

# Arts & Entertainment

## Legendary Brazilian slave, Xica, drives men crazy in film at Sheldon Theater

By Steve Abariotes

Brazilian folklore has it that Xica da Silva, an 18th-century slave girl, seduced the Portuguese governor of her colony and through him ruled imperiously and eccentrically for 13 years before finally falling from grace.

Legend maintains that Xica (pronounced Shee-ka) was very ugly, but capable of holding people in a trance by her charismatic presence.

"Xica", a film by Carlos Diegues (his film "Bye Bye Brazil" played in Lincoln last year) contains sweeping theatrical

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### Review

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The film also includes ZeZe Motta in the title role, who is not ugly at all. As Xica, she drives men so crazy with her off-screen sex technique that we hear them scream as if they are being branded. These scenes are quite funny, accentuated by the polite camera, which waits patiently outside until they are through.

The film takes place in the back country of Brazil, in the urban center of the newly founded diamond region. The new dia-

mond contractor, Joao Fernandes (Walmor Chagas) is coming through town. Xica decides to break away from her master and get his attention, which she easily does. She breaks up a town meeting in which he is participating and lets her dress fall to the floor.

He accepts her revealing display as a rather forward advance, falls for her and sets her up in a kingdom of her very own. She rules with a will of iron, her every wish becoming an instant reality.

A high point of the film occurs with the arrival of the inspector, who suspect wrongdoings amidst all of the extravagant goings-on. Xica holds a banquet for him, with serving after serving of African specialties. The feast is followed by a rhythmic and very precise African dance by slave women, backed by exciting, percussional, musical accompaniment.

And then it comes — an erotic mating dance by Xica, nearly naked and painted gold, swinging and gyrating like an entwined lover aflame, or a rather surrealistic water-balloon. Her persuasively sexual ploy has a flaw, however, and Xica, the restless "glass butterfly," finds her dream-world about to shatter.

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Walmor Chagas as diamond contractor Joao Fernandes and ZeZe Motta in the title role in "Xica."

## Gumshoe gives last quarter to find suspicious 'GQ' guy

Last week: Working on a clue from Dianne Pemberton, I went to The Zoo in search of The GQ guy. At The Zoo, I located Topper, a veteran barfly with an ear for the kind of information people would pay to hear and the wallet to prove it. I made contact with Topper, who indicated that he had some information for me.

"Tell me what you've got," I said subtly.

"Nothin' that can't be cured," Topper said, tapping lightly on the timeworn surface of the bar.

"Oh, yeah, sure," I said. I fished a fin out of my wallet and set it on the bar in front of him. "Drink this . . . doctor's orders," I said.

"I'm feeling better," he said. "Feel like singing?"

"Sure."

"Don't let me stop you then."

"Can't sing if you only got one note," he said, exhaling a weary sigh. Out of the corner of my eye I saw him look down at the fiver.

"No problem" I laid another five on the table. "Let's hear it."

He cleared his throat. "Bet the rent money on the Dolphins this Sunday. Lock of the year."

Not what I was looking for, but it sounded good. I dropped another five on the table.



Pat Clark

"Sell Westinghouse. No price too low." I counted out three ones. Good stuff, but I didn't have any Westinghouse.

"Willie Gaston is going over the wall tomorrow night."

That was worth ten. I gave him five. "Ted Kennedy stepped aside as a favor to Tip O'Neill."

I dumped my last four singles.

"E.T." for Best Picture."

I surrendered my watch.

"Princess Diana is having an affair with Benny Hill."

Off went my hat. I didn't need it anyway.

"A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush."

My class ring joined the stack.

"The sun never sets on the British Empire."

Out came my Visa card.

"The Clash is the only band that matters."

My car keys jangled onto the pile. "A hero ain't nothin' but a sandwich."

I wrote out my girlfriend's name and phone number on a bar napkin and put it in the stack.

"GQ stands for Gentlemen's Quarterly and for a quarter I will tell you about a certain gentleman I hear you want to find."

I fished around in my pockets. No dice. No quarters, either. I got off the stool and picked up my change again, and plunked a quarter on top of the stack.

"Guy that comes in here Saturday nights, the babes would die for. Dances on Teflon feet. Snappy dresser; think maybe Walt Disney lays out his clothes for him in the morning."

"You think it's him?"

"Doubt it," Topper said calmly. "But you don't have anything else to go on right now."

"How do I find him?"

"He left me a little flyer. Something about his church. One thing about the USA; can't find a church you like, make one up."

"What church was this guy with?" "Said he was with The Morell Majority. I know what you're thinking and it's not the Falwell crowd."

"Is this the group that follows Jerry Falwell?" I said, expecting a "nope."

"Nope. Sounds new to me."

"You think maybe it's a new order?" "Sounds that way," he said, slowly getting louder. "He invited me to their special Friday night Showcase services."

"Did he invite you to the church?" I asked.

