

Sheldon brings documentaries

By Diane Wanek

"To tell the truth as you see it, incidentally, is not necessarily the truth. To tell the truth as someone else sees it is, to me, much more important and enlightening. Some documentaries are fantastic. Like Lionel Rogosin's pictures..."

—John Cassavetes, quoted in *The Film Director as Superstar* by Joseph Gelmis

Lionel Rogosin, one of the most important makers of films with documentary impact, will be in Lincoln this week as part of Sheldon Film Theatre's "Filmmaker's Showcase." Wednesday and Thursday Rogosin will present three of his award winning documentaries and discuss his filmmaking technique.

Rogosin has been making socially and politically significant films for 20 years. His films capture the reality of society and offer testimony to the struggles of the oppressed.

His first film, *On the Bowery*, has been hailed as one of the greatest film documentaries ever made. While filming it, he lived in the "lower depths" for six months to absorb the atmosphere and gain the confidence of those lost people inhabiting Skid Row.

Encouraged by his success with *On the Bowery*, Rogosin made one of the most powerful statements on South Africa. *Come Back, Africa* is a shocking, intense story of the barbaric reality of the apartheid society in the

Union of South Africa.

Rogosin filmed *Come Back, Africa* secretly, leading the government there to believe he was filming a musical travelogue.

Critics praised his film as a "smashing blow for freedom which spares no one" and the film's powerful poignancy produced shame in at least one critic for "belonging to a race which can oppress and terrorize people of other colours."

Good Time, Wonderful Times is the third film which will be shown by Rogosin this week. Joseph Gelmis in *Newsday* said of the film, "It is a soul sickening horror film that uses the irony of intercutting between a jaded London cocktail party and war atrocity scenes to make its activist point: men start wars and men can avert them. The counterpoint between their words... cheap words, sophistic words, inhuman words... and the reality of death... is more fascinating than fictional drama. These hard drinkers, self-satisfied small talkers, are we really like them?"

Rogosin's other films have dealt for the most part, with black America. *Black Roots*, *Black Fantasy* and *Woodcutters of The Deep South*, are all significant films done in the very immediate style Rogosin films with.

Rogosin's visit will be complemented by three film showings Wednesday and Thursday at 3, 7 and 9 p.m.



A face from *On the Bowery*, a documentary directed by Lionel Rogosin. Rogosin will be at Sheldon for this week's Filmmaker's Showcase.

diane wanek half frames

Monday

Cancer: The Cell That Won't Die, ETV, 7 p.m. The final program in the health community documentary series examines the killer that strikes one out of every four Americans.

The Monkeys of Koshima, ETV, 9:30 p.m. The study of family relationships of wild monkeys on a Japanese island suggests a possible aspect of man's evolution.

Tuesday

Hamlet, Sheldon Gallery Auditorium, 3, 7 and 9:30 p.m., admission \$1.25. Grigory Kozintsev directed this spectacular *Hamlet*, giving full scope to the crackling good ghost story inherent in Shakespeare's play.

Wednesday

Come Back Africa, Good Times, Wonderful Times and On the Bowery, Sheldon Gallery Auditorium, 3, 7 and 9 p.m., respectively, admission \$1.25. These films, which will be shown at the same time Thursday, are being presented in conjunction with their director's, Lionel Rogosin, visit to the UNL campus.

In *Fashion*, ETV, 7:30 p.m. Based on the play *Tailleur pour Dames* by Georges Feydeau, in *Fashion* takes place in Paris during the early 1900's.

