

WINTER BREAK *at the movies*

Stars, sequels line up for holiday movie release

By GERRY BELTZ
Film Critic

Ahh, the holidays. How joyous they can be for students. Family members you don't recognize arguing over what way the turkey should be facing. Parents telling you how your life should be running at this point in time. Uncle Chauncey describing the insertion of suppositories the size of tennis balls, and Aunt Petunia mixing drinks the way Porky Pig mixes dangerous chemicals.

Oh what fun. How about a movie? Surprisingly, the brunt of holiday movies already have hit the screens, but also are preparing to leave. "Flubber" is flubbing, "Alien Resurrection" is dying quickly and "The Jackal" is starting to howl.

Obviously, this is only a rough list of what is coming out, and there are others to be added. However, keep the titles in mind as the umpteenth discussion arises of how Osborne's retirement will affect the phases of the moon.

Dec. 12:

■ "Scream 2" - Last year's surprise hit "Scream" jumps on the sequel train, once again mixing horror movie trivia, gore and black humor. The movie within a movie brings back most of the surviving cast from the first movie. This time it's all on the same college campus while a movie about the original movie is being made. Tori Spelling and Jada Pinkett also show up.

■ "Home Alone 3" - More dumb burglars. More cute kids with silly traps. More of the same. The kids will like it. Maybe Macaulay will play a cameo as the puberty-stricken kid working as a donut shop clerk.

■ "For Richer For Poorer" - Tim Allen and Kirstie Alley play a feuding New York couple on the lam from the police, hiding in Amish country. A comedic turn on "Witness," they rediscover their love while leading the simple life. The real question: How many "Home Improvement" grunts will Allen do in this flick?

Dec. 19:

■ "Titanic" - The rumored \$200 million epic was moved from summer to holiday release, but as far as production qualities and talented cast members,

this film has it. The production has been saddled with problem after problem, ranging from an ever-increasing budget to poor advance press to PCP-laden clam chowder.

"Titanic" is a period piece interspersed with present-day footage of the sunken ship, and the multi-faceted cast includes Leonardo DiCaprio, Kate Winslet, Kathy



PHOTO COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES
JACK DAWSON and Fabrizio De Rossi (from left, Leonardo DiCaprio and Danny Nucci) unknowingly are thrilled to be on board the most luxurious liner of their era in "Titanic."

Bates and Bill Paxton.

■ "Tomorrow Never Dies" - The 18th Bond flick, and once again Pierce Brosnan is wearing the tuxedo and making the impossible possible. It is centered around the world press setting off World War III, and Teri Hatcher (TV's "Lois and Clark") and "Supercop" star Michelle Yeoh show up as the Bond women for this flick.

Dec. 25:

■ "An American Werewolf in Paris" - Another film that was pushed back from Halloween to holiday release. Julie Delpy leads the pack in this film of a hairy beast terrorizing residents in the city of love.

■ "Jackie Brown" - Quentin Tarantino once again steps behind the camera to follow Pam Grier as a stewardess who, in an effort to stay out of jail, must work in a sting operation involving money laundering. As usual, the cast list is way over in talent and size, including the likes of Samuel L. Jackson, Michael Keaton, Bridget Fonda and Robert De Niro.

■ "The Postman" - Post-apocalyptic setting. No governments, no allies. Kevin Costner directing. (Whoops, the "post-apocalyptic" thing should have implied that.) Anyway, Costner directs and stars as a man who comes forward to help bring the world together in peace.

Yeah, right, but can he dance?

■ "Mr. Magoo" - The old cartoon series hits the big screen in a big way, with Leslie Nielsen taking a break from mediocre spoof films to star in this flick, directed by Stanley Tong ("Rumble In The Bronx").

To come in 1998:

■ "Blues Brothers 2000" with Dan Aykroyd being chased by the Russian Mafia; a big-screen version of the old TV series "Lost In Space"; "The Animated Adventures of Hercules and Xena"; and the argument of whether or not size matters is set to rest with "Godzilla."



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES
BRAD AND CAROLINE SEXTON (Tim Allen and Kirstie Alley), two Manhattan socialites on the lam from the Internal Revenue Service, hide out in Amish country in "For Richer or Poorer."

Departments join forces to produce 'Oklahoma'

■ The collaboration between departments was fun for cast and crew, who said the pieces of the play fit together perfectly.

By LIZA HOLTMEIER
Senior Reporter

Petticoats and cowboy hats fly in the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "Oklahoma!"

The sold-out play opens this weekend at Kimball Recital Hall and is a collaboration between the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Department of Theatre Arts and Dance and the School of Music. It is a rebirth of the Kosmet Klub Musical that was a campuswide event from 1912 to its demise in the early 1970s.

"A musical demands strength in all three areas: dramatics, music and dance, where as one unit on its own would have certain deficiencies, by merging all three we were really able to pick the strongest cast," director William Shomos said.

To choose the strongest cast, each department contacted its own students about the production. Campuswide auditions were held Aug. 27.

The resulting cast consists of 51 students representing 12 different majors.

Kate Eisenhour, who plays the character Aunt Eller, said she enjoyed meeting people from other departments.

"You learn so much from each other," Eisenhour said. "Each person brings his or her own expertise to the show."

Becky Key, who plays Ado Annie, added

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that the result of all the disciplines coming together was like "a beautiful song."

"There are so many different pieces that fit together to make a wonderful harmony," Key said.

Amy Ballou, a dance major in the women's chorus, said she enjoyed the chance to dance with non-dance majors.

"We don't have a lot of guys in the dance department," Ballou said. "I really enjoyed dancing and working with the guys in the show. They have been so adaptable and ready to learn."

While cast and crew have enjoyed collaborating, the effort presented some unique challenges.

Shomos said planning rehearsals around students' schedules had been "a daunting task."

"You basically have three different areas of students who are all used to their own schedules," Shomos said. "Getting 30 to 45 students together on one night could sometimes be a struggle."

Shomos said the production also was challenging because he primarily directed opera in the past. He said he had approached this show in similar ways, though.

"The genres are different, but the need to communicate is the same," Shomos said. "We focus on the motivation and intent of the characters in the same way."

The departments plan to continue collaborating on a musical every other year, alternat-

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