

out of my head

Lincoln theatre-goers expect too much?

By Charlie Krig

I've often heard derogatory remarks about the quality and quantity of drama in the Lincoln area. They, of course, find fault with the availability of good theatre for both the performer and the audience.

But is there really a lack of good, high class theatre? If there is, what can be done to relieve the problem?

To begin with, Lincoln is very fortunate to have the potential it has. The Lincoln Community Playhouse has one of the finest facilities for productions in Nebraska. It is lucky enough to have a resident director plus a sufficient area population to ensure a fair number of qualified people for auditions and casting.

UNL, unfortunately, has only half the blessings of the playhouse. UNL has dedicated theatre arts faculty members and a sizable number of drama students, but the

theatre itself is beyond hope. Good old Howell Theatre is just that, terribly old.

Besides the mainstage productions, UNL also has the Studio Theatre for experimental drama. These plays are directed by graduate students or guest directors from other schools. But the plays sometimes turn out even better than the mainstage productions.

Problem is public's attitude

However, the problem is not the relationships between the theatre groups in Lincoln, but the public's attitudes towards them in respect to professional theatre.

The public often finds it hard to accept anything less than a perfect copy of a work seen in New York, on television, or in the movies. Rather than realizing that this is amateur work, they recognize a well-known play or playwright and want to see exactly what's been done before. They don't want to see a new approach to a previous production.

Perhaps part of the misunderstanding comes from the miracles that the director and actors are supposed to accomplish during rehearsals. A Broadway production usually is rehearsed for three forty-hour weeks after which it is previewed and rearranged for another two weeks. Two great European directors, Stanislavski and Brecht, would spend over a year on one play, and a total of more than 1,000 hours of practice.

How then can you expect miracles from a community or university production that has only three to four weeks with, at the most, 100 hours of rehearsal time? Obviously, there has to be some qualification of what each theatre group can do during its cramped schedule.

Dinner theatre fails

As far as professional theatre goes, Lincoln had its fling with a dinner theatre last year and it appears that it "has gone the way of all flesh."

The dinner theatre, since it was on an experimental basis, refused to become an Equity House, that is, refused

to join the Actors' Equity Union. Their thoughts must have been that "since it probably won't work anyway, why waste a lot of money on a union?" It is too bad they did not realize that without enough money to attract the expert, experienced actors and technicians it needed, the theatre was bound to flop.

So what does that leave Lincoln? Well, we've got the "mellodramers" (not really what you might call "professional" theatre, yet they do fulfill community entertainment needs.

You always can go to Omaha to the Fireside or Westroads Dinner Theatres. They usually field good productions, but with a few years' experience Lincoln could have a company that's just as successful.

What about waiting for the few professional troupes that come to Kimball Recital Hall? The Acting Company, formerly the City Center Acting Company, will have five performances here during March. But, I don't think that will satisfy me until next year when another group might stumble through Lincoln on its way to better pay and larger audiences.

Or, you could try some community and university theatre. Don't misunderstand me, I'm not saying that every production is worthy of double the Broadway admission price.

Instead, everyone should appreciate how theatre as an art slowly is growing and gaining ground in Lincoln. We should learn to appreciate a show that's been produced with a cast of virtual beginners and a budget of only \$100 to, at the most, \$1,000.

Think of the amount of time, effort, sweat, and practice that has preceded opening night. And then try to justify the statement that theatre in Lincoln is no good, that it isn't professional, and that the possibilities for an excellent production are between zero and nothing.

Lincoln, here's to you. At least you are trying and just for that you deserve an "Encore!"

arts & entertainment

Natural materials become sculpture

By Diane Wanek

"Since 1945 a great surge of public interest in the arts has occurred. It is my belief that a popularization of the visual arts is evolving. . . . The American public is presenting a direct challenge to the artist. As an answer to this challenge, I propose to create and install new visual environments in order to integrate artistic creativity, patterns of human behavior and the environmental phenomena."

—Patrick Rowan

UNL professor of art

Rowan's ideas are manifested in his "Weeping Water Documentary," currently being displayed at the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery.

The exhibit consists of sculpture, drawings and photographs of the Weeping Water area east of Lincoln. The approach is unique, in that Rowan has collected natural materials such as stone, earth, wood, fossils and bones from the area and transformed them into sculpture.

Each work seems to have been approached in a classical way, but he has integrated a primitive, archaeological, anthropological, and sometimes even a geological, insight into his sculpture.

In his artist's statement on the "Weeping Water Documentary," Rowan said, "The imagery is directed toward the representation of the historical sequence and artifacts of the prehistoric North American Indian, as evidenced in the Weeping Water area."

