

Independent projects allow students to delve into world of filmmaking

By Jim Hanna
Staff Reporter

For the truly serious film maker at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, an independent film project provides the opportunity to ex-

have the energy and the strength and the desire to really carry on," Dixon said. "The only one who's come to me so far is Kent."

Dixon said that although there are only one to two independent study projects done each year,

about a year from first idea to final print," Dixon said. "You have to go through at least a month and a half to two months of script writing, three to four months of shooting, three to four months of editing and then a couple more months for the final print."

Another factor contributing to the difficulty of doing an independent film is the equipment that the students have to work with.

"We have a lot of equipment and it's very temperamental, it breaks down a lot," Dixon said. "We've had six cameras break down this fall so far. They're in the shop."

The "shop" in this instance is in Chicago. There are no facilities in this region to repair the broken equipment which adds to the film makers woes.

Still, however, Dixon does not want to discourage students from pursuing film at UNL.

"I would give anybody who had a good project and who was an excellent film maker; I would make time for them to do an independent study," he said.

'I would say that the average independent study project takes a year from first idea to final print. You have to go through at least a month and a half to two months of script writing, three to four months of shooting, three to four months of editing and then a couple more months for the final print.'

—Dixon

plore the craft of film-making in-depth.

Wheeler Dixon, associate professor of English and art and head of the film studies program, said that independent film projects are only for students who have successfully completed courses in 8mm and 16mm filmmaking.

"In order to do an independent study project, you have to take super 8 and then you have to take 16," Dixon said. "Then, basically, you have to come to me with a script and see whether or not I think the script is viable."

Only a few students actually get to embark on an independent film project each year. At this time, only one student, Kent Nelson, is working on an independent study project, Dixon said.

There are several reasons why so few students produce film through an independent study project. One of the primary reasons is simply that there are not many people who are up to the challenge such a project presents.

"Once you get out of 16, there's only a few people at that point who

there have been as many as three in one year.

He stresses, however, that not just anybody can do a project.

"It's important to realize that I turn down many more than I accept," he said. "Independent study films are only made by those people who have already taken 8 and 16. If somebody just walks in and says 'I want to make an independent study project in film,' forget it."

To illustrate the process, Dixon points to Nelson.

"Kent is a perfect example. He started out in super 8 and his film was the best shot film in the class. Then he shot the class project in 16mm and did a beautiful job on that," he said. "Then after that, he came to me and said 'Look, I want to shoot my own project.'"

Choosing who gets to do an independent project is the easy part. After that comes the difficult task of actually completing the project. A great deal of time must be invested to complete a successful independent study film.

"I would say that the average independent study project takes

Film programs allow variety

By Christopher E. Kinney
Staff Reporter

Lights, camera, action. The University Program Council's American Film Series ranges from cults to classics, Jim Tasset said, chairman of the American Film Series and a senior history major.

The American Film Series Committee, comprised of students, chooses films that would appeal to both students and non-students. The films are shown in the Nebraskan Union, usually in Regency A.

The American Film Series Committee tries to show five films a year but shows more if co-sponsored with another UPC committee or campus group, Tasset said. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Foreign Film Series is "roughly 36 or 37 years old," Jim Arthur said, a UPC spokesperson for Chairperson Gretchen Franck. A panel of students and teachers meet and submit choices for film. The film

committee consists of six students, usually film students, and six faculty members.

The films are screened at four different times every other Sunday at the Sheldon Film Gallery. Admission is \$3 for students with I.D., Friends of the Sheldon and senior citizens and \$4 for the general public. According to Arthur, the film series offers a student film season pass that "greatly reduces prices to \$1.33 each film".

A collection of films on video tape in the audio-visual department in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln English department is also available to students. Although, the several hundred odd films can only be viewed by film class students. The student cannot check out the films for outside viewing, they have to view them in the department.

"If a student is interested in a particular director," then they may study a certain work without lack of source, Wheeler Dixon, associate professor of English and art, said.

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