

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

[illegible]

Monte Hagler used the tropical vegetation and trees to enhance this picture of Hawaii's Rainbow Falls.

Think about total environment when shooting any landscapes

In past columns, I've discussed the need to keep things simple, express a single idea, and keep backgrounds simplified to assure the viewer's attention will be directed toward the main subject. But there are times when using the environment as a backdrop can add an extra dimension to your pictures. The environment, when used properly, can make an otherwise ordinary photograph into one that's extraordinary.

In a picture of a person, for example, what surrounds the subject can tell us something of his or her interests, or social status. You'll often see environmental portraits where much is learned about the person by the "clutter" in the finish.

Sometimes you might just "stumble" onto a unique photo



**Focus on
Photography**

Monte
Nagler

ter speed. I was able to get everything sharp from front to back and also produce a "milky" looking waterfall. By the way, this is Rainbow Falls, one of Hawaii's most spectacular.

As in all good photography, pay attention to lighting and camera angle and choose the lens that will enable you to include all that you want in the viewfinder. Once again, be sure to use an aperture small enough to place all the items in your composition in the camera's depth of field.

So think about using the environment in your photography. You'll find many proud pictures to your portfolio.

Monte Nagler is a fine art photographer based in Farmington Hills. You can leave a message for him at (734) 953-2047.

Detroit Composer's Collective presents concert

The Detroit Composers Collective begins its first season with a concert of new music, 2 p.m. Sunday, April 6 at the Seamb Club in Detroit.

Ryan Mackstaller's *Just This* with Ryan Mackstaller (guitar), Dan Bennett (baritone saxophone), and Tim Brown (drums) will perform the first set. They'll debut new compositions including movements from the "Tom Waits Carnival Suite," an original homage to the visual allusions associated with the music of Tom Waits.

The second set showcases the music of Andrew Bishop and his

oet with the performance of commissioned work by the Detroit Composers Collective. Bishop is known for his interest in highly diversified musical forms with works for orchestra, band, chamber ensembles, jazz, theater, film, dance, multimedia and various popular/folk idioms. He has performed as a saxophonist with Greg Dendian, Karl Berger, Kenny Burrell, Charles, the Manhattan Transfer, and John Zorn. Bishop is an assistant professor of jazz, theory and composition at Albion College. Established in 2002, the

Detroit Composer's Collective is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing a forum for the presentation of contemporary music. In addition to an annual concert series, the Collective is designed to present a new vision of arts education with its "Sphere of Influence - apprenticeship in action."

The Scratch Club is at 217 Farnsworth, adjacent to the Detroit Institute of Arts, corner of John R and Farnsworth. Admission to the April 6 concert is \$10, \$7 students. Call (313) 365-8360 for information.

