

# Exotic scenes make flick far from typical

By Julie Naughton  
Senior Reporter

"The Gods Must Be Crazy II," far from a typical movie, combines lessons about exotic animals with an airplane crash and an adventure in the African desert.

The movie, which easily could pass for a National Geographic special, introduces a melange of characters in the opening scenes.

Although the movie has two plots and a subplot, the focus is not on the characters. A narrator periodically tells the audience what is happening to the characters, and the major focus goes to the scenery and to the animals. The wild Sahara Desert, the African bushes, the vast skies, as well as hyenas, ostriches, leopards and lions are given ample camera time.

While the audience never hears the names of the human characters, they learn why hyenas attack, why male ostrich protect ostrich eggs and how to make a firebreak.

These lessons are sandwiched

around the characters, particularly around a visiting woman from New York who has never seen anything more exotic than a subway.

A wildlife worker decides to show the visiting woman the country. They

## movie REVIEW

take off from their gathering in a light plane and get out to a wilderness worker's post. As soon as they get out there, an emergency demands that the worker leave the woman, so he sends her back to the gathering with another worker -- a handsome, moody male chauvinist.

As these two take off in the plane, a sudden storm whips up, causing them to lose their bearings and eventually crash.

At the same time, two older, dirty, crusty-looking men searching for ivory (which is illegal to import or export) accidentally cart off two African bush children, who have snuck into the back of their truck. The children's

father walks up just in time to see his children carted off.

In between animal lessons, the two plots of the movie then explore the man and woman's efforts to return to civilization and the bushman's attempts to find his children. After the animal lessons, the plot shifts to show the happy endings that the characters have worked out.

Although the film's focus was not on the characters, the switch was a refreshing change from the average cops-and-robbers, horror or adventure film. The animals, in their natural habitat, put in amusing performances. And although the breaks between the plots and the animals are rough and do not flow well, this is a fun film.

"The Gods Must Be Crazy II" is entertaining as well as educational, and does not contain anything that will be embarrassing to explain to the children.

"The Gods Must Be Crazy II" is playing at the Plaza 4 Theatre, 201 N. 12th St.



Tom Gallagher/Daily Nebraskan

Discounts offered for series purchases

# Lied's second season to include 'Cats,' Kirov

By Jim Hanna  
Staff Reporter

The Lied Center for Performing Arts will move into its first full season next fall with a schedule of events of extremely high quality, said the Lied Center's new director, Robert Chumbley.

"These are the greatest artists in the world," Chumbley said of the Lied 1990-91 season.

Artists visiting the Lied Center next year will include Itzhak Perlman, Branford Marsalis, Leontyne Price, Lionel Hampton, Mel Torme and Crystal Gayle.

In an effort to make buying tickets

easier for Lied patrons, a variety of series combining similar events will be offered. Each series will contain three to five events and will be sold in discounted packages -- 10 percent off for the purchase of one series, 15 percent off for two.

The Lied Center, eager to increase student turnout at its events, has designed one performance series with student interests in mind.

Called "Serious Fun," the series includes tickets to Kronos Quartet, Marsalis, Hampton, an Abbey Theater production of "The Playboy of the Western World," and the Paul Drescher Ensemble's "Pioneer."

The cost of the package for stu-

dents is \$30, which, at \$6 a show, compares favorably to a night at the movies, Chumbley said.

Single tickets, which go on sale Aug. 27, will be discounted for students -- which should encourage them to attend, Chumbley said. Tickets for University of Nebraska-Lincoln students, as well as for those 18 and under, are half-price for all shows except "Cats," which runs in February.

Beyond "Serious Fun," other series include "Showtime," a musical theater series; "Solo Spotlights," featuring musical soloists; and "Great Masters," a series highlighting famed artists in ballet and orchestral music.

The highlight of the performance series will come in April of 1991 when the Artists of Lied Festival is held, Chumbley said. The series features five events throughout April including the Miami Ballet, Broyhill Chamber Ensemble and the St. Louis Symphony.

A second series option involves the "Kaleidoscope of Arts." With this option, a Lied patron can select any six events from a list of 23 to create their own series package.

Of the 46 events scheduled for next season, two will be productions by university performance groups. In December, The Department of

Theatre Arts & Dance will stage "A Christmas Carol" and in March, a UNL Opera Theater production of Don Giovanni will receive a two-night run.

Other events that will be staged at the Lied Center next year include The Kirov Ballet, The Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam, Pippi Longstocking, Garth Fagan Bucket Dance, The Boys Choir of Harlem and The Shanghai Acrobats and Imperial Warriors of the Peking Opera.

A brochure detailing the entire season will be available from the Lied Center starting next week, Chumbley said.

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#### 110 Announcements

P.K: Studying for finals is no fun! But seeing "Cinderella" at the Lied Saturday night will be! Meet me beforehand at the Coffee House, 1324 "PI" The Pink Couch

#### \*Attention Seniors\*

Senior gift phonathon this week April 30- May 4. Help make improvements around the Mueller Bell tower in the name of YOUR Class.

## Plant's Zeppelin roots reflected in energy of 'Manic Nirvana' LP

By Troy Falk  
Staff Reporter

Robert Plant  
"Manic Nirvana"  
Es Paranza

"Manic Nirvana" follows Robert Plant's past musical styling, yet it has a new twist of energy within. The music is familiar Plant style, but the lyrics are more free and uncompromised.

The first cut is "Hurting Kind," a good dance tune that still is fine for kicking back and cranking up. This is not techno-pop dance music, but good old-fashioned rock 'n' roll.

"I'll kiss the flower in your hair/I'll kiss your flower everywhere/I give my love but you don't care," Plant belts out in "SSS & Q." This song is one of the most creative tracks on the album, a break away from the traditional Plant. The guitars are more inventive and the drums carry the solid hard rock 'n' roll all the way without overpowering the rest of the band.

"Nirvana" probably is the best song on the album. As this tune starts, it drives the listener to get up and dance. The energy and power from the music pulsates out from the speakers. This cut best exemplifies the new direction Plant and his band have taken. Their new direction seems to be the music industry's big money market, while they still are able to produce good solid rock 'n' roll.

"Good morning. What we have in mind is breakfast in bed for 400,000," is yelled at the beginning of "Tie Dye on the Highway." It's easy to think this is a live recording at first -- then the audience disappears after the opening monologue.

The next song, "Your Ma Said You Cried in Your Sleep Last Night," is a throwback to loud bass guitar and bass drumbeat. The beat is hard, fast and forces one to move to its captivating rhythm.

Plant's band -- Chris Blackwell (drums), Doug Boyle (master guitars), Phil Johnstone (keyboards) and Charlie Jones (bass) back him up beautifully. None of them overpowers a song or stanza, yet their presence is pronounced. These gentlemen don't have to prove themselves by outplaying or drowning out anyone else.

Plant displays his years of experience with the lyrics and voice control. Some say he had a lack of range in his younger days with Led Zeppelin. That may be, but he has used his vast experience to hone his abilities to near perfection within his limitations.

Some Zeppelin fans say he's sold out. He would be selling out only if he did Zeppelin-type music, and then he would be selling out both Zeppelin and himself.

Plant pays homage to his years in Led Zeppelin by sticking to the rock 'n' roll basics he knows best, yet continuing to voice his own opinion in today's music world.