

New road movie looks at Indian issues

By John Payne
Staff Reviewer

When the going gets tough, the tough take a road trip.

Jonathan Wacks' new film, "Powwow Highway" takes a true-to-life look at the problems of today's American Indian while paying tender homage to that great cinematic tradition -- the road picture.

"Powwow" is about the search for personal heritage and the need for friendship, and is one of the better films of the year.

Enraged by corporate desecration of his Cheyenne reservation, Buddy Redbow (A. Martinez) has been fighting a losing battle all his life. A mining corporation that is lobbying to further rape the Montana land fears Buddy's influence over his tribe, seeing him as militant and a trouble-maker.

The corporation has Buddy's sister thrown in jail on drug charges in order to get him out of town during the crucial tribal vote. Buddy needs bail money and a ride to Santa Fe, where his sister is being held.

He soon hooks up with Philbert (Gary Farmer), a hulking, kind-hearted Cheyenne who is on a spiritual quest for his lost heritage. With his war pony deemed "The Protec-

out to circumnavigate the great American west, stopping along the way for caramel corn, a powwow and various detours.

The two men differ drastically in their views of Cheyenne tradition, and this difference results in a comedic chemistry that really carries the film. Buddy is a cynic, who wants nothing to do with the "old ways."

But it's Farmer who really steals the show, playing the soft-spoken Philbert, anxious to explore the sacred regions of Cheyenne history and feel the spirituality that he

doesn't get on his reservation.

Like most road movies, "Powwow Highway" breaks down a little when the characters stay in one place for too long. The last 15 minutes of the film keep it from being truly great, with the obligatory car chase and a hokey ending that you can see coming a mile away.

But the irresistible charm of Farmer, along with gorgeous scenery and great traveling music by Robbie Robertson and CCR, make "Powwow Highway" a delightful road picture indeed.

movie REVIEW

tor" (a '64 Buick), Philbert intends to find the "four signs" of the gods that will make him a worthy Cheyenne warrior.

Together Buddy and Philbert set

Become a movie snob

Reviewers offer own helpful hints

By Mark Hain and
Becky Tideman
Staff Reviewers

Why are a selected few paid to review movies, while the general public pays to view them?

What school did they graduate from to deserve such a distinction?

In short, what do Siskel and Ebert know about movies that the everyday Joe-off-the-Street moviegoer doesn't?

Nothing. They've simply refined a few crutch-like techniques into a facade of expertise, and a reign of intimidation and fear.



Anyone can be a Rex Reed or a Gene Shallot, and why not? Is there a better way to impress your friends than with your finely honed knowledge and appreciation of quality films?

In an attempt to help encourage everyone to join the elite ranks of pompous film enthusiasts, here's a list of helpful hints to help you become a connoisseur. Yes, with just a few of these tips under your belt, you'll be the life of the party, intimidating all those who will listen to your rambling by professing the virtue of early Soviet cinema or by praising the works of Carl Theodore Dreyer. So, read the following and become a MOVIE SNOB:

- Despise Ted Turner, Turner Broadcasting System and the entire idea of colorization.
- Learn the Lingo. Familiarize yourself with a plethora of technical terms. Find out what all those mysterious credits really are (i.e. best boy, gaffer, key grip). Also impressive is learning the terms for every conceivable movement the camera makes, as well as the fine points of lighting. Used in combination, they can create a double-whammy that will floor your friends (i.e. "The chiascuro lighting couldn't possibly have been aesthetically sound if it wasn't for the panning.").
- Never like a movie younger than you.
- Memorize a few foreign words. What possibly could be more stunning than referring to a director as an auteur, or the film as an oeuvre. For advanced students, the term *mis en scene* can add real muscle to your film snobhood.
- Embrace obscurity. This tip serves two important

functions. A) It instantly lends a selective flair to your taste in films, and B) If you say your favorite film is a rarely seen 1912 German expressionist masterpiece, who can argue with you?

- Never categorize films in terms up of "thumbs up" and "thumbs down."
- It is a film, not a movie. If it contains considerable merit, it may be motion picture, or for really good measure a "work."
- Use adverbs, lots of adverbs. The film wasn't bad. It was painfully disappointing, irreverently vulgar or poignantly subtle.
- Give credit and praise to filmmakers in this order. First, the writer, then the director and finally the actor.
- See lots and lots of foreign films; or, if you must see domestics, make sure they're low-budget. Bear in mind that only the cream of the crop are exported. Other countries don't have the Hollywood mentality that promotes sex, violence or box-office receipts. Their prime focus is movie-making. In Europe, Latin America and Japan there seems to be a greater artistic freedom (in fact, for purposes of snobdom, the artsier a film, the better).

The language barrier, however, can be both a blessing and a curse. Subtitles can distract you from the on-screen action, or fade into the picture which can leave an audience clueless. And dubbing can cause unintentional hilarity with out-of-sync lips.

