

For Carrie Fisher, Latest Part Is a Blast

By JACK GARNER
 Const. News Service
NEW YORK — You wouldn't know it by looking at her, but Carrie Fisher shoots a mean gun.

If the United States ever drafts women, she said, "I'm in trouble."

As Princess Leia in "Star Wars" and "The Empire Strikes Back," she fires a blaster as well as any rebel or storm trooper. And in "The Blues Brothers," she tries to kill Elwood and Jake Blues with a virtual arsenal of weapons.

Fisher co-stars in the rock and roll comedy.

It's the long-awaited film debut of the fictitious rhythm and blues singing Blues Brothers, created on Saturday Night Live by comedians John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd.

The story of Jake and Elwood also features cameo performances by Cat Cailloway, and rhythm and blues greats Roy Charles, Archie Franklin, and James Brown.

"I play the mystery woman," she said. "You never know my name. You just know I run a beauty salon called Cool Lip and Dye."

It turns out that she has been jilted at the altar by Elwood Blues (Aykroyd), and she takes out her anger by attacking him and his brother during the film.

"I blow up a phone booth with a flamethrower, and I demolish an



CARRIE FISHER ... wearing white, as usual

entire building with a bomb," she said.

Such a destructive image is hard to imagine, when you're faced with a small 5 feet, 1 inch, attractive young woman.

Her trademark baseball cap, worn off-center, doesn't conjure up

a tough image either.

In the course of "The Blues Brothers," Carrie Fisher fires a Vietnam 20-mm anti-tank cannon, an M79 Assault Flame Thrower, and an M16 Commando machine gun. Her destructive antics are just part of the carnage in "The Blues Brothers."

The movie was filmed on location in Chicago, and ended up costing \$28 million.

Fisher, 23, is happy to finally be wearing something other than white clothes in a movie. In her debut in "Shampoo" she wore tennis clothes, and Princess Leia wears white in "Star Wars" and "Empire." Her polyester wardrobe in "The Blues Brothers" was selected to typify Middle America and came exclusively from Sears.

She said she's glad to be in a film that's a departure from the princess role. "Because 'Star Wars' is so big, and because I look so different than I am, many producers don't consider me," she said. "They say they know my work, and they want to discover somebody."

"My old middle name was 'Delia Reynolds' daughter," and my new middle name is 'Princess Leia.' Oh well, Snow White didn't work again."

She said her work in "The Blues Brothers" probably evolved out of her spot as the guest emcee on "Saturday Night Live," an opening she got because of a friendship with one of the writers. "I also did a small bit in 'Mr. Mike's Mondo Video,' a film made by the creators of Mr. Mike, one of the Saturday Night Live favorites.

Fisher was born and raised in Beverly Hills, the daughter of Debbie Reynolds and Eddie Fisher. Though she says she didn't finish high school, she studied drama in England. She worked in the chorus of "Irene," a Broadway musical starring her mother, before her film debut in "Shampoo."

Lyrics Play Prominent Role In Van Zandt's Mood Hops

By PAUL KAZA
 Special to the Free Press

Tommy Van Zandt isn't exactly a household name with contemporary music fans. But his appearance Wednesday night at Hunt's captured the rapt attention of a full house that clearly knew his music — and were glad to finally see him play in Burlington.

Van Zandt's musical approach is deliberate and direct. Accompanied only by bass player Jimmie Gray, he presents his music without a lot of hoopla — allowing his sensitive lyrics to play a prominent role while the instruments provide a simple musical backdrop.

Van Zandt's compositions are generally created by themes of serious emotion or satire, reflecting his frequent change of moods. "I Needed You," recorded on his "Live at the Old Quarter" album, opened the set. "Two Girls," "The Striped Song," and "Indian Cowboy" followed, establishing a rotation of serious to satire — but with little change in rhythm.

"It's tough to get the crowd going early when we're in for a long night," he explained between sets. The energy drain is heightened when playing in a duo format, he said. Other appearances by Van Zandt may include up to six backup musicians, distinctly lacking during his Burlington show.

Van Zandt has a definite knack for satirical punches, as in his Dylan-like composition about joining a fraternity and learning "Greek." "I learned that son-of-a-bitch backwards." Rex's Blues" revealed his Southern sense of humor: "Rex was so ugly when he was born the doctor slapped his mother."

"Puncho & Letty," made famous by Emmylou Harris, drew enthusiastic recognition from the audience. The 1976 recording brought a number of new fans into Van Zandt's camp. "That was during acoustic music's last real popular period," he said.

Like most country artists, Van Zandt relies heavily on the images of places he's been. "Texas River Song" paints a pretty picture of the south, and Van Zandt makes no bones about his attachment to the area. Now residing outside Fort Worth, Van Zandt said "I always thought I didn't have any use for the East coast." But that was before he saw Vermont for the first time.



Music In Review

"This is a beautiful place," said the lucky Texan. "I'd like to come back." The crowd at Hunt's would go along with that.

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