

Arts and Entertainment

Aspiring thespians act out human frailties

By Toger Swanson
Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

The enthusiasm of youth, the creeping senility of old age. "This is the Rill Speaking" brings out both in a small Midwestern town. The Showcase Theater's presentation of the Landford Wilson play illustrated these themes along with one of isolation between characters.

Theater Review

The play represented a typical day in the life of a three-generation Midwestern family. Director Tim Ganser used a multi-tiered stage and sharp lighting to draw the audience's attention to each segment, as well as to isolate the characters from each other by darkness. Numerous lighting fades cut the action into small glimpses of each life.

The entire cast remained on stage during the production, motionless until their lines came. The show

attempted not to make a striking point but to paint a realistic picture of human frailties and faults through rural Midwestern life. The brevity of the play allowed little character development. Some characters had only a few lines but contributing with their presence on stage.

Ganser used eager actors and actresses from the UNL theatre department for his second directing effort. He chose his cast from those who tried out earlier this fall. The month preceding last weekend's performances involved lengthy practices every night. The main motivation for these actors and actresses was the love of theater and a need for experience on the stage, Ganser said.

The UNL theatre department has few opportunities for freshmen actors and actresses who must compete for roles with graduate students in UNL

productions. Showcase Theater allows those would-be thespians the chance to develop their acting skills in a real theater environment.

Totally independent of the university, Ganser started this program and plans to launch another production in the spring.

The actors were weary after a month of tiring rehearsals. With no admission charged for the performances, they certainly don't do it for the money. They want the experience.

Ganser also made a video tape of the short play in his home town of Albion. He hopes to air this on cable television in the future. The cast said the trip to Albion helped them to relate to their characters and get a feel for small towns. The 13 members of the cast and crew learned about small Midwestern life and gained insight in to Landford Wilson's view of it.

Film lacks cohesive plot

'The Wild Life' perpetuate sex object mentality

By Mark Holt
Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

I'm not a good little Husker. Instead of going to the Missouri game, I spent my Saturday afternoon in the pleasingly non-red solitude of the Plaza 4 Theatres watching "The Wild Life."

Consider my plight. I brought with me a lot of preconceived ideas about the film. You can expect four things from high school sex romp flicks: Inane dialogue, 67 references to either pot or beer, approximately 12 total seconds of female nudity, and guys treating girls like dirt. With all that weighing heavily on my judgment, how could I be objective and fair? I couldn't, so I didn't bother trying.

Movie Review

Let's start with the good points of the film. I have no choice but to be brief. Christopher Penn, brother of Sean Penn, is semi-entertaining as the party-minded protagonist Tommy. It seems unfair that Penn should have to make his debut in what amounts to an imitation of "Fast Times at Ridgemont High" (made by the producers of this movie and starring his brother), but maybe this was his only chance.

Rick Moranis of "SCTV" and "Ghostbusters" turns in a good performances as an obnoxiously stylish department store supervisor. Note to Rick: In the future, please refrain from frittering your talents away on bit parts for dumb movies. Thank you.

I joined the hordes of satisfied Big Red fans outside the theater with a very pronounced sense of incompleteness. Maybe it's just me, but it has always been my



Photo Courtesy of Universal City Studios

Tom Drake (Christopher Penn) makes a peace offering to his girlfriend, Eileen Phillips (Jenny Wright) in "The Wild Life."

understanding that movies need to have plots. And try as I may, I just can't seem to figure out what "The Wild Life" was about. There's Tommy's turbulent love life, his roommate Bill's girlfriend's on-the-sly dealings with a conniving police officer whose only intention is to take advantage of her, and Tommy's brother's obsession with Vietnam (which goes nowhere). The only common thread I can see that gives

these any semblance of cohesiveness is the fact that each involves a guy treating a girl like a mindless sex object. Of course, most of the leading ladies' minds are remarkably uncluttered by brains, but the sex object mentality doesn't need a boost to perpetuate itself.

I neglected to mention one element of a good sexploitation film. A solid score of hits, both new and classic, is always a

must. Bananarama, with the title song, and The Human League add their two cents here. And to fill the oldies quota, Jimi Hendrix, Steppenwolf and Buffalo Springfield are sadly associated with this pre-formulated garbage.

Each night I pray that movies like "The Wild Life" will someday stop coming, or at least choose to infect another planet. Each morning I'm disappointed.

BLOOM COUNTY

by Berke Breathed



Cards and Letters

Alcoholic says myths lead to ignorance

In reference to Billy Shaffer's you write him off. Maybe there is article, "Alcoholic Disappoints and nothing you can do, but to address Alienates Friends," I can only say him in such a way that implies that if "Lloyd" has admitted that that he is a loser, only brings your he is an alcoholic, it is a much own ignorance to the surface. greater achievement than any. You obviously don't know the thing he could do academically. first thing about alcoholism. The It sounds like he has taken the last thing we need to do in "Alco-first step. If you give up on him, hol Awareness Week" is perpetu-you are the phoney friend. If you ate myths about alcoholics. I know. can't see through the surface I am an alcoholic too. I've been vener of "lies" and "cheat" enough exactly where "Lloyd" is now. to understand what he's going through, then maybe it's best if

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