

Simon 'no go'

## TV funnier than 'Plaza Suite'

Review by Susan Edwards

Neil Simon has such a hot reputation that I tried to believe I was enjoying *Plaza Suite*. Other people were laughing. But it was no go. Except for bright moments in the second act, I have seen funnier bits at Camp Kiwanis skit night.

*Plaza Suite*, a trio of short comedy/dramas which take place in the New York Plaza Hotel Suite 719, is being produced by the Lincoln Community Playhouse. The last shows are Feb. 1 and 2 at 8 p.m.

An art show done by the Lincoln Artists' Guild is also being featured in the Gallery room of the Playhouse.

In *Plaza Suite* the smoothest act, "Visitor from Hollywood," was a classic seduction scene. Phil Heckman, the Hollywood producer, and Andrea Visuthipol as his old high school sweetheart, had excellent comic timing. However, the dialogue and plot (?) were uncannily similar to a poor Carol Burnett skit (where Carol and Harvey Korman scream at each other for ten minutes.)

Act one is the story of a couple celebrating its 24th wedding anniversary in the honeymoon suite despite their crumbling marriage. Karen Nash was simultaneously flat and overbearing, and her unfaithful husband was such a dull stick, who cares what happens to them?

There might be an age gap, however, since the gentlemen on either side of me could barely contain their laughter. Their wives noticed the talk about affairs in act one was making the husbands nervous—they twisted and folded their programs.

Dull, dull act three involves a bride who locks herself into the bathroom just before her wedding. Her parents, played by Sam and Patsy Davidson, have mental hernias trying to get her out. That family deserves the goon groom who springs the bride with his one line, "Cool it."

So, despite some fast-paced dialogue and some good acting, especially from Phil Heckman, the stale material never clicked. For snappy, irreverent and funny talk, give me Rhoda or CBS Saturday night TV anytime.

## 'Fire Within'—French soul aflame

This week the Nebraska Union Foreign Films Series returns to France with a presentation of Louis Malle's 1963 film, *Le Feu Follet* (*The Fire Within*).

During the past few years Malle has been one of the premier post-New Wave French directors. His recent successes include *Murmer of the Heart* and last year's much talked about *Lacombe, Lucien*.

Malle began his film making in the late 50s. *The Fire Within* has been acclaimed as one of his

first great movies. It stars Maurice Ronet as a lonely, desperate 30-year-old alcoholic, who has just been released from a treatment clinic. The movie presents the last 24 hours in this man's life, as he attempts to pick up the pieces. Instead of finding a reason for living, he finds himself being sucked further into a state of disgust and despair that leads eventually to suicide.

*The Fire Within* will be shown this Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 7 and 9:15 p.m. in the Sheldon Gallery Auditorium. Admission is by Foreign Film Series ticket only.

## Orchestra to feature guest soloist

Internationally known mezzo-soprano Marilyn Horne will be greeted by a sold-out auditorium for her first Lincoln appearance Tuesday.

Guest soloist for the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra concert at O'Donnell Auditorium, Horne will sing six arias, including some Rossini and Sait-Saens.

Horne, who sings with the Metropolitan Opera, is best known for her title role in Bizet's *Carmen*. She has starred at La Scala, the Royal Opera House and Covent Gardens.

The *New York Times* has called her "a spectacular singer" whose "voice is one of the contemporary wonders." Her range, from contralto to soprano, enables her to sing a diverse repertoire.

Cancellations may make last minute tickets available. Bus services for \$1 round trip, are available to O'Donnell on the Nebraska Wesleyan University campus. The bus leaves the Cornhusker Hotel at 7:15 p.m. and the University Club at 7:25 p.m.



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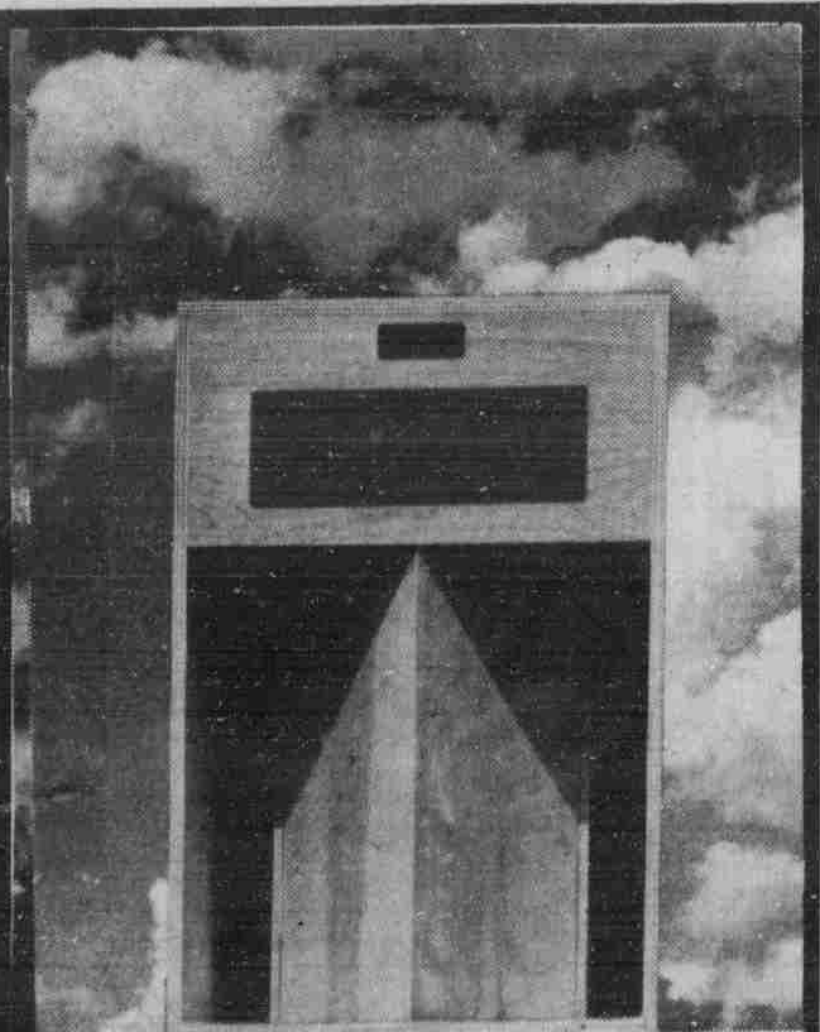
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