

# arts & entertainment



## Former off-Broadway actor now UNL teacher

By Carla Engstrom

Acting is a tough profession. The hours are long, the work is intense and jobs don't promise to come regularly.

But Jack Honor, professional actor and UNL graduate student, has taken on the challenges of a competitive career.

The New York-born actor was in the off-Broadway production, *Moonchildren*. He played the character Ralph and also was an understudy for a little less than a year. The production ran one year and won the OBIE (an off-Broadway award) for the best-directed play.

He was also in the off-off-Broadway play, *The Common Garden Variety*.

Commenting on New York acting life, Honor said, "It's possible for an actor to work outside of New York. But for me coming from New York, I really wanted to work there."

"Don't get me wrong, there's fantastic theatre all over the country, but there's more theatre (in New York) per square inch—and making a decent wage attracted me."

### Offered job at UNL

After working summer stock in Tennessee, he found himself teaching people how to accomplish technical aspects of theatre. Honor went back to New York, out of work and without an apartment.

He received an offer to teach at UNL.

"I needed a chance to work. I came out here not knowing what to expect," he said.

Lincoln's slower pace, as compared with New York, gives him the opportunity to be alone and concentrate on his work, Honor said.

The 26-year-old actor is working on his masters degree in acting, taking direction and dancing classes, along with teaching movement.

Movement is an "essential part of training an actor," he said. "I'm trained in it and can teach it."

### Demanding as teacher

But he added, "I'm very demanding as a teacher. I expect a lot as a teacher."

In his movement class, Honor said he uses yoga and some meditation, but the class focuses on how an actor personally would react and move for a certain character or emotion.

"The kids have my class, but there's no follow-up. Rex McGraw, Theatre (Arts Dept.) chairman, knows what he's doing and is really trying to build a theatre department," he said.

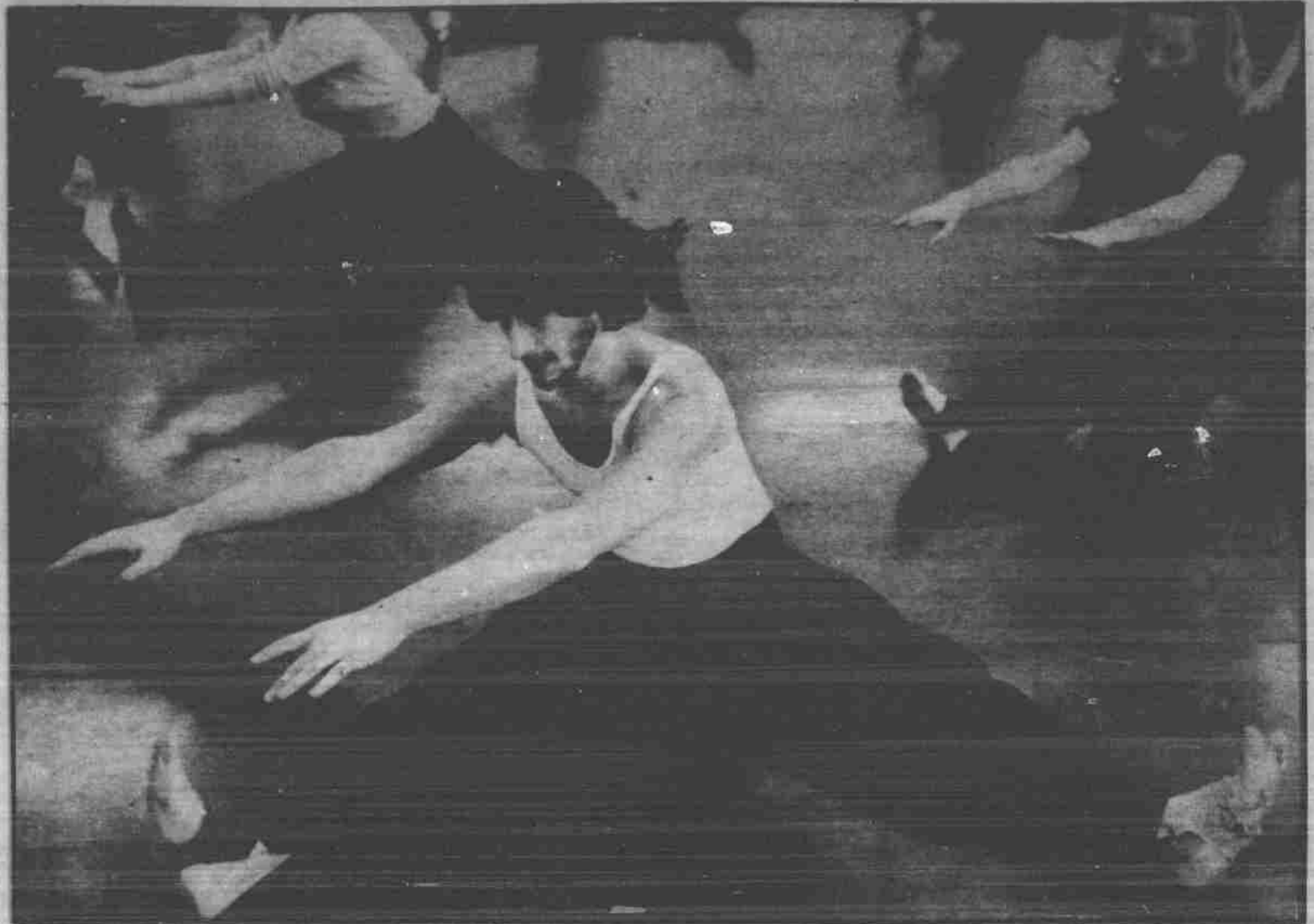


Photo by Ted Kirk

Jack Honor is a demanding teacher. He is shown here exercising alongside his students.