Still, just about anything with a foreign title is impressive. This is especially helpful when realizing that for every "Bicycle Thief," there are three Italian films about large-breasted vampire women who wear hip-huggers and keep male slaves in the dungeon. Nonetheless, discussing the artistic merits of "La Castillo des Brujas de Sange" will amaze your friends -- just don't tell them it means "The Castle of the Bloody Witches."

The final tip is the most important: refuse to be intimidated. It's like someone seeing a Shakespeare play for the first time. Some people are afraid of falling asleep or being lost in a muddle of confusing Old English, but find the spectacle, acting and production exciting, and their old preconceptions are shot down. Impressing other people loses its importance when you find out Fassbinder, Bergman and Fellini aren't stuffy, pretentious or dull (well, at least not most of the time). Classic films such as "The Cabaret of Dr. Caligari," "Orpheus" or "La Strada" as well as contemporary films like "Women on the Edge of Nervous Breakdown," "Apocalypse Now" or "Blue Velvet" are funny, scary and touching. They were made for people to enjoy, not be intimidated by, and enjoying films, rather than dissecting them, is what distinguishes a film snob from a true film fan.

Football fans and others can choose from a potpourri of weekend events

From Staff Reports

In addition to the kickoff at Memorial Stadium's 40-yard line at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, football fans and others have a potpourri of entertaining weekend events to choose from.

Harpichordist Michael Eberth will perform at St. Mark's on the Campus Episcopal Church, 13th and R streets, at 8 p.m. today.

The concert is a presentation of the Lincoln Organ Showcase and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln School of Music.

Eberth, an instructor of harpichord at the Strauss Conservatory in Munich, will be performing works by French and German composers who contributed significantly to the literature of the harpichord's golden age.

Other performance pieces include works by Claude Balbastre (1727-

1799); Wilhelm Friedemann Bach (1710-1784), eldest son of J.S. Bach; and Jaques Duphy (1715-1789).

UPC Sights and Sounds will present the 1988 Oscar-Winning "Rain Man" tonight and Saturday night.

"Rain Man," starring Dustin Hoffman and Tom Cruise, is the story of two brothers who are reunited after 25 years.

Hoffman is an autistic savant and the oldest of the two brothers, while Cruise must choose between his fast lifestyle and taking care of his brother. The movie's theme centers on the Cruise and Hoffman characters finding a special love and need for one another.

The movie will be showing in the East Union Hollow Room. Show times are 7 and 9 p.m. tonight and 8 p.m. Saturday.

Students who have free time this afternoon may want to take advan-

tage of the final day of a cartoon display on the UNL City Campus.

German political cartoons dating from 1949 to the present are on display in Oldfather Hall through Sept. 15.

The display celebrates the 40th anniversary of the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany).

"Cartoons: The Federal Republic of Germany," uses 90 illustrations to show the nation's political history. The artists use a humorous and sometimes critical tone to depict important events and government philosophies.

Nineteen leading political cartoonists made their work available for this exhibition. The cartoons, published in German newspapers, are from the Consul General of the Republic of Germany.

The display in 1107 Oldfather will be open to the public from 1 to 4 p.m. today.



Courtesy of the Lied Center for Performing Arts

The Flying Karamazov Brothers

Karamazov Brothers return to Kimball Hall

By Kelly Anders
Staff Previewer

The Karamazov Brothers are coming, the Karamazov Brothers are coming -- head for Kimball Recital Hall posthaste.



The internationally acclaimed quartet, including "Dmitri" - Paul David Magid, "Fyodor" - Timothy Furst, "Ivan" - Howard Jay Patterson and "Smerdyakov" - Sam Williams, have embarked on a bus-and-truck tour across the United States in their latest production, "Club."

As part of Kimball's "World on Stage" series, the unrelated brethren will grace the Kimball stage at 3 and 8 p.m. Sunday. The group's performances will combine music, improvisational comedy and juggling in the most technologically advanced production in the group's 14-year history.

A real crowd-pleaser, the show sold out last year, and boasts of universal appeal, said William Stibor, publicity coordinator for the "World on Stage" series.

"It's primarily family-type entertainment, but there's also a lot of the topical humor that college students like," Stibor said.

Stibor mentioned antics such as "The Gamble," during which the audience brings "impossible-to-juggle" items (past offerings include raw chickens, fish and Jell-O) and a hilarious take-off on the old Bogie flick, "The Maltese Falcon."

Though the quartet began on the streets, it has bettered its surroundings, playing in performance halls in Scotland, Australia, China and elsewhere. The troupe also co-produced and starred in its own acclaimed production of Shakespeare's "Comedy of Errors" at the Lincoln Center in New York.

Pre-performance juggling lessons will be offered at 2 and 7 p.m. The Lincoln Juggling Club will offer this instruction on the lawn southeast of the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery on 12th and R streets.

Tickets still are available for the event, Stibor said, and cost \$15 and \$11 for general admission, half-price for University of Nebraska-Lincoln students and those aged 18 and under.