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Post photo by Richard Gummere

Robert Duvall: not entirely happy with the way his role worked out.

# 'Apocalypse': now it's just history to Duvall

By TOM TOPOR

IT'S Robert Duvall's sixth film for Francis Coppola, and the actor — in the opinion of many the best character actor in America — has only good things to say about the director and *Apocalypse Now*. But he'd just as soon not.

"I finished my work on the film nearly three years ago. It's a great film, and Coppola is the director I like working with best, but the film to me means a job three years ago. It's his obsession."

In the movie — Coppola's \$30 million attempt to capture the horror — and exhilaration — of the Vietnam war, Duvall plays Lt. Col. Kilgore, an air cavalry officer who sports a Civil War hat and likes to destroy Viet Cong villages so he can go surfing.

It is a typical Duvall role (in other words, different than anything he has done) typically played (in other words, brilliantly). Duvall, who played the lawyer Tom Hagen in both *Godfathers*, the lecherous puritan in *M\*A\*S\*H*, the un-

scrupulous TV executive in *Network*, is a perfectionist so he is not entirely happy with the way Kilgore worked out:

"I saw the film once before at Coppola's house in San Francisco. It was different. A little different. Maybe more than a little." He laughed, not happily. "They cut some of my stuff. I guess they thought it was too flashy."

"There was once scene where I save this little boy's life, this little Viet Cong — the soldiers used to do that — and

Continued on Page 31