Photographs of the Weeping Water area and notes Rowan made while working on the documentary, including sketches of his ideas for the sculptures, are included in the exhibition.

Rowan's documentary will be displayed until March 28.

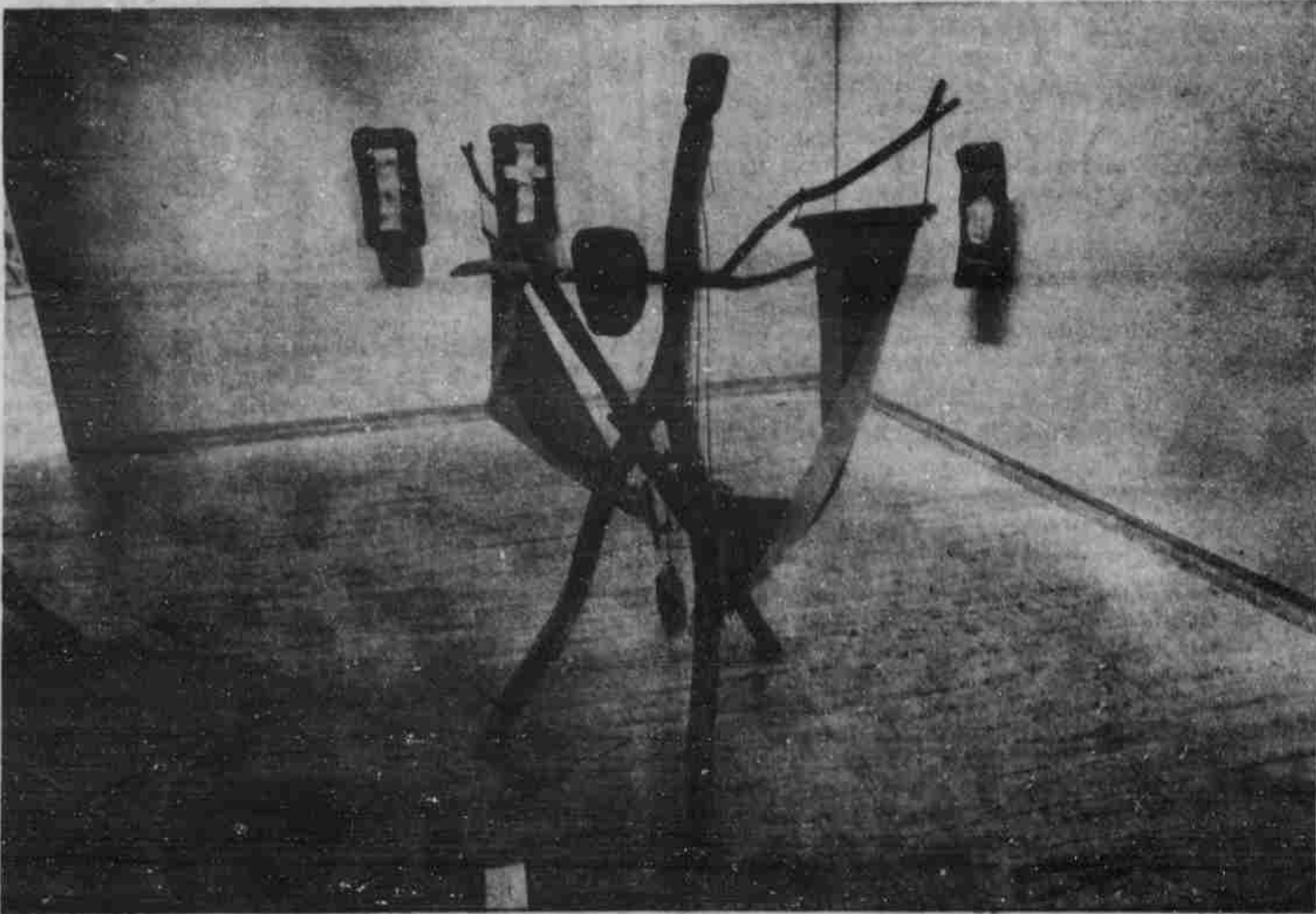


Photo by Kevin Higley

This piece of sculpture is part of Patrick Rowan's "Weeping Water Documentary" now displayed at the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery. Rowan, UNL professor of art, has collected such natural materials as stone, earth, wood, fossils and bones from the Weeping Water area east of Lincoln and has transformed them into sculpture.

up & coming

Movies

Embassy: *Every Inch A Lady*, 11 a.m., 1:30, 4, 8:30, 9 and 11:30 p.m.; *The Man Who Came At Dinner*, 12:30, 3, 5:30, 8 and 10:30 p.m.

