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Sheldon films abound with culture: movies by Herzog and Blades scheduled for '86 Sheldon season

By Ken Di Maggio
Staff Reporter

"This year we're doing Salsa music," said Dan Ladely, director of the Sheldon Film Theatre.

"I hope Salsa music is popular in Lincoln and people will come."

This year the Sheldon Film Theatre is one of the best places to whet your taste for culture.

Besides showing exotic films like, "The Return of Ruben Blades," where Salsa music is featured, Ladely is trying to get several directors and actors to visit the Sheldon this year, among them, the world renowned German filmmaker Werner Herzog.

Ladely is currently trying to schedule Herzog for a three day visit on December 4, 5 and 6.

In addition to Herzog's tentative visit, the Sheldon Film Theatre will present a two-week long film festival of Herzog's films. Classics such as "Aguirre, the Wrath of God," "Fitzcarraldo," "Every Man For Himself And God Against All," will be shown with Herzog's new film, "Where the Green Ants Dream."

Ladely also hopes to get director Marguarthe von Trotta to visit in early October as part of the Sheldon Film Theatre's "Film Video Showcase."

In the past the Film Video Showcase has brought in actor Martin Sheen and director Roger Corman.

Trotta's new film is "Rosa Luxemburg." Luxemburg shared leadership of the early German Communist Party, or Spartacist movement, with Karl Liebknecht. Both were brutally murdered in

1919 by right-wing paramilitary groups. Should von Trotta not be able to come, filmmaker Yvonne Rainer is scheduled to take her place.

In the spring, Ladely hopes to bring actor Randy Quaid and director John Sayles.

Popcorn is not sold at the Sheldon Film Theatre. But this year a Chinese banquet will be held there.

To help raise money for the theater, an assortment of Chinese dishes will be served along with the showing of "The Great Wall," the first American-Chinese co-production of a film.

"It's about a clash of cultures," Ladely said. The film is about a Chinese-born computer company executive who takes his American born wife and son to see his sister in China.

While the Sheldon Film Theatre doesn't show commercial blockbusters like, "Star Wars," it does show films that have inspired such later creations.

Akira Kurosawa's 1958 film, "The Hidden Fortress," will be shown in its original form. Last spring his newest film, "Ran," was shown at Sheldon.

"The Hidden Fortress," previously appeared in an edited version.

This Samurai film features one of Kurosawa's leading actors, Toshiro Mafuni. It also inspired Lucas into doing "Star Wars."

One reason why the film was first shown in an edited version was because of the self-consciousness many Japanese felt about showing their works in their original form overseas.

"The Japanese didn't think Westerners would like their movies," Ladely said.

She started by playing her violin on a New York City street corner while skating on a block of ice. Now, Performance Artist Laurie Anderson has her first film, "Home of the Brave," which will be shown at the end of October.

For those with more traditional tastes in music, Franco Zeffirelli's film of Verdi's opera, "Otello," will be tentatively scheduled in November. It will star Placido Domingo in the title role.

The best of French independent films chosen in the French-American Workshop, will be presented in late September. The French-American Workshop is a festival of independently made films. Each year in Avignon, France, a select group of French productions is chosen to tour the U.S., while several U.S. films are chosen to tour France.

"We never hosted this particular tour before," Ladely said.

Besides showing four features and four shorts, one of the filmmakers will possibly accompany the tour.

Several other films that are currently being shown in New York will also be shown at the Sheldon Film Theatre during the course of the fall semester, among them, "A Room With a View," based on an E.M. Forster novel; "Vagabond," by Agnes Varda, and "Mona Lisa," by Neal Jordan.

The last film of the season is a French work called, "Three Men and a Cradle."

The film is about three men who find and care for an abandoned baby left on a doorstep.

Ladely said that he hopes it will be funny.

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