

REEL PALI

Palisades Connections to Film and TV

Ben Affleck Stars In 'Triple Frontier,' Now On Netflix



Photo courtesy of Netflix

By JAMES GAGE
Reporter

Palisadian Ben Affleck is starring in a new jungle-heist-action flick "Triple Frontier," which premiered March 13 on Netflix.

The plot follows five former Special Forces operatives as they reunite to plan a heist in a lush border zone of South America, this time not in their country's best interests, but their own.

Affleck plays the movie's lead, Tom "Redfly" Davis, and is accompanied by a stellar cast, including Charlie Hunnam ("Sons of Anarchy"), Adria Arjona ("Pacific Rim: Uprising"), Pedro Pascal ("Narcos"), Oscar Isaac ("Life Itself"),

Garrett Hedlund ("Pan"), Reynaldo Gallegos ("Logan") and Sheila Vand ("A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night").

When Pope (Isaac) receives a tip from an informer (Vand) about a cartel leader hiding out in the jungle with \$75 million in cash, he reunites the old crew for a "one-last-job" style story that offers a big rush from start to finish.

Trailers for "Triple Frontier" were typical action fare: helicopters, guns, explosions and loud noises. These it has, but it has also surprised viewers, who have praised it as an atypically smart, compelling movie with characters that are more than grizzled faces spouting one-liners.

Written by Mark Boal ("The Hurt Locker") and J.C. Chandor ("A Most Violent Year"), and filmed on location in Colombia, "Triple Frontier" is a visual and dialogical treat with well-paced, realistic action sequences and some thoughtful, nuanced conversations between characters that share a real chemistry and have real motivations (despite their eye-rolling, one-off backstories).

"Triple Frontier" succeeds most in its quieter, action-less moments. Without spoiling anything, the story is really about greed and human beings—what it does to them and what it causes them to do to others.

Affleck is particularly good in his role as Tom, who changes subtly and believably as the poison of greed takes hold and his friendships, values and sense of self are tested.

Affleck is, once again, where his fans have wanted to see him most: in front of the camera.

Palisadian Honors Late Brother Through His Art

By CHRISTIAN MONTERROSA
Reporter

Palisadian Laura Ornest was working in Vancouver sometime in the 1980s when she received a phone call from her brother Maury, who was in his 20s at the time.

"Helicopters are flying over my duplex, and the Nazis are coming," he said, according to Ornest.

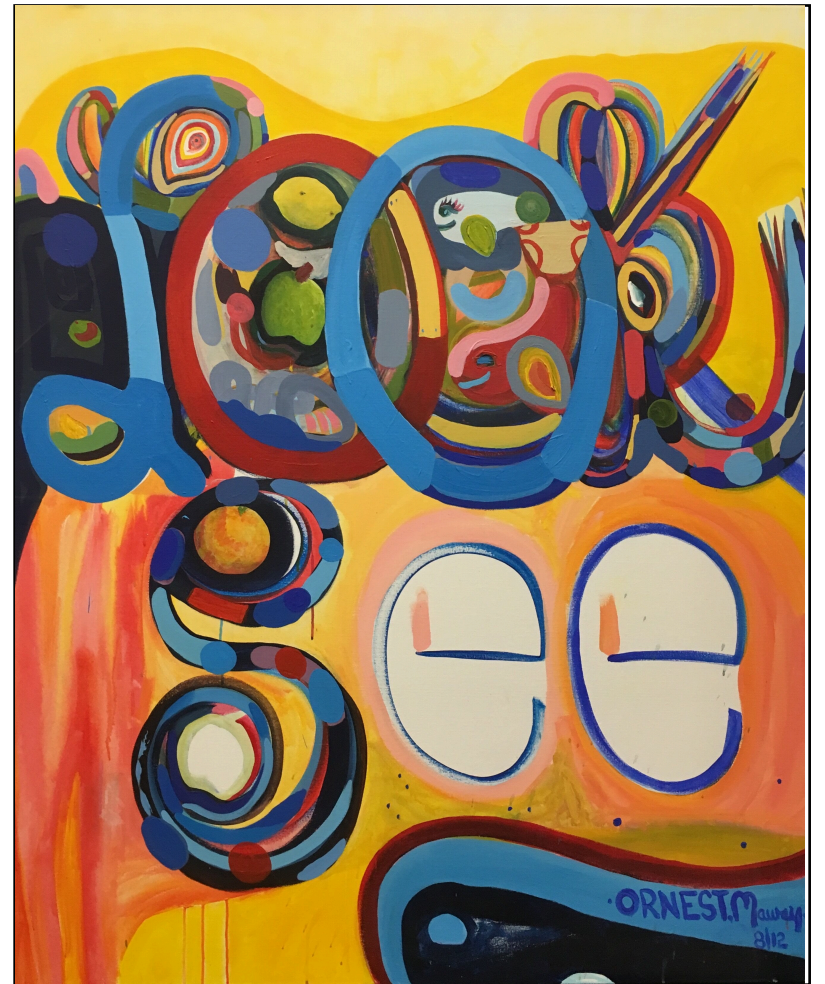
"I thought he was on drugs," Ornest, who lives in Rustic Canyon, told the *Palisadian-Post*. "It turns out, he was having a break from reality. Doctors called it a psychotic break."

Maury's battle with mental illness would last the rest of his adult life, until his passing from heart disease at the age of 58.

While visiting the home he left behind, his family discovered an overwhelming amount of paintings and journals.

"Every room, stacked full of paintings, over 1,000. We could hardly move around all the canvases," she said. Now, Ornest has set out to honor her brother's legacy in a big way by mounting an exhibition that features over 200 paintings.

"Mo's Show: A Celebration of the Life and Work of Maury Ornest" opened on Saturday, February 23, and remains available



Paintings by Maury Ornest

Photos courtesy of Laura Ornest

for showings by appointment. All proceeds from sales will benefit charities, including mental health organizations and Kehillat Israel in Pacific Palisades.

"It was hard for us to maintain a relationship with Maury," she said. "We hope by telling this story and displaying Maury's whimsical and joyous art, it can help people understand the complexities of mental illness, help people see past the illness to the person.

"Within us all, are the same fears, hopes and longings."

Ornest said many who attended the show expressed incredible compassion and "experienced new ways of looking at Maury, mental illness and the transforma-

tive power of art."

"I wish this could have happened when he was alive. But during the weekend of 'Mo's Show', it felt as if he were alive," she said.

Along with the paintings, Maury left behind countless journals of poems and writings, some of which are on display at his home.

"I paint or draw every day. I work hard at this tree called art, this world of artistry," Maury wrote. "I pour my guts from my soul and every other part of my existence, into every painting no matter how good, average or not good. Painting is not a curse to me. Today it's a gifted blessing."

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