BANGOR www.hollywoodcinemasbangor.com

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