"YES, HE INVITED ME TO THE FRIDAY NIGHT SHOWCASE SERVICES!" he shouted, slamming his fist on the pile of money and valuables before him on the bar. "It's at 13th and N streets. That's 'N' as in Nebraska."

"Nebraska," I said. "Got it." we sat at the bar, not speaking, not looking at each other. I could hear the patter of accountant sounds next to me; the staccato, nonsense vocal accompaniment to the mental Rolodexing of his newly-gained possessions, I assumed.

Jeff the bartender broke the silence. "Phone for you, Topper," he said. "Long distance." He held his hand over the phone. "London calling."

"Sorry, I gotta go," Topper said, a look of undiluted relief on his grimy face. "Not like it hasn't been fun," he said, shoveling his newly gained treasure into his arms and carrying it with him behind the bar.

"One last question," I said. "Where's the church?"

# WEEKEND

The following is a list of local happenings for the coming weekend, tonight through Sunday:

### BARS

**Aku Tiki Lounge**, 5200 O St. — Them There Guys tonight through Saturday, \$2 cover.

**Chesterfield, Bottomsley and Potts**, 245 N. 13th St. — North Wynd Friday and Saturday, no cover.

**Drumstick**, 547 N. 48th St. — Caribe tonight, \$2.50 cover, the Go Mads Friday and Saturday.

**Green Frog Lounge**, 1010 P St. — Brutus tonight through Saturday, no cover.

**Judges**, 2630 Cornhusker Highway — Hit and Run tonight through Saturday, \$2 cover.

**Larry's Showcase**, 1316 N St. — Dash Riprock, tonight, \$3. Travis Wagner Band, Friday, \$2 cover. Kelly Hunt and the Kinetics, Saturday, \$3 cover.

**Little Bo's West**, 2630 Cornhusker Highway — Paul Phillips tonight through Saturday, no cover.

**Living Room Lounge**, three blocks south of Highway 2 on Highway 77 in the Harvester Plaza — The Whispering Friday and Saturday, no cover.

**McGuffey's**, 1042 P St. — Lincoln Jazz Society tonight, no cover; Jim Salestrom Friday and Saturday, \$2 cover.

**Pla-Mor Ballroom**, 6600 W. O St. — Gene Harding Saturday, \$2.50 cover; Frank Koftka and the Boys Sunday, \$2 cover.

**Rivera's**, 1920 W. O St. — Sweet Potato Band Friday and Saturday, no cover.

**Sidetrack**, 7th and P streets — Joyce Durand on piano tonight through Saturday, no cover.

**Royal Grove**, 340 W. Cornhusker Highway — Puppet tonight through Saturday.

**Sweep Left**, 815 O St. — Pudd Brothers

Friday and Saturday.

**Zoo Bar**, 136 N. 14th St. — Travis Wagner Band, Thursday, \$1.50 cover; Queen Sylvia and her Chicago Blues Band, Friday and Saturday, \$2.50 cover.

### THEATERS

**Cinema 1 and 2**, 13th and P streets — "E.T." — 7:25 and 9:45, ends tonight; "Timerider," — 7:20, 9:20.

**Cooper**, 54th and O streets — "Gandhi" matinees Saturday and Sunday at 2. Evening show at 8.

**Douglas 3**, 1300 P St. — "Six Weeks" — 5:25, 7:30, 9:35; matinees Saturday and Sunday at 1:15 and 3:20; "The Verdict" — 5:10, 7:25 and 9:45; matinee at 2; "The Man From Snowy River" — 5:20, 7:20, 9:20; matinees at 1:20 and 3:20.

**East Park 3**, 6100 O St. — "The Toy" — 5:30, 7:30, 9:30; matinees at 1:30 and 3:30; "The Chosen" — 5:45, 7:45, 9:45; matinees at 1:45 and 3:45; "The Dark Crystal" — 5:15, 7:15, 9:15; matinees at 1:15 and 3:15.

**Embassy**, 1730 O St. — "Aunt Peg" — 10 a.m., 12:35, 3:10, 5:45, 8:20, 10:55, 1:40 a.m., 3 a.m. (3 a.m. show Saturday and Sunday only); "Kiss and Tell" — 11:20 a.m., 1:55, 4:30, 7:05, 9:40, 12:15 a.m.

**Joyo**, 6102 Havelock Ave. — "Still of the Night" tonight at 8. "The Last Unicorn" Friday through Sunday.

**Plaza 4**, 12th and P streets — "48 HRS." — 7:45 and 9:45; "Kiss Me Good-bye" — 7:10 and 9:10; "The Dark Crystal" — 7 and 9; "Agora" — 7:20 and 9:20.

**Sheldon Film Theatre**, UNL campus — "Xica" 7 and 9:15; matinee Saturday and Sunday at 3.

**State**, 1415 O St. — "Best Friends" — 7:25 and 9:40.

**Stuart**, 13th and P streets — "Tootsie" 1, 3:10, 5:30, 7:40 and 9:45.