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John Wayne, Lee Marvin, Dorothy Lamour In South Seas Adventure "Donovan's Reef"

(Opening Day)

The award-winning director, John Ford, returns to the screen with "Donovan's Reef" in Technicolor and starring John Wayne, Lee Marvin, Elizabeth Allen, Dorothy Lamour and Cesar Romero. Filmed on location in the exotic South Seas, "Donovan's Reef" opens today at the Theatre.

John Wayne stars as "Donovan" and "Donovan's Reef" is the name of a saloon that he owns. He is an adventure-loving World War II hero who stayed in the islands after the war, and has since become a fairly prosperous businessman with a fleet of sailing ships, and of course, the saloon. With him on the island are two of his wartime buddies: Lee Marvin, who plays a drunken, brawling beachcomber; and Jack Warden, an idealistic doctor who stayed behind to build a hospital and furnish medical care for the natives. Also on the island are Cesar Romero, who plays its foppish, fortune-hunting Governor; and Dorothy Lamour who plays Fleur, the local torch singer who has been trying to marry Lee Marvin for years. As the movie begins, everything is peaceful on the island except for an occasional friendly battle between Wayne and Marvin.

The peace of this tropical paradise is shattered with the arrival of the doctor's daughter, played by Elizabeth Allen. A very proper Bostonian, she has never seen her father because she was born during the war, and he never returned to Boston after the Japanese Surrender. In the meantime, unknown to her, her father has married a native woman and has three children. The daughter has travelled to the tropics to dig up any damaging information that can cause him to be left out of the family will. Donovan realizes that although her father is a dedicated doctor, his marriage to a native may be just the information the young lady is looking for.

It takes the bold intervention of John Wayne to straighten out this awkward situation, charm the young Boston Miss into becoming a human being and also solve the other individuals' problems.

This plot idea and the artistry of John Ford have combined to make a highly entertaining adventure-comedy that is also very heart-warming. In fact the lush beauty of the tropical settings alone are well worth the price of admission. John Wayne plays the kind of role his fans like best: a hardy adventurer who fears nothing and likes nothing better than a good fight. It is also highly amusing to see Lee Marvin, who usually plays either a cop or a crook, enact the role of a lovable but beer-soaked beachcomber.

"Donovan's Reef" is a Paramount release, based on original material by Pulitzer Prize-winning author, James Michener.



Still 10384/36

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NO HOLDS BARRED—Big John Wayne and Lee Marvin battle it out in this scene from John Ford's new Technicolor comedy-adventure, "Donovan's Reef" which opens at the Theatre.