

Sheldon showing 'Parting Glances:' Real people who happen to be gay

By Scott Harrah
Senior Reporter

"Parting Glances" is a welcome and badly-needed exception to the gay films of the past. In fact, it isn't really a film about gays — it's a film about real people who happen to be gay.

The film doesn't try to deliver some corny message about homosexuality with militant political polemics or high-camp antics and characters. Instead, writer/director Bill Sherwood uses the gay characters to illuminate the provocative New York nightclub, party and social scene that is currently hitting a pinnacle in the East Village. Sherwood's new-wave sensibility surfaces in the story through three interesting, angst-ridden and very

realistic characters. The plot revolves around a yuppie gay couple, Michael and Robert. Robert (John Bolger) is leaving for a two-year visit to Kenya, which will inevitably bring an end to his six-year live-in relationship with Michael (Richard Ganoung). We see them quarrel, scream, make love and attend dinner parties and numerous farewell bashes given by their artsy, upper middle-class friends.

Michael, who is disturbed by the fact that his lover is heading for Africa, must also deal with the fact that his former lover Nick (Steve Buscemi) is dying of AIDS. But the film doesn't try to make a statement about the disease; it simply shows it as another lacerating reality of gay life in the '80s. This is most evident in Nick's attitude. He is a

cynical, yet marvelously vibrant former rock musician who has accepted the fact that he is dying. Even when people make wisecracks about his emaciated appearance, he remains stoic.

The film maintains a tight, ebullient pace with some beautiful shots of Manhattan, plausible dialogue and acting that complements the characters.

"Parting Glances" has set a precedent with its truthful vision of gay life minus the stereotypes. It's also a colorful subterranean survey of a New York scene that owes very little to the past. "Parting Glances" may inspire the underground gay films of the future.

"Parting Glances" is showing at the Sheldon Film Theatre through Aug. 17.

'Hail Mary' showing at Union Ballroom

Jean-luc Goddard's controversial film "Hail Mary" will be shown Sunday and Monday evenings at the Nebraska Union Ballroom at 7 and 9.

"Hail Mary" was originally scheduled to appear at the Sheldon Film Theatre last spring but was cancelled after protests that the film was offensive to Catholics. The Nebraska Civil Liberties Union filed suit to have the film shown. This resulted in a court order mandating that the film be scheduled.

Admission is \$3.75. Admission for senior citizens, children, and members of the Sheldon Film Theatre. Tickets are available only at the door.



Courtesy of Amer. Ind. Films

AIDS victim Nick (Steve Buscemi) discusses his discontent in a party scene from "Parting Glances."

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