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Redone Carmen shows at Sheldon.

By Tish Mockler
Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

Carlos Saura's modern flamenco dance version of Georges Bizet's opera, "Carmen," is a pulsating, mesmerizing movie that seems as

Movie Review

far from my vision of opera as you can get. The film is showing at Sheldon Film Theatre.

The opera "Carmen" is about an Andalusian woman who drives men crazy with her beauty, determination and surly expressions. The movie "Carmen" is about this same type of woman, who happens to be a dancer working on a modern version of "Carmen" for a dance production.

The main actors in this film create quite an exhilarating play roles which fit closely to their real lives. Carmen is played by Laura Del Sol, who was found through an extensive search for a woman who embodied the mythic qualities of a "wild and strange beauty" that the lover Antonio looks for.

Antonio is played by Antonio Gades, an internationally acclaimed director of his own ballet company and the former director of the National Ballet of Spain. He co-stars with Carmen in the movie and in the production within the movie.

Some of Bizet's music is used in the production. A good portion of it is played by Paco de Lucia, a famous practitioner of flamenco and classic Andalusian guitar.

For someone who doesn't think much of flamenco dancing, the dancing and music combine to

create quite an exhilarating effect. Antonio and Carmen are swept away in the passion of the production and fall into the flames of a consuming love. It is hard at times to tell where the dance production ends and their personal lives begin.

After several months of trying to decide how to approach "Carmen," producer Emiliano Piedra, Gades and Saura ended up following the plot of the opera very closely, but the style of the movie is definitely not operatic.

The movie was made in 1983 and the characters speak Spanish, but there are English subtitles. It is showing tonight through Monday at 7 and 9 p.m., with a Saturday and Sunday matinee at 3 p.m. Admission is \$3. A lecture over the film will follow the Sunday matinee.



Photo Courtesy of Orion Pictures

Laura del Sol and Antonio Gades in an emotional scene from "Carmen."

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