Hollywood and Vine 1: *Emmanuelle Part 2: The Joys of a Woman*, 1:30, 3:30, 7:30 and 9:30 p.m.
Hollywood and Vine 2: *The Story of O*, 1:15, 3:15 and 9 p.m.

Stuart: *The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes - Smarter Brother*, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. Midnight Movie: *The Parallax View*.

Cooper/Lincoln: *Camelot*, 2:30, 5:15 and 8 p.m.
Plaza 1: *The Magic Flute*, 5:15, 7:30 and 9:45 p.m.
Plaza 2: *The First Nudie Musical*, 5:45, 7:35 and 9:25 p.m.
Plaza 3: *Hustle*, 5:20, 7:30 and 9:40 p.m.

Plaza 4: *The Man Who Would Be King*, 4:25, 7 and 9:25 p.m.

Douglas 1: *The Devil Is A Woman*, 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45 and 9:55 p.m.

Douglas 2: *The Sunshine Boys*, 1, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30 and 9:40 p.m.

Douglas 3: *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15 and 9:40 p.m.

Cinema 1: *Barry Lyndon*, 1:45, 5 and 8:15 p.m.

Cinema 2: *The Boob Tube*, 1, 2:40, 4:20, 6, 7:40 and 9:20 p.m.

State: *No Deposit, No Return*, 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 p.m.

Joy: *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, 1, 3, 5, 7 and 8:50 p.m.

Nebraska Union Foreign Films: *Donkey Skin* directed by France's Jacques Demy, on March 9, 10 and 11.

Performing arts

University Theatre: *You Can't Take It With You*, 8 p.m., March 5 and 6 in Howell Theatre.

Faculty members Recitals: Emily McKnight, voice, 8 p.m. March 8 and Brass Quintet, 8 p.m., March 9;

both at Kimball Recital Hall. Student Concert: Collegiate Band at 8 p.m., March 11, at Kimball Recital Hall.

Dance Recital: Jose Limon Dance Co. performing at 8 p.m. on March 6 and 7 at Kimball Recital Hall.

Dance Marathon: Benefit dance marathon for Muscular Dystrophy in the Nebraska Union Ballroom 6 tonight through midnight Saturday.

Night spots

The Open Latch: Herbie Adams sings from 5:30 p.m. to midnight on Fridays and Dave Landis sings from 7 p.m. to midnight on Saturdays.

Uncle Sam's: Disco Monday through Saturday nights and two-fers on Mondays.

Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the front lounge (with singer/guitarist Steve Coffin and pizza from Valentino's).

The Zoo: Rhythm and blues by Home Cookin'.

Oscars: New-fers from 2 to 6 every Saturday afternoon. House of the Dragon: Singer-guitarist Sally Cowin. Revolution Lounge (Holiday

inn Northeast): Live band, The Beginnings.

Singles Dance: Every Friday from 8:30 to 12:30 p.m. at the Elks' Club.

Pis-Mor Ballroom: Dances, food and drinks nightly featuring the Dick Wickman Band on March 6 and a polka showdown between the Wendingers vs. Becwar on March 7.

Royal Grove: Live band, Pin-ups.

Airport Inn: Phyllis sings and plays the piano and organ during the lunch and dinner hours.

Tony & Luigi's: Brad T. in the Gondole Lounge.

Two Eyed Jacks: Live band, Freeride.

Little Bo's: West, bluegrass music by Pete Blakslee and the Good Time Boys; East, top forty played in the disco by DJ Don Crawley; Center, music by The Disco Kids.

Clayton House Lounge: Pop singer-harpist Harvi Griffin's final week.

Hilton Hotel: The Tommy Graham show entertains in Fanny's; harpist Sarah Dunlap plays in the Haymarket dining room.

Reception opens show

Featured Haymarket Gallery artists Anne Burkholder and Karen McPartland will be introduced at a reception March 7 when the gallery opens its March art show. The public reception will be from 2 to 4 p.m.

Burkholder will display paintings that a Haymarket spokesman said, "have careful composition, singing, subtle colors and great appeal." As a full-time professional artist, the UNL graduate teaches painting classes at the Haymarket.

McPartland, an art graduate of Doane College in Crete, will exhibit sculpture. She uses various media in her work.

The displays will run through March 29 at the gallery, 119 S. 19th St.

Plays to open Sunday

The second bill of student-directed plays will open Sunday night in Temple Bldg. 201. Three one-act plays, *I'll Be Damned, Out to sea,*

I'll Be Damned, Out to sea, and *Dust of the Road*, will begin at 7 p.m. March 7 and 8 with the second and third plays beginning approximately 10 minutes after the previous one ends (around 8 and 9 p.m., respectively).