Herald Tribune

Cannes

...le of the Family — Darkly

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in the role of the fortyish lady bountiful who takes a maternal interest in a dimwitted lad, enacted genially by Mel Gibson.

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"Days of Heaven" is a motion picture of startling pictorial splendor and a remarkable achievement at cinematography. Visually it has superb sweep and grandeur, a model that deserves close study by aspiring cineastes.

It brings the screen to vivid life with its stunning movement and moods and in its atmospheric recreation of the Texas wheat plains and itinerant harvest hands of six decades ago.

Terrence Malick, its director, apparently regards the script he has composed as secondary. It is. Its incidents are obliquely recounted against the fascinating general background and the story, such as it is, tends to drift with the fortunes of the drifting laborers.

Richard Gere as a hearty harvester, Brooke Adams as a disputed beauty of the wheat lands, Linda Manz as her young sister and Sam Shepard, the playwright, as an ailing, neurotic planter meet their assignments commendably, but it is the imaginative style with which the cameras of Almendros have captured the scene that raises "Days of Heaven" to distinction. In filmic art it surpasses all that has been seen in Cannes this season.

Biblioteca Digital de Albacete «Tomás Navarro Tomás»