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# Beating Drums for 'Apocalypse'

Francis Ford Coppola has now got more going for him than just his talent. He's also got beautiful Colleen Camp, who is in his new picture "Apocalypse Now," acting as a sort of roving emissary and telling everyone: "The film's fantastic."

Every director should be so lucky. Particularly after those early groans which filtered down from San Francisco following a preview some time ago.

The two-hour, 45-minute film won't be shown until December of next year, which gives curvaceous Colleen plenty of time to do her tub-thumping.

And in case you're thinking "Great balls of fire, what can be wrong if it takes that long to come out?," she's got the answer: "Francis is determined to have it perfect."

"I know there was some negative reaction when the film was first screened," she said this week. "But he's done a lot of work on it since then (the other day, at Goldwyn Studios, he was still working on it with Brando, his chief star). And maybe it's a good idea that people aren't raving about it beforehand, as they do with so many films. This way it'll surprise everyone. I've seen it twice and it's extraordinary."

In between talking about "Apocalypse Now," in which she sings "America the Beautiful," very movingly, Colleen is trying hard not to be in love.

"One of my troubles," she told me, "is that when I fall in love I fall *madly* in love, and my energy level is depleted. So my work suffers. I mean, I was in love when I tested for 'King Kong,' so of course I didn't get the role. It was the same with a couple of other pictures. When I'm in love I have no chance."

She was uninvolved when she set out for the Philippines to make "Apocalypse Now," and determined to keep her heart under lock and key.

"But there I was," she said, "one girl and all those guys in the jungle. And after a few weeks one particular guy started looking really good to me (he was Dean Tavoularis, Coppola's production designer). And I fell in love again."

Fortunately, she says, she managed to concentrate long enough to pull off her important scenes.

Since hacking her way back from the jungle, she has clearly restored her energy level, for she has made three more pictures.



Colleen Camp

One of them was "Game of Death," made in Hong Kong.

Said Colleen: "My agent told me: 'It's a fantastic part, opposite Bruce Lee.' 'But he's dead,' I said. 'I know,' my agent said. 'Great,' I told him, 'You got me into the jungle for a year and now you want me to play opposite a dead guy. My career is obviously taking off!'"

"What had happened was that there was a lot of footage left over from a film Bruce Lee was making when he died. They took that and combined it with the stuff I shot and then John Barry wrote a title song which I sang and we had a picture. I may say it was an odd experience, acting with a leading man who'd been dead for some time."

She's a great believer in speaking her mind, as producer Frank Yablans has discovered.

"I was really anxious to test for his film 'The Other Side of Midnight,'" she said. "But I never got the chance. So one night when I found myself in the next booth to him in a restaurant I said loudly: 'I want to thank Frank Yablans for giving me the chance to test for that film.' That did it. He turned round and talked to me and promised he'd find something for me one day. He's kept his promise, too. Now I'm up for a role in his new film 'North Dallas 40' with Nick Nolte."

A persuasive lady.

