

ENTERTAINMENT

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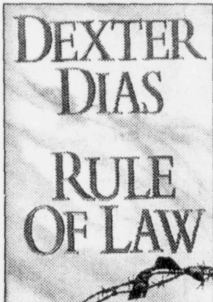
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PHONE 564-0005

BESTBETS

► Guilty Pleasure

Rule of Law by Dexter Dias – A German concentration camp housing Russian Jews, Saddam Hussein, British aristocracy and the modern chemical weapons trade. The mind wouldn't automatically connect the four.



But Dexter Dias stirs them all in a plot that thickens into a criminally audacious stew of high crime and international intrigue.

Dias is a British lawyer.

So the similarities between him and one of the most well-known crime/trial writers in North America, John Grisham, are hard to avoid. Dias doesn't have as many books under his belt, and he tends to be overly formulaic. But *Rule of Law* beats a dusty old law book by an English mile, and bodes well for the future.

Bottom line: if you like Grisham, you'll like Dexter Dias. —CAM McALPINE

► Angry Dozens

12 Angry Men – No, this video is not about a dozen "hard-done-by middle aged white guys." It's the story of one man convicted of a murder he may or may not have committed, and the jury of his "peers" who must decide on his fate. At first, it seems to be an open and shut case. But through the course of jury deliberations, the certainty of the verdict is brought into question.

This film is the antithesis of action. Based on a stage play, and set almost entirely in a single room, this film depends heavily on the ability of a surprising ensemble cast – including George C. Scott, Tony Danza, Jack Lemmon, Hume Cronyn and Edward James Olmos – to pull off an incredibly intricate script. And they do it in spades.

The result is a fascinating glimpse outside the fact-based environment of the courtroom and into the competing personalities and histories brought to the jury room by those who sit in judgement.

—CAM McALPINE



Tony Danza

Seduction's Heat

Gold rings and nylon strings. Tan skin and whirlwinds. Oscar Lopez is the prototype for the Latino musician. He is handsome, flamboyant, well groomed, passionate, and plays like a hurricane. He is the Zoro of the guitaro.

"I don't know if I have an image. All I know is I am what I am. I wear my gold rings not to show off, but that's part of me. I like to dress well, because that's me. I don't try to be Mr. Fashion, but I like to present myself and my musicians as best I can on stage because that is respect to my audience," says the Chilean-born star of the world beat charts. "Sometimes, maybe most times, I make jokes that don't make sense, I'm off the wall, but that is me. I don't stand up and say 'well, ladies and gentlemen, I did this song when I was very sad and this song is in G Minor...' Awww, no, I can't be that. The way I am on the stage is the way I am walking on the street and I'm really proud of that. I don't have to put a mask on. You like me or you hate me. Whatever. You hate me: stay home. You like me: come to the show and have a good time."

His audiences are famous for the good times they have. Every concert is like a soccer riot after his fellow expatriate countrymen get through whistling and clapping and stomping the floor and dancing on tables. There is usually always a large contingent from the Chilean community to anchor the festivities.

But for the past 20 years Oscar has lived in Canada, escaping the political unrest that prevailed in Chile at the time. He calls Calgary home now, and has been building a national audience ever since he arrived. In 1995 he began a relationship with world-wide world-beat record label Narada, and it has been international success ever since. He has been on the Billboard charts, he just played a concert at the prestigious Kennedy Centre in Washington, and his two last albums, *Heat* and *Seduction*, have been best sellers for instrumental music.

"I used to think it was luck, but now

I realize working hard is what can make the difference," Oscar says.

"When I was in Chile I was playing professionally at 16 or 17 years

old. I came to Canada in 1979, and I never stopped to think about it, but now that I'm more mature as a human being and a musician, I realize that everything

'I don't have to put a mask on. You like me or you hate me. Whatever. You hate me: stay home. You like me: come to the show and have a good time.'

OSCAR LOPEZ



Chilean-Canadian guitar master Oscar Lopez has a manly way with the Latino music he performs for the world. He is in PG Wednesday night.

I have done has been a step to another step. Things slowly changed until five years ago I got signed up with (Narada)

and doors and windows and everything started to open for me. I'm not rich, but I'm making a

good living doing what I love to do. To me, that is making it. I have a nice balance with my music, my wife, my family, the people I love. I cannot have any

complaints."

The fans cannot either. His shows always result in buckets of hard-earned sweat and a lot of high-energy music. He is always gracious and charming and family conscious. The Latino community could not have a better ambassador.

Local concert promoter Jo Beattie described him as "macho in the most inoffensive and gentle way" and that is what to expect when he plays in Prince George on January 20 at the Ramada Ballroom. Tickets are available at Studio 2880. His show is a presentation of Calico Concerts and the PG Folk Society, who ask concertgoers to bring non-perishable food items for the food bank.