Rocky IV, written and directed by Sylvester Stallone, starring Sylvester Stallone, Talia Shire, Burt Young, Carl Weathers and introducing Dolph Lundgren. Playing at Sack Cinema 37, Renal PO.

If Rocky has set out to seize the title of heavyweight boxing champion of the world, "D" Stallone has already been nerved jabbed by several film critics in America. The all-embracing media rejection of Rocky IV occurred before the film was released to the public. The basis for this universal revulsion was that a sequel to Rocky III (and Rocky II, and Rocky!) should never have been conceived — in much the same way that the psychopathic murderer in Rocky III (and Rocky II, and Rocky!) is the victim. Early in the film, his elaborate and theatrical decision of the iconic Drago and his eventual downfall prelude the explosive final match between Balboa and the Russian.

To say more would mean to give the plot away (which in fact some reviewers have done under the belief that this would not spoil the movie), and this I won't do since I feel the film is worth the money. I wonder if there are any aspiring literary journalist who would care to mention the circumstances which lead to the final bout; namely the result of the self-glorifying, ostentatious and grossly commercial American Show-Biz hullabaloo.

While in Rocky III, Balboa and Stallone, as the Stallone, felt victims to the American way, in Rocky IV it is Apollo Creed, Rocky's best friend, coach and former opponent (played by Carl Weathers), who is the victim. Early in the film, his elaborate and theatrical decision of the iconic Drago and his eventual downfall prelude the explosive final match between Balboa and the Russian.

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In what may be the last of a series of autobiographical films, Stallone reveals himself on a personal level, in a similarly gadget-oriented and grandiose way as the original Rocky. Admittedly, his ideas about politics are somewhat confused and even laughable in one point even the Russian audiences seem cheering (for Rocky!), but perhaps only because we ourselves don't question enough of our own sensitivity and feelings since in the Russians, a people we are taught to hate a-pron.