

# Arts & Entertainment

University Theatre production in festival

## Joslyn displays paper exhibit

By Ken DiMaggio  
Staff Reporter

Theatre and art will abound in the River City this weekend.

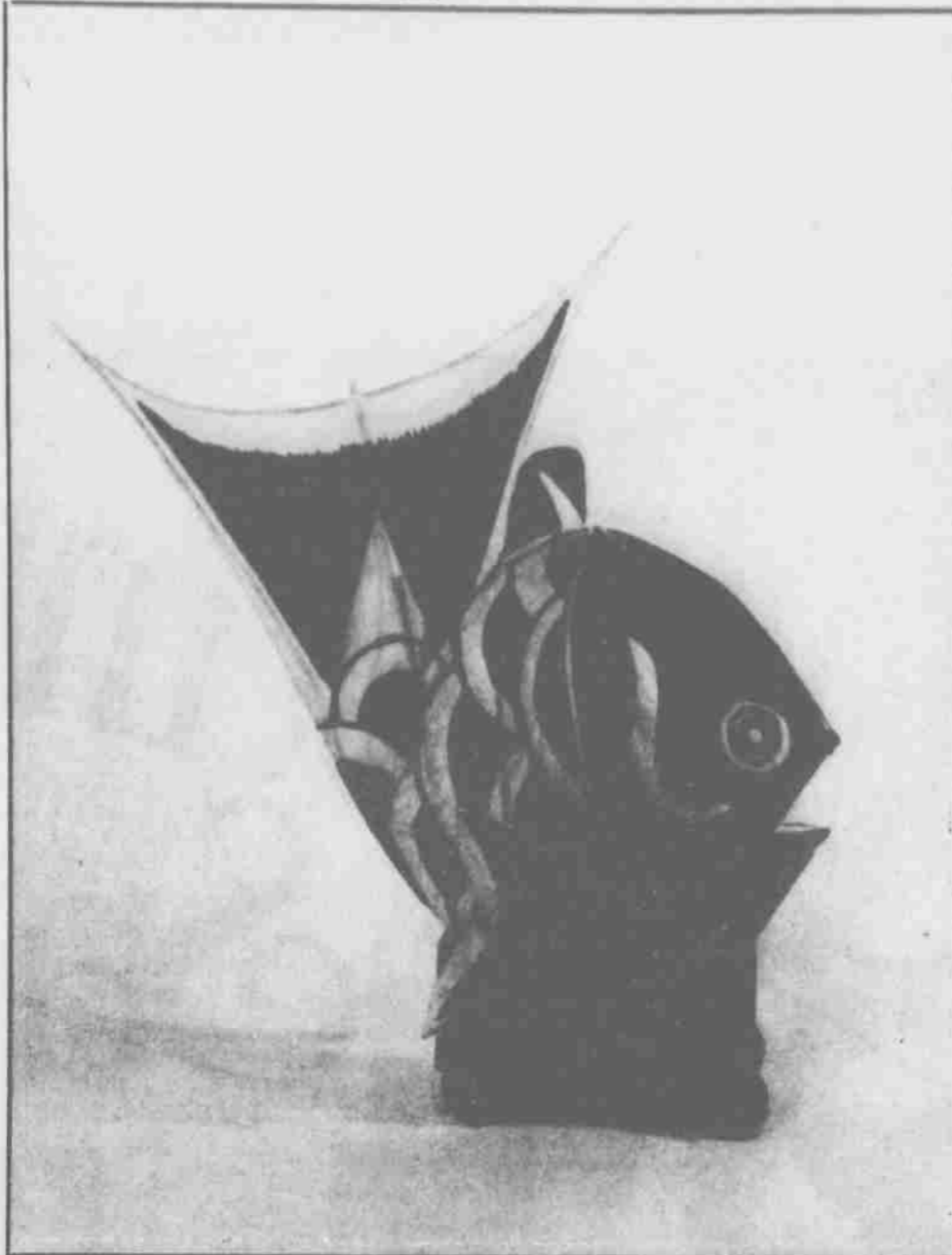
The University Theatre's recent production of "Chekhov in Yalta" will be one of the many plays competing at the American College Theatre festival this weekend in Omaha.

"Chekhov in Yalta," written by Jeffrey Haddow and John Driver, is a poignant portrayal of famous Russian literary and theater personalities at the turn of the century.

