

Action, fun, stolen jewels all in new flick

From Staff Reports

"Peking Opera Blues" is a fun movie from Hong Kong that offers action, romance and revolutionaries. Tsao Wan, daughter of a Chinese warlord, has joined an underground liberation movement in 1911 after spending years studying abroad.

movie REVIEW

She and Pak Ying conspire to steal an important document from her father, but in their escape, they run into a greedy maid, a would-be actress, another revolutionary, and several bad guys from the "Ticketing Office."

Sheung Hung has stolen diamonds from the previous warlord, and she stashes them on a cart that belongs to a Peking opera troupe. Actress Chung



Courtesy of Sheldon Film Theater

Scene from "Peking Opera Blues."

Chor Hung is delightfully flirtatious in this role.

Pak Neil desperately wants to go on stage at the Peking opera, but her father, the manager, won't let her.

The revolutionaries take shelter in the Peking opera house, disrupt the performance, and give Pak her chance on stage.

The film is great entertainment, and touches on the themes of transvestism, homosexuality, androgyny and the role of women in Chinese society.

"Peking Opera Blues" will be shown today at 1 and 7 p.m., and Saturday at 3 and 9 p.m. at the Sheldon Film Theater.

Presentation Tuesday Roadside comes to Kimball

From Staff Reports

"South of the Mountain" will be performed by the Roadside Theater at Kimball Hall Tuesday and Wednesday at 8 p.m.

The play tells the story of two generations of a mountain family. The story traces the family's life on a small farm to the personal, dramatic changes that shape the lives of the family's younger generation as industrialization moves into the mountains.

Tom Bledsoe, Nancy Jeffrey and Ron Short are the actors in this production.

A guitar, banjo and fiddle accompany the dozen original songs that are woven into the story.

"South of the Mountain" is largely based on the reflections of author Ron Short's relatives.

The performance isn't really a play in the conventional sense, since story-telling and music play a big role.

Three actors trace an Appalachian family's life from the early 1930s through the New Deal programs.

Roadside Theater, from Whitesburg, Ky., and Norton, Va., is one of a handful of rural theater companies in existence in the

United States.

The nationally acclaimed theater tours all year to more than 1,000 towns, back hollows and coal camps.

The company has also toured many of the big cities in the South, and has performed at Lincoln Center, the National Storytelling Festival, off-Broadway in New York and in Europe and Canada.

The company began in 1974 as part of a rural arts organization, Appalshop.

Roadside tries to develop a kind of theater that makes sense in the southern Appalachians, and its style is drawn from the music, church and story-telling traditions of that place.

All of Roadside's performers have grown up in the region, and their special relationship with their material helps create a relaxed story-telling form that doesn't involve props, costumes or scenery.

The New & Courier of Charleston, S.C., said in a review that the first part of the program is a celebration of a rural life that has harsh living conditions, but full of human companionship.

Tickets are \$8 and \$10. University of Nebraska-Lincoln students get half-price tickets.

'Dark Eyes' shines with brilliance

By William Rudolph
Staff Reporter

"Dark Eyes," the final film in the fall University Program Council's Foreign Film Series, will show at the Sheldon Film Theater Sunday.

movie REVIEW

Based on a story by Anton Chekhov, "Dark Eyes" tells the story of Romano (Marcello Mastroianni), an idle aristocrat who wanted to be an architect but wound up marrying into money instead.

Now his children are grown, he's starting to age and life has become boring. What's a guy to do?

In Romano's case, he falls in love with a beautiful but mysterious Soviet aristocrat he meets at a fashionable spa. But the lady has a past, and the lovers must part. For the first time in his life, Romano genuinely cares about something . . . and he's not about to let it go.

"Dark Eyes" abounds with wonderful moments. One especially charming scene concerns the treatment Mastroianni receives as the first Western European to visit a tiny Soviet village. Other hilarious and charming examples occur at the hot springs in which the ailing Mastroianni literally walks on water for Anna.

Mastroianni is simply brilliant. Every expression, every gesture is deliberate yet subtle. This is powerful acting, deserving of the highest praise.

In fact, Mastroianni received the

nomination for best actor at the Cannes Film Festival for his work in "Dark Eyes." As Newsday's Mike McGrady said, "Mastroianni delivers the performance of a lifetime."

The rest of the cast does an equally fine job. Director Nikita Mikhal'kov manages to keep the audience enthralled for nearly two hours. The sheer number of beautiful scenic

backgrounds, the visual detail of costumes and sets, even the props the characters use to establish their identities combine for a rare film experience.

Tickets are \$4 for the public and \$3 for University of Nebraska-Lincoln students with identification cards. "Dark Eyes" will show at 3, 5, 7 and 9 p.m.

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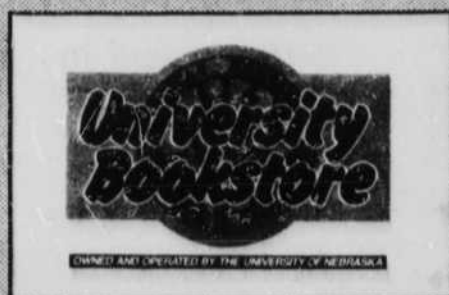
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