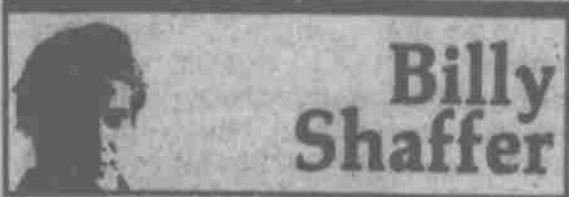


Young artist revels in realism

Tanya Jacobi — Naive Artist
The culturati of the art world have long appreciated the charming features of "naive" and "primitive" art. The newest star of the genre is Lincoln's own Tanya Jacobi.

At the age of 7, Jacobi shows the anachronistic symbolism of harsh



Billy Shaffer

realities of living in the modern world, presented in a format that is both reductive and supplantive.

"I show the harsh reality of living in the modern world, presented in format that is both reductive and supplantive," she said.

Often compared in the same breath with Grandma Moses and Ernie Bushmiller, Jacobi's crayon and Bic



pen sketches have an earnestness and originality unsurpassed in the realm of "naive" artists.

To the untrained eye, "naive" art often looks as if it were simply a child's scribbles or a retired grandmother's attempts to keep busy.

The art is actually well-thought out and endearing; calculated to cut through the crap and get to the meat of the matter.

In Jacobi's "Two People By a House," all insignificant formal elements are eliminated. The horizon is a single line, the house rests naturally upon it. The scale of the figures to the house suggest a depth not unlike the chiaroscuro and atmospheric perspective that dates to the Renaissance. In Jacobi's succinct terminology, "Front is big, back is little."

Since it's a risky (and perhaps a bit ridiculous) to guess which direction such a young artist's career can take, one can only hope that Tanya's work will never lose the refreshing spontaneity it now holds.

Only time will tell if her work will continue toward abstraction in the manner of Monet and countless others or perhaps delve to banal super-realism.

As it stands, however, her work remains a testament to an age forgotten, a time when Big Wheels and Barbie dolls are the pressing issues.

Although the subject matter is important and is handled well, the movie does have its flaws. Gere's acting is a bit stiff and awkward at times. Some of the dialogue is unconvincing and the filming could have been better.

Despite this, the movie is still one of the few this year that is meaningful, challenging, and enjoyable. For a glimpse into oppression in Latin America, the nature and problems of guerillas, and the moral question of adultery, you should go see "Beyond the Limit."

'Beyond the Limit' . . .

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The personal, political and humanitarian questions posed by this movie force an examination of one's principles and values. It is pleasantly surprising that the film achieves this, given the fact that, in the end, it comes out firmly on the side of commitment and caring.

This movie is also important for its portrayal of Latin American guerillas. It is refreshing to see them realistically portrayed just as simple, concerned people rather than as mysterious murderers or dashing romantic daredevils.

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