"We need more speech teachers, movement teachers and dance teachers. There should be ballet, modern dance and (advanced) movement (classes offered in the Theatre Dept.)."

"The budget is crippling," Honor added.

The bearded actor comes from a theatre-oriented family. His father was in Vaudeville and at one time played on Lincoln stages. His sister is a dancer in Paris with her own company.

"Because of my father's theatrical background, I was always aware of it (theatre)," Honor said.

While in high school, he studied with and learned under professional actors and teachers at The Herbert Berghof Studios in Greenwich Village.

He attended New Utrecht High School, the school where segments of the television series, *Welcome Back, Kotter* are filmed.

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## Film 'Warning' appeals to the fascist in viewers

By Will Huffman

*Two-Minute Warning* (Plaza 4) is a movie that will appeal to the fascist in everyone.

When sociologists talk about mindless violence in today's culture, they can point to *Two-Minute Warning* as a prime example.

The film is a direct descendant of the genre that spawned *Earthquake*, *The Towering Inferno*, *Airport*, *The Poseidon Adventure*, ad nauseum.

The ingredients are an all-star cast, preferably top-lined by Charlton Heston, and a sure-fire suspense situation.

After earthquakes, flaming skyscrapers and hijacked airplanes, one would think Hollywood would be hard pressed to find a real attention getter, but in this case

Pidgeon, the lovable old pickpocket; Jack Klugman, the hyperactive gambler who has everything riding on the outcome of the game; Martin Balsam, the concerned stadium manager; and John Cassavetes, the eager Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) division commander.

Charles Heston, as the policeman in charge, continues the tradition of meaningless big roles that have been his staple for the last several years.

To add realism, the producers hired 91,000 extras to fill the stadium, and employed Howard Cosell, Keith Jackson and Merv Griffin to play themselves in cameo roles via the television monitors constantly in evidence. (Most of the audience seemed to hold the fervent hope that Cosell would end up being one of the sniper's victims.)

### Explode in blood

When the SWAT team and sniper open fire on each other, the film comes into its own as an example of the kind of impersonalized, mechanized violence that has permeated our culture. We see people sighted through a rifle scope who then explode in blood with a squeeze of a trigger.

The ruthlessness of the SWAT force has become a kind of outlet for the frustration and helplessness many Americans feel against the rising crime rate. Judging from the popularity of the *SWAT* series and the way the audiences react to this movie, it seems the uniformed gunman provides a sense of security and power against the forces of crime.

We never see the sniper's face during the film. Apparently the filmmakers didn't want us to build up any empathy or identification with the villain. That would confuse the issue.

*Two-Minute Warning* is a movie that reduces everything to a black and white issue—it's Us against Them. Unfortunately, films like *Two-Minute Warning*, seeking to show us how repulsive violence is, end up glorifying it instead.



Photo courtesy of Universal Pictures

Charlton Heston... a sure sign of a coming disaster.

## 'Mad' group mixes talents

By Michael Zangari

Mad Jack and the Black Label Boys is the name of the band, which leaves you to wonder if Mary DuShane is one of the boys, Mad Jack, or an entity unto herself.

DuShane is a fine fiddle player in a group of superior musicians.

Mad Jack will perform in the South Crib at 7:30 p.m. tonight. This follows a concert it did at Nebraska Wesleyan University this past week where a \$2 admission was charged. Coffeehouse will not charge admission for this concert.

Mad Jack members have a variety of styles—jug band music, early bluegrass, Irish tunes, as well as traditional and original music.

The four-piece band's diversity comes from the combined talents of its members.

Bob Bovee, originally from Nebraska, plays guitar, harmonica, banjo and auto-harp. He does both lead and harmony

vocals, and has toured extensively in the U.S. and Europe.

Bob Douglas, originally from Texas, is a virtuoso picker on both guitar and mandolin. He also plays a mean set of spoons. He has toured widely, and has recorded two albums with The Stringband while in Europe.

Mary Dushane, from Minnesota, has been able to capture a number of styles on fiddle and has been proven to be a versatile singer whose work on country rock is as strong as her more traditional music.

Pop Wagner, from Ohio, rounds out the group. He is a fine guitar player, singer-songwriter and also plays the fiddle. He also has recorded with European string bands.

Wagner's song "Old 97" and Bovee's "Streetsinger's Heaven" have been called underground classics by *Pickin' Magazine*.

Both songs have been done by other artists at least three times.



they've come up with a beauty—a sniper on the loose in a football stadium, armed with a high-powered rifle that can blow its victim to bits, as is graphically demonstrated at the outset.

### Why me?

Set in the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum during a professional football game, the film focuses on about a dozen different spectators who, for some unknown reason, the sniper keeps sighting through his rifle scope.

As this type of *Grand Hotel* exercises go, the character development is sufficient—at least good enough to hold your interest and provide the shock when they've blown to bits before your eyes.

There are David Jansen and Gena Rowlands, the unmarried couple having problems; Beau Bridges, the young married man experiencing financial woes; Walter