

Shorts

KZUM (89.5, 99.3 FM) has a couple of shows it thinks you may want to hear. They are: "Fly By Night" and "Power Pop for Prairie People."

"Fly By Night" is touted as "soul music for the adventurous." It airs Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. "Power Pop..." is a request show featuring progressive rock, blues and reggae which airs every Tuesday at 11:30 p.m.

Season tickets are already sold out for two events

Computer, crowd awake in sleeper

By Glenn Stuva

"Electric Dreams" just may be the sleeper hit of the summer. With the possible exception of "Ghostbusters," it's the best movie showing right now. The problem is that so far it hasn't had a very aggressive advertising campaign, and most people won't go see a movie unless they see hordes of commercials for it on television. And don't listen to the self-appointed film critic deities who dismiss the movie as an extended music video. It's simply not true.

The story line of "Electric Dreams" revolves around Miles Harding, a young architect, played by Lenny Von Dohlen. Miles is chronically late for all his business meetings, so to be better organized he buys a personal computer with which to schedule his life with. This is one of those "user friendly" computers designed for people who know nothing about computers. Miles knows nothing about computers.

In an effort to stay one step ahead of his fellow employees, he decides to tap into the main computer banks of his building firm. The result is a massive information overload on his small home computer. When the computer starts to smoke, he douses it with champagne. The computer then "wakes up." It comes alive, names itself Edgar, and falls in love with the same woman Miles loves.

Lenny Von Dohlen gives an extremely good performance as the young architect. He is fresh and energetic as a man attempting to balance his life between work, the woman he falls in love with and the mischievous computer.

The woman is Madeline, played by Virginia Madsen, who does an equally good job in her role. One of the main strengths of the movie is the way Madsen, Von Dohlen and Bud Cort, who does the voice of Edgar the computer, all play off each other. It sounds funny to talk about people interacting on a personal level with a personal computer, but it was handled so well that by the end of the movie, Edgar seems more human than most human characters do. But being a computer that has only recently come alive, Edgar has no real idea what emotions are, or what love is. He finally comes to understand it as a feeling similar to the feelings inspired by music.

The movie was directed by Steve Barron, who is probably best noted for having directed Michael Jackson's "Billy Jean" video. One would expect a movie directed by him to have music and "Electric Dreams" does. But the seven original songs written for the movie by such people as Boy George and Jeff Lynne are not simply plastered on to the film to give it box office appeal as such songs were in "Flashdance" or "Footloose." Instead they are very important parts of the movie, because within the context of the movie the songs are not written by famous

in the UNL/Kimball 1984-85 Performance Series: Malcolm Bilson on Sept. 21 and the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra on Feb. 5. There are still 16 events to choose from, plus the opportunity to purchase tickets to the special event, the Houston Ballet, when a season order of four or more events is purchased before Oct. 6. For more information or a free brochure, contact the Kimball Box Office at 472-3375, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.



Courtesy MGM/UA

Madeline (Virginia Madsen), Miles (Lenny Von Dohlen) and Edgar the computer form a love triangle in "Electric Dreams."

artists, but are generated by Edgar, who gets most of his information from listening to the radio or watching television.

The songs then become for Edgar a way of bridging the disparity between a world that he has much factual knowledge about, but little emotional understanding of, and his inner world of newfound emotions, which he cannot express.

Barron avoids the trap of letting the songs dominate the image, and instead uses both image and sound to complement each other. It does not turn into an extended rock video as some claim. Anyone who says that either didn't watch the movie very carefully, or they've never watched MTV. Visually and technically, this movie is superior to most of what you might see on MTV. It's silly to compare them.

With the exception of Bud Cort, most of the people who worked on this film had never done any major movie work before. Maybe that's why it has such a clean, new look about it. Unless you're one of these people who feel threatened by technology, "Electric Dreams" is a must see. But you'd better hurry. If the attendance at the box office doesn't pick up it might not play too much longer.

Fine arts...

Continued from Page 6

Entertainment in Antelope Park this week includes a presentation of "Cinderella, A Toby Show" by Nebraska Repertory Theatre Wednesday; The Cheryl Priest-Dickey School of Dance on Thursday; Jazzercise on Friday; a locally written play called "Terms of Adolescence" on Saturday, and a Municipal Band concert on Sunday. All performances will be held in the bandshell at 7:30 p.m.

Paul Newton will be the featured musician at the Foundation Garden Brown Bag Concert Wednesday at noon.

Bluegrass Crusade will perform at Foundation Garden Thursday at noon.

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