

Arts & Entertainment

SUMMER MOVIES



Graphic by Brian Mary/Daily Nebraskan

Dave Meile, who DJ's "Bad Film Update" for KZUM radio, will review cable TV movies once a week.

Friday, June 13, 10:30 p.m., NETV, Ch. 13

"The Cocoanuts" (1929) The Marx Brothers, Margaret Dumont.

With all the proper ingredients (great writers, a good director, etc.) the Marx Brothers were the funniest comedy team of the '30s. This is their first film, unless you count "Humorisk," a silent they did in 1925 which was lost.

"Cocoanuts" is basically a Broadway play on film and since Hollywood was just beginning to make sound features, it is poorly photographed, the sound is awful, and the director didn't think the Marxes were funny.

Groucho runs a hotel in Florida. Chico and Harpo arrive and annoy people. There's a banal romantic plot and the two leads sing a crappy Irving Berlin song called "When My Dreams Come True." It wasn't a hit.

10 p.m. and 2:00 a.m., USA Network, Ch. 17

"Mister Rock 'n' Roll" (1957) Alan Freed, Teddy Randazzo, Rocky Graziano.

Freed was one of the most popular disc jockeys of the 1950s and one of rock 'n' roll's most influential defenders until he was ruined in the Payola scandal of '59-'60. The plot of this film is typical of the rock flicks of the period. Freed defends rock music against attacks from square journalists.

If you're patient you'll finally see Chuck Berry do "Oh, Baby Doll" and the wildman of rock, Little Richard,

perform the classic "Lucille," both musts for any music historian.

Saturday, June 14, 1:00 p.m., USA Network, Ch. 17

"The Devil Bat" (1942) Bela Lugosi, Dave O'Brien, Suzanne Kaaren.

The greatest Dracula in screen history, Bela Lugosi, had pretty well hit the skids by the '40s and was forced to do low-budget horror flicks for short-lived studios like Monogram. This film made for PRC (1939-47) stars Bela as a deranged scientist working for a shaving lotion company.

When Bela/Dr. Carruthers finds out the firm is exploiting him, he gets peeved, puts on some safety goggles, and bombards his pet bat with ultraviolet do-hickeys, causing it to become a . . . uh . . . devil bat!

Sunday, June 15, 6:30 p.m., Ch. 2

"Spinout" (1966) Elvis Presley, Shelley Fabares, Carl Betz.

This film is included in Harry and Michael Medved's "50 Worst Films of all Time." To lump it as one of the worst of all time is a bit harsh, but saying that most Elvis movies are pretty crummy is illuminating the obvious. Which stud is he this time? Chad? Josh? Rick? Steve? Wrong, this time he's Mike the race car driver.

He's got four women chasing him. He goes to a swimming pool shindig and rocks out. Usually the songs are pretty funny like "Adam and Evil." It's not all Elvis' fault. His manager Colonel Tom Parker signed him to a long-term studio contract that legally forced the Pelvis to do all these clunkers. You'd be taking a lot of drugs, too.

Students film 'existential psychodrama'

By Scott Harrah
Senior Reporter

Student film producers Stephanie Strait and Ray Brown are currently shooting scenes for "The Writer," which will be shown at The Sheldon Film Theatre this fall.

The 30-minute film's stars include UNL students Jay Thornton, Joyce Welsch and David Duffy. Other cast members are Channel 10-11 "Morning Show" co-host Guy Davis and underground cult icon Peteena (a toy poodle-doll).

Brown, a UNO Medical Center student, and Strait, a UNL broadcasting major, adapted the film's screenplay from a short story Brown wrote about an author who loses control of the characters in his fiction and his sanity. Strait calls the film "an existential psychodrama."

"What goes on in the film is rather farcical, but the manner in which we

are approaching it is serious," she said.

Extras, known as "crowd artistes" in film circles, are still needed for the final scenes. One scene, in which a crowd has a party below the suicidal writer's window, will be shot tonight at 5:00 p.m. at Richards Hall on the UNL campus. The public is welcome to participate, but extras will not be paid, Strait said.

A "very posh, glitzy and melodramatic" cocktail party scene will be filmed at the Metz mansion, 3708 Dewey St., Omaha, on Sunday starting at 12 p.m. Dress chic if you wish to be

an extra in this scene, but don't worry if your glamour garb isn't currently in vogue. Strait said the scene is supposed to be a surreal image of a party that the author is imagining while he writes.

"We're not trying to confine this party scene to an identifiable time period," she said. "We'll be crossing over into the twilight zone."

Strait hopes people will come down to be an extra in one of the scenes.

"I think people are realizing that you can make films in Lincoln — and make good ones," she said.

Trumpeter to play Saturday at Kimball

Veteran jazz trumpeter Clark Terry will perform at Kimball Hall on Saturday at 8:00 p.m.

Tickets are available from the Kimball Box Office, 472-3375. Cost is \$10, or \$5 for students, senior citizens and children.



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The screen sizzles when Eric Roberts and Beverly D'Angelo team up in SLOW BURN.



Hilarious Chevy Chase stars as a hot-shot reporter in FLETCH.

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