

Sheldon showcase to feature Lincolnite's 'unscripted' films

By Greg Lukow

Gary Hill is a film maker who doesn't like word tags. After seeing *Stone Bust*, an angry film showing student unrest in the late '60s, I asked Hill if he considered himself a political film maker. No, was the answer. Experimental? Underground? Independent? No again, as he skirted my efforts to get him to pin himself down.

"Those are just words," he said. "What do they mean? In my films I try to get at a more relative, sensory experience."

Three of Hill's films, *Stone Bust*, *Crime* and the recently completed *Cure*, will be shown Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in the Sheldon Film Theater's Film Maker's Showcase. Showings will be at 3 and 7:30 p.m. and Hill will be on hand after each of the evening presentations.

Hill is a native Lincolnite who attended NU for several years before taking a year of film study at San Francisco State. He made movies and quit school when "it didn't make sense to go there anymore." He shot *Cure* in New York while he was going to another school in Toronto.

"Now I'm back in Lincoln. I live behind Whittier Junior High."

Hill made *Stone Bust* and *Crime* as unscripted films that he shot as he goes along. He reacts to what he's already shot and adds whatever he feels should come next.

Stone Bust was started after Hill and a friend were busted at a student demonstration at San Francisco State. Hill is less than kind when talking about the police who arrested him for shooting film where they thought he wasn't supposed to be, and even though he wasn't prosecuted for the incident, the film grew out of the event.

"I went out there during the Summer of Love

in '67, only at the time I didn't know it was going to be the Summer of Love. I made *Stone Bust* because I was really pissed."

Crime is a film comparing the fury of the murderer with the fury of the artist. Hill admits influences of R.D. Laing and Antonin Artaud and the film's running motif is Charles Starkweather. The sense of imprisonment, the haunting newspaper clippings from the Starkweather case and the wailing '50s rock songs create a paranoid feeling where the roles of the persecuted and the persecutor become unclear.

"This film shows the way I've failed," says the voice at the beginning of the film. "It is evidence against me."

The third film, *Cure*, is the only one of the three that Hill fully scripted before shooting began. It uses an amateur film maker to point out the difficulties of the artist and the human being in escaping his own shallowness and in pleasing himself and others.

"You can go see a *Godfather* or a *Chinatown*, categorize them and file them away. I don't want to do that in my films. You can't pick them apart, yet I think they're entertaining in their own way."

One of Hill's next projects is a fully scripted feature film. But he doesn't say how or when he'll make it.

"Sure, I want people to see my films but I don't make them for money." Hill gives no goals or strong desires to work his way into a more mainstream vein of commercial film making. One gets the idea that he considers himself to be what might be called a "floating artist." When pressed for a reason why he makes his films, he is ready with a quick, enthusiastic reply.

"Because I love making movies." It is easy to believe him.

'High percentage' join plan

Continued from p.1

The BBB gives persons inquiring about MGBI a suggestion list on group buying plans which includes: consideration of the membership fee as part of the cost of purchasing products; consideration of delays in ordering through a club as compared to buying items through retail outlets; consideration of warranties on products; consideration of the stability and longevity of the organization; and consideration of the club's refund and exchange policies.

Telephone recruiting

MGBI division manager Jim Beasley said Wednesday that his operation was signing up about ten students a week. Four young women use telephone recruiting each weeknight and contact 100 to 150 prospects each night, he reported.

"A high percentage will call back or come in," Beasley said, "and of those who finally hear the presentation, 25 to 33 per cent will sign."

Beasley would not supply a total number of local members or provide the names of satisfied customers.

Beasley said he stopped offering the vacation gift as an incentive for listening to the sales presentation after Jerry Fennel, of the Nebraska attorney general's office, suggested that it violated the law. Beasley said he was sorry about the adverse official and BBB reaction to the "Vacation America" certificates, because he said he thinks the vacation plan is a worthwhile gift, offering about \$200 in travel savings.

Beasley said he keeps a close check on sales presentations to insure accuracy and honesty.

"One little lie to get an enrollment and that's it..." he said, "that salesman's gone!"

MGBI has offices on the third floor of the Walton Bldg. and maintains sales presentation rooms on the second floor. But, Walton Ferris, owner of the building, said Friday that the buying service is going to vacate his building by May 10.

"They never had a lease agreement with us," Ferris said. "It was always just a short-rent basis."

Steve Meyers, a former UNL student who was contacted and signed an agreement with MGBI, said Friday that a young woman telephoned him and told him of "a chance to get things at reduced prices."

\$24 down-payment

Meyers said he signed the contract to see what it was all about, making a \$24 down-payment.

Meyers said he discovered that "in order to get a specific catalogue, I was required to pay additional fees."

Deciding he wanted to cancel within the three-day limit required by law, Meyers said, he went to the MGBI offices.

"I wanted the local officers of the company to sign the cancellation form with me," he said, "but the manager, Beasley, told his assistant 'We don't have to sign that.'"

Meyers said he was able to cancel his contract without help from the local office, but said he was shocked at the coldness he experienced.

"They're nice to you when they're signing you up," he said, "but not so friendly if you want out."



