

George C. Scott shines in 'Finding the Way Home'

Actor suffers heart trouble on the set

By Amy Schmidt

There's nothing missing from ABC's splendid new telefilm "Finding the Way Home," debuting Monday, Aug. 26. And next year's Emmy nominations won't be missing anything either. This one's a winner. No one gets kidnapped in "Finding the Way Home," no one gets killed, and no one even gets switched at birth. Still, the good-hearted, visually stunning film makes this year's big Emmy vote-getter, "The Josephine Baker Story," look like a yawn.

"Finding the Way Home" also features one of Hollywood's acting legends—George C. Scott, who lives up to his reputation here. Providing sensitive back-up support to Scott are Hector Elizondo ("Pretty Woman"), a deservedly rising talent, and Julie Carmen ("The Milagro Beanfield War").

Scott plays Max Mittelmann, a meticulous, elderly hardware-store owner who has taken it on the chin. His old-fashioned, home-style business has been wrecked by chain-store competition. The savings and loan in which he's invested his life savings has gone bust. His building

isn't up to code and the city's threatening to close him down.

In short, Max needs to modernize, move more merchandise and get a better attitude, or so his wife (Beverly Garland) says. Instead, Max wrecks his car, suffers amnesia and wanders into 'a migrant workers' camp, where Elizondo and Carmen take him in.

On the set of "Finding the Way Home," which was filmed last December in Denton, Texas, even to the casual observer it is evident Scott is a bear of a man, a giant professionally among those around him.

Remember, this was the gruff actor who branded the Academy Awards a "meat parade," rejecting an Oscar for his performance in 1970's "Patton." One month later he refused an Emmy for "The Price." In "A Christmas Carol," he played Scrooge. In "Beauty and the Beast," he was the beast. Reportedly, Scott at one time threatened to tear a photographer's camera off of his neck if he took one more picture.

But when given a moment alone with Scott, his normally gravel-laden voice softened. He sat talking in a porch swing in the dark, away from the lights of the set. He evinced a sense of humor, albeit a dry one.

"I like this (film) because it was human, it was warm, it didn't have a

lot of violence, a lot of aggressive sex in it. It was a gentle script about nice people trying to get along in life," said Scott.

Was he sure he didn't want to do a love scene? (A long-ago tempestuous affair with Ava Gardner had recently captured media attention.) "I'm a little old for that," he said good-naturedly.

He talked a little about his favorite roles, pastimes (bridge, tennis, swimming) and about his health. Scott suffered artery blockage while making "Finding the Way Home." He was hospitalized, underwent a procedure called angioplasty and finished the film.

Did he have any new Year's resolutions? He laughed. "I never make New Year's resolutions. I'm just lucky to make it to the New Year!"

To say, "So are we, George," would be a vast understatement. Be that as it may, don't expect the spellbinding actor to gratify the star-struck by showing up at the Emmys.

Respected actor George C. Scott stars as a troubled small-town businessman whose temporary amnesia leads him to unexpected relationships with a group of Latino migrant workers and a rejuvenated enthusiasm for life in "Finding the Way Home," premiering Monday on ABC.

SOAP TALK

Marcy Walker gets whisked into prime time

By Candace Havens

Dear Candace: I usually watch *Another World*, *Santa Barbara* and *Days*. I'm a big fan. I would like to say in response to the ex-*Days* fan in Texas, that *Days* has changed for the better. When I saw Carly come to Bo and they kissed, I cried!

I'd also like to know what Marcy Walker's plans are now that she has

come back to *Santa Barbara* as another character. —Concerned fan in Nashville, Tenn.

Dear Reader: Walker plans to leave the show again sometime this fall, as her prime-time career is beginning to take off. In fact, on her last day of *Santa Barbara*, she is whisked off in a limousine by Stephen J. Cannell, her new producer for her upcoming prime-time show, *Palace Guard*.

Dear Candace: We are glad *Days of Our Lives* has Jennifer and Carly spending more time together. After all, they are best friends. We'd like to see them spend even more time together.

We're also glad Carly found out about Victor switching the letters. Thanks. —Kelly and Nicole, Canton, Mich.

Dear Kelly and Nicole: Real friendships on soaps are a rare thing. Often people only come together when there is a major crisis. It would be interesting to see the writers develop friendships between women and between men.

I want to hear from you! If you have a favorite soap scenario you would like to sound off about, or a question about the soaps, write to Candace Havens, Soap Talk, P.O. Box 961009, Fort Worth, Texas, 76161-1009.