Besides UNL, five other Nebraska universities and colleges will be competing in the festival. A troupe from the UNO Department of Dramatic Arts will perform "The Conference of the Birds." Wayne State College will perform "La Ronde," and Hastings College will perform "A Midsummer Night's Dream." UNO will be host to the plays, which will be presented Thursday through Sunday. For show times and ticket information, call 554-2335.

A "Paper Innovations" exhibition will be at the Joslyn Art Museum from Saturday through Jan. 4. On view will be toys, dolls, kites, fans, lanterns, clothing, and papercuts and origami from Japan, China, India, Mexico, Europe and the United States.

A special family event known as "Paper Innovations Family Fest" will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday. For further information on "Paper Innovations" and the "Paper Innovations Family Fest," call 342-3300.



Courtesy of Joslyn

"Fish Lantern Cart" by Tai Bomori will be displayed at the "Paper Innovations" exhibit at Joslyn Saturday in Omaha.

## Movie no 'miracle': It's just bad

By Stew Magnuson  
Staff Reviewer

"Miracles" starring Tom Conti.

The opening scene of "Miracles" is in some far-off jungle where a witch doctor is being justifiably accused by his fellow tribesmen as being a fake. As he's tied to some stakes, he prays to the almighty Great Spirit to send a real medicine man so the chief's daughter can be healed.

### Movie Review

We then switch to New York City where Dr. Roger Briggs (Tom Conti) performs surgery. Then we see two cheap crooks botch a robbery by using too much dynamite on a safe. Finally, the former Mrs. Jeanie Briggs (Terri Garr) drives off alone after her divorce party.

What do all these scenes have in common? They're all in the same insufferably bad comedy, "Miracles," which gets my vote as the worst movie of the year.

The witch doctor's prayer in the far-

off country sets off an incredible chain of events, starting with one of the thieves jumping in front of Jeanie and Dr. Briggs' cars causing them to collide while he is running from the police. The thief, Juan (Paul Rodriguez), kidnaps the Briggses, is chased by the police, then takes the Briggses with his friend Harry (Christopher Lloyd, Jim on "Taxi") on an airplane trip to Mexico.

All along Jeanie and Roger bicker about their marital problems and their recent divorce. These arguments are supposed to be funny. They aren't. Writer and director Harry Joff just doesn't give his characters anything funny to say. Lloyd, a great character actor, is totally wasted, as are Garr and Conti. All these great comedic actors combined can't save this terrible movie.

As the plane flies through Mexico, it starts to run out of gas, and Juan and Harry leap with the last two parachutes.

Jeanie and Roger miraculously land the plane, bickering about things that happened five years before while the plane slowly descends. Of course, they're starting to fall in love again. The Briggses are mistaken as drug smugglers

by Mexican police. Why the police believe Harry, who parachuted on top of the police's outdoor cafe table, and not the Briggses, is beyond me. "Miracles" suffers from what writers call a "dummy plot." All the situations stem from the characters' doing unbelievably stupid things that just get them in further trouble. It's like a "Lucy Show" episode where you just want to leap through the TV screen and strangle Lucy for being so incredibly dumb.

On top of that, during the last few scenes, the plot has more holes in it than Swiss cheese. Eventually Dr. Briggs ends up in the jungle and saves the life of the chief's daughter. Explaining how he got there would be as tedious as the film itself.

The only miracle about "Miracles" is that I stayed through the whole film without demanding my money back from the theater manager. The only good thing about this movie is that it's very short, not even an hour and a half, making "Miracles" just about a total rip-off.

"Miracles" is playing at the Plaza 4 and is rated PG.

### State of the Arts

Compiled by  
Stew Magnuson  
Staff Reporter

views.

On NETV

The Nebraska ETV Network will show "In Search of Freedom: Nebraskans From Latvia" tonight at 8 p.m.

On KZUM:

UNL Film Studies professor Wheeler Dixon will host a 3 1/2-hour retrospective of the music of the Velvet Underground Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to noon on KZUM, 89.5 FM. Dixon said the show will feature extremely rare material and inter-

This documentary traces the footsteps of the 2,000 Latvians who settled in Nebraska during the early 1950s, and how they assimilated into Nebraska's society while preserving their heritage.

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