Sheldon Art Gallery,
12th & R Streets



Film-makers' Showcase

featuring the films of Gary Hill

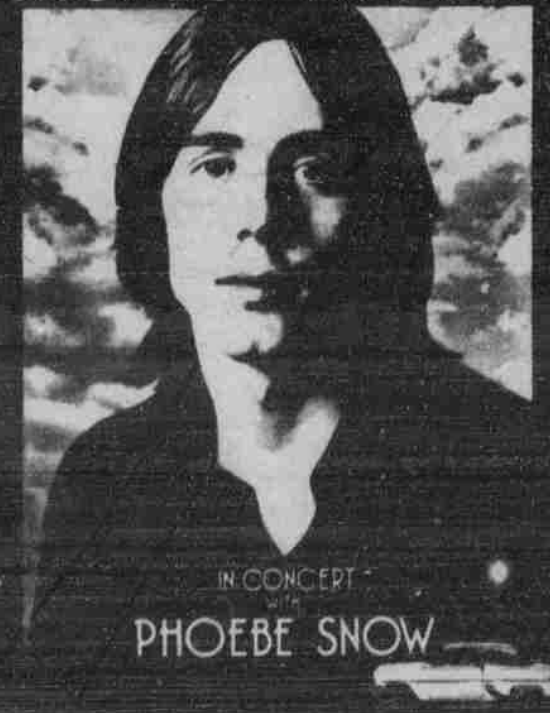
STONEBUST CRIME CURE

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday —

April 22, 23 & 24 Screenings at 3 & 7:30 p.m.

Admission Free! Film-maker Gary Hill will be present at each of the evening screenings to discuss his films with the audience.

JACKSON BROWNE



IN CONCERT

PHOEBE SNOW



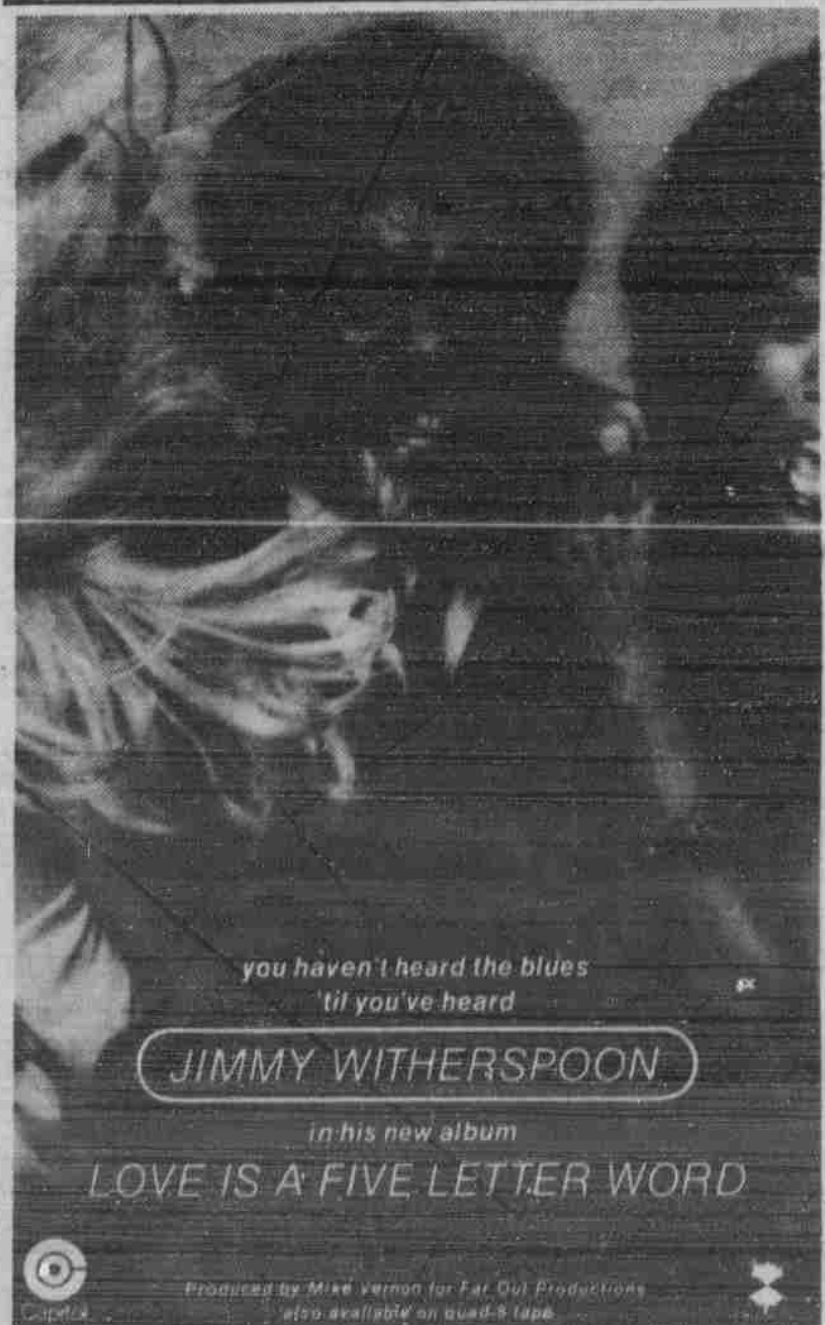
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2 Shows at 7:30 and 10:00

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VENEZUELAN FESTIVAL

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

April 20-May 2

Venezuelan Art Exhibit, Sheldon Gallery

April 20—

Recital by Sonia Sanoja, modern and folk dance 8 p.m., Women's Physical Education Building

April 23—

Program of folk dances by international touring company, 8 p.m., Kimball Hall

April 24—

Lecture by Jose A. Abreu, Venezuelan economic development 3:30 p.m., Nebraska Union

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