

# Successful actor advises students to take chances

By Lisa Nutting  
Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

Lincoln native Mitch Reta, now a successful actor, has this advice for college students interested in a career in acting: "Take chances — constantly take risks and chances."

Although taking chances has left Reta in Lincoln the past eight months recuperating from a motorcycle accident that happened when he was a stuntman, his is an actor's success story.

When Reta was 7, he dreamed of going to Hollywood. He received his first acting part then, too — in a grade school play. When he was 10, he appeared in the presentation of "Oliver" at Lincoln's Pinewood Bowl. At 15, he received his first acting job with pay when he participated in the "John Neihardt Days."

Since then his dream has come true. Reta, a UNL graduate, has had, among many, feature roles on the "Dukes of Hazzard," "B.J. and the Bear" and "Another World." He has trained at the Circle in the Square Professional Acting School in New York City and has taken classes at the American Film Institute in Los Angeles.

Reta, 27 is a 1975 Lincoln East High graduate. Realizing

his interest in acting, Reta said, he tried to keep involved in it as much as possible. He worked two years in a local repertory theater, and after graduating from high school, went to UNL to study his dream — acting.

"I think you know intrinsically if you've got what it takes to go out and do it," he said.

During his first year at UNL, Reta said, many theatre graduate students were the actors to get the leading roles in theater productions.

"I thought, 'I don't want to wait until I'm 27 to act,'" he said. "I found I was really eager to get up and go."

So he up and went. In January of 1977, Reta and two friends flew to New York City. It was a bit scary, Reta recalls.

"I went to New York with no knowledge of what to do," he said.

Reta said he was naive about how to get an acting job. Because he didn't understand the rules of the "big time," he said. He called anyone he could think of to find a connection. He called actors, producers and big name directors, requesting information about parts. But his "naiveness" got his foot through the door — he was offered an "extra" part on "The Doctors" soap opera. After that, Reta said, his career was in a state of "constant progres-

sion." But in 1980, Reta got a part on "B.J. and the Bear" as a famous motorcycle stuntman. While on location in Ukiah, Calif., Reta revved the motorcycle and it flipped over, hitting his knee. The knee was cut badly, and although Reta was in a lot of pain, he and his bandaged knee finished the day of shooting.

Reta said he didn't realize how serious his injury was until he went to the emergency room that night. He also didn't realize that he'd spend the next four years recuperating.

The first year after his accident, he could not walk much and acting was out of the question. But now, after many operations, his knee is nearly healed. He said he is "ready to get back to work." He plans to be in New York soon after the holidays.

"You (actors) have to not get suckered into feeling that you're never going to act again," Reta said of dry spells. "I think if you work hard enough, you're not going to be a starving artist."

He said to make it as an actor, one needs to be dedicated, open and vulnerable.

"You have to be willing to go out and make a complete fool of yourself," he said. "You need toughness and, at the same time, need to be able to shed that at the drop of a hat."



David Creamer/Daily Nebraskan

Reta

## Shorts

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people with the causes, symptoms and treatments of diabetic retinopathy. For more information, send a self-addressed, stamped, business-sized envelope to: National Society to Prevent Blindness, Nebraska Affiliate, 4600 Valley Road #407, Lincoln, Neb. 68510.

A study skills workshop on preparing for finals will be given Thursday at 2:30 p.m. and Friday at 10:30 a.m. in the Selleck Multi-Purpose Room.

The cost is 50 cents and those interested should register for the workshop at the Learning Center, 7005 Selleck.

Improving beef cow management for increased return is the central theme for the Range Cattlemen's Roundups.

The Roundups, to start at 9:30 a.m. local times, will be today at the Ogallala Holiday Inn; Tues-

day in the Broken Bow city auditorium; Wednesday in the Atkinson Knights of Columbus Hall; Thursday in the Valentine courthouse; and Friday in the Bridgeport middle school auditorium.

The Roundups are sponsored by the Nebraska Cooperative Extension Service and the Nebraska Stock Growers Association.

It's time for dog and cat owners to renew their pets' licenses. The deadline for obtaining new licenses for dogs and cats 6 months old or older is Dec. 31. After that date, a \$2 late fee will be charged, and after March 1, 1985, there will be an additional late fee of \$8.

The new licenses must be on the animals as of Jan. 1, 1985. Proof of current rabies vaccination must be presented when the license is purchased.

There are two ways owners can obtain licenses. They can fill out and return the application sent

to them by Animal Control, or they can stop in at the Animal Control office, 2200 St. Marys Avenue, or at the City Treasurer's office in the County-City Building, 555 S. 10th St. These two offices will be closed Dec. 31, so owners wishing to avoid a late fee should stop in by Friday Dec. 28. The offices are open weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Applications mailed in should be postmarked no later than Dec. 31.

The license fees are as follows:

	Regular	Senior Citizen
Male/Female Dog	\$14	\$8
Neutd./Spayed Dog	\$6	\$4
Male/Female Cat	\$10	\$6
Neutd./Spayed Cat	\$4	\$3

Failure to license a dog or cat is a violation of the Municipal Code, carrying a penalty of \$25 for the first violation, \$50 for the second violation and \$100 for each violation thereafter.

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