Thursday

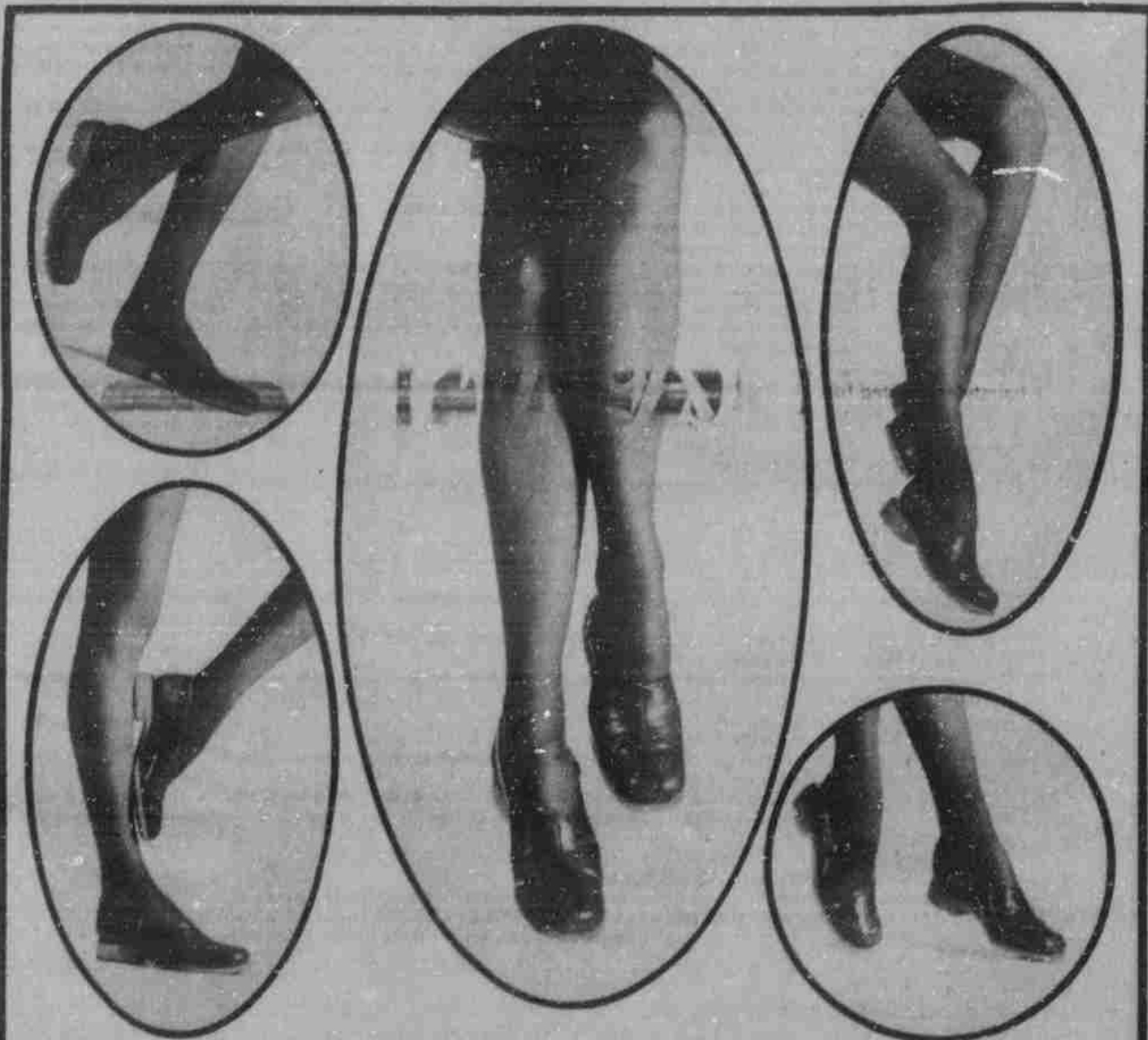
The Andersonville Trial, ETV, 8 p.m. Directed by George C. Scott, this award winning drama deals with the continuing theme of man and authority and the conflicting authorities of military discipline and moral conscience.

Friday and Saturday

Lost Horizon and **It's a Wonderful Life**, Sheldon Gallery Auditorium, 3, 7 and 9 p.m., admission \$1.25. Frank Capra is featured director of these two film classics. The 1937 version of *Lost Horizon* is an opulent and satisfying film, and *It's a Wonderful Life* is a hearty, passionate masterpiece that is the favorite of director Capra.

Sunday

Edward Munch, Sheldon Gallery Auditorium, 3 p.m. The Norwegian master of expressionism is featured this week in Kenneth Clark's *Pioneers of Modern Painting*.



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