



Paul (Sean Bury) and Michell (Anice Alvian) read up on the fundamentals about babies and how they are born in Paris-based romance "Friends"

'Friends' is escapist love story

by
Review by
Bill Wallis

Friends is an innocuous escapist fantasy about adolescent love.

After the death of her artist father, Michell (Anice Alvian), 14½, arrives in Paris and lives an unsettled existence with her older cousin until meeting Paul (Sean Bury), 15, who is equally unsettled with a new step-mother and brother, in a zoo.

Paul takes Michelle on a joy ride in his father's car, and drives it into a lake. Rather than face their "home" situations in Paris, the two join forces and retire to Michelle's father's rural cottage. Their friendship grows in intimacy as Paul assumes the role of supporter.

With pregnancy comes a mock marriage ceremony and the two begin playing house in earnest. A daughter is born. As family plans develop for the three, police detectives trace Paul to the vineyard where he works, and the audience is left to draw its own conclusions as to Paul and Michelle's future. A return to Paris would seem inevitable.

The leisurely story of *Friends* is a relatively believable standard romance. Unlike *Romeo and Juliet*, whose romance quite literally dies at least partially because of social complications, Paul and Michelle manage to escape utterly into a rural haven.

It's all quite nice and brave—and pointless.

Alvina and Bury are quite

good. The background for their story is beautiful southern France on the Mediterranean Sea. Wildlife sequences are reasonably well integrated (as opposed to the use of similar sequences in *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?* which is more than can be said for Elton John's tunes. Or perhaps I'm just tired of soppy soft rock.

The film is rated "R" because of a fair amount of candid nudity. This will restrict teenage attendance, which is too bad because the film is primarily for that age group.

Films whose tone sympathizes with the adolescent point-of-view have quickly come to popularity since the spirit of James Dean's classics were revived by Dustin Hoffman in *The Graduate* and others. Perhaps the most excellent recent film of this group is *Summer of '42* which opens soon downtown.

Friends is not realistic or overly-conventional in its approach to human involvement, but its romance does not cloy with sentimentality either. The viewer doesn't belly-laugh or cry, but there are calm moments of beauty and bland realization.

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Pershing Municipal Auditorium is going to be a busy, busy place during the next couple of months if things keep going as now planned.

As most people probably know, The Association is appearing at the Auditorium on Saturday, Sept. 18 at 8 p.m. Ticket prices for the seven-member group are \$3, \$4 and \$5.

STARTING IN mid-October the Auditorium has lined up some extremely fine concerts. On Oct. 13, James Taylor will be coming to the building. The Oct. 16 Steppenwolf concert has since fallen through, but has been replaced by an Oct. 19 concert by Black Sabbath. And then on Oct. 28, Grand Funk will be rolling into town.

The month of November looks just as good, with Ten Years After coming to the Auditorium on November 5 and The Doors booked into the building on Nov. 13.

With such an impressive schedule of concerts on the book, Ike Hoig, manager of Pershing Auditorium, should be praised for putting out extra-effort in getting these groups for Lincoln.

The concept of Lincoln's Free Theatre has been saved!
OPENING AT 8 p.m. on Friday Sept. 17, and running through Monday, Sept. 20, *FDR-LSD Freakout* will be performed in the Ballroom of the Nebraska Union by the Free Theatre company, under the sponsorship of the Free University.

Admission is still free, but as stated in Monday's column, anyone who wants to make a contribution to the company after the show is certainly welcome to. All contributions will go to the Free University for the continuance of the Free Theatre.

Paul Baker, co-ordinator of the Free Theatre and author and director of *FDR-LSD Freakout*, said that the play is about seven actors who get together, take acid and try to improvise a play.

How about giving the Free Theatre a chance and going to see their first show.

Tickets for the Nebraska Union Foreign Films Society will be on sale until Sept. 24, in the main lobby of the Student Union or in the Program Office of the Union.

THE FILMS this year are *The Passions of Anna, Kes, La Belle Americaine, The Garden of Delights, Les Riches, Adalen 31, The Bicycle Thief, Knife in the Water, Wild Child, Mr. Hulot's Holiday, Chikamatsu Monogatari, Contempt, Round Up, The Milky Way, Au Hasard Balthazar* and *The Shameless Old Lady*.

Student prices for films is \$8.24.

*** Another new theatre group, The Mud Slim Slide Players, has been organized and is presenting a show called *The Gas Light Vaudeville Review* at the Gas Light Theatre, 322 South 9th Street, on Friday and Saturday nights at 9 p.m., with opening night Friday, Sept. 17.

ACCORDING TO the "players," the review is not a mellerdrammer, but does contain some of the same elements as a mellerdrammer. The show includes two melodrama farces, "The Great Bottleneck Diamond" and "Barrooms in One Night," two recitations with pantomime accompaniment, "Guilty or Not Guilty" and "The Lighthouse Keeper's Daughter," and a comedy farce, "Freezing a Mother-in-Law."

Everything from soft drinks to alcoholic beverages (Mr. Booze) is sold at the Gaslight, along with popcorn for eating or throwing. Tickets cost \$2.

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