

Summer

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Celtic brogues," debuted recently on KUCV and continues Saturdays at 7 p.m.

At 8 p.m. Saturdays, KUCV listeners can hear another new show, "River City Folk," which features acoustic and folk music.

OTHER

The Museum of Nebraska History will host "Father Flanagan and Henry Monks: Men of Vision" through

July 31. The exhibit will explore the relations between these two men who played major roles in the growth of Boys Town. The exhibition can be viewed free of charge.

UNL's Mueller Planetarium is featuring a new show, "How to Watch a UFO," which will run Tuesdays through Sundays at 2 p.m. until Sept. 2, along with Saturday showings at 3 p.m. Admission is \$2.50 for the 35-minute, "multi-media sky program."

By Mark Georgeff
Staff Reporter

Theaters shouldn't even take money from people to watch "RoboCop 2," and movie-goers should anticipate another cynically dark look at the future, which the low-budgeted "RoboCop" took care of itself in 1987.

The setting for "RoboCop 2" is again futuristic Detroit, an insidious

and foreboding final holocaust waiting to explode.

Crime, political corruption and a deadly addictive drug called Nuke rule and abuse the Detroit citizens and maybe even this film's production team.

movie REVIEW

But the movie's setting is the only resemblance to the original "RoboCop." Detroit could have gone through nuclear meltdown from the start and spared viewers from suffering the boredom meltdown of "RoboCop 2."

The first film's production team is back, except for acclaimed Dutch filmmaker Paul Verhoeven, who directed Arnold Schwarzenegger's "Total Recall" this summer, and the original screenwriters.

With director Irvin Kershner of "The Empire Strikes Back" fame, the story's main characters--RoboCop (Peter Weller) and Officer Lewis (Nancy Allen)--and the original special effects team, who have Academy Awards to their credit, this film sequel shouldn't worry about not achieving box-office success.

Screenwriter Frank Miller, who astounded the comic book industry with his darkly Gothic rendering of

the psychotic "Batman/Dark Knight Returns" saga, lays the foundation for a script here which might have sheered the flesh off of the first movie's greatness, but doesn't.

Very few, brief scenes of RoboCop still struggling with his "Am I man or machine?" complex allow Weller to probe his cyborg-castrated psyche.

The film's minor characters are either retreads from the original film, whining about their defenseless, chopped and cropped off RoboCop hero, or newcomers--bimbos, boozers and drug-seduced criminals.

The worst and most tasteless role goes to 12-year-old Gabriel Damon as the leader of the powerful drug gang which puts out the fantasy-inducing drug Nuke for Detroit's starving populace. Yeah, right.

Hard-core movie-goers wouldn't expect director Kershner to fall so horribly from his past "Star Wars"-backed grace, but he has.

Many wasted, long, unmoving stretches of poor film direction and cinematography forecast commercial breaks to start up at any time.

There is nothing redeemable, worthwhile or even mundane to say about this insipidly moronic version of a fantasy/sci-fi television movie not even fit for broadcast.

"RoboCop 2" is showing at the Plaza 4 Theatres, 201 N. 12th St.

Television music shows offer up-close look at stars

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Too old for head-banging music? Too much smoke get in your eyes at rock concerts? Tired of shelling out the big bucks for concert tickets only to have a view that reduces the performer to the size of a peanut?

Take heart. In the privacy of your own home there is a way to see some of the hottest musicians in the business. Up close. With no special effects. And sans ear-splitting amplification.

In an industry where folk music and acoustic guitars are making a comeback, television, too, has picked up a softer beat when it comes to rock 'n' roll.

One of the more unlikely places to see it is on MTV. The music network's "Unplugged," which airs Sundays at 11 p.m., offers a mix of big-name stars and up-and-coming musicians in a decidedly different format from its usual flash and fire. The music is performed live specifically for the program in intimate studio settings. No videos or concert clips.

"Unplugged," which debuted in January, has only one rule: no matter who you are, no matter what kind of music you play, everything on this show is acoustic. No amps.

A recent "Unplugged" show featuring ex-Eagle Don Henley was so successful it helped record sales, said Geffen Records spokeswoman Bryn Bridenthal. "We definitely see an impact from the show," she said.

Showtime's "Coast to Coast" is another place to see favorite rockers up close, without hype and in original live performances. Unlike "Unplugged," Showtime's program, which has no scheduled time slot, does not take place in a television studio and

musicians can use all the amplification they want.

Instead, writer-director-producer Ken Ehrlich assembles a gathering of like-minded musicians to play whatever their hearts desire at various clubs across the country.

Hosted by Herbie Hancock, the latest "Coast to Coast" installment will air Saturday and features a custom-made celebration of jazz, blues and country music by performers such as Bonnie Raitt, John Lee Hooker, Lee Ritenour, John Hiatt and John Prine.

Both these shows not only offer a new format for old-time rock 'n' rollers, they also provide an inexpensive way to boost the image of MTV and Showtime.

On MTV's "Unplugged," which also has featured sets by Sinead O'Connor and Elton John, the performers work for free. On "Coast to Coast," they are paid scale--about \$250.

By comparison, the televising of major rock concerts such as Madonna's Blonde Ambition on HBO or the Rolling Stones' Steel Wheels on Fox can cost big bucks. MTV doesn't feel it's worth it.

"The cost of (such) live shows can be phenomenal," Doug Herzog, MTV's senior vice president of programming, said. "We had looked at live shows, but everyone does them."

At Showtime, Ehrlich has been able to coax some of the most shy singers in the business to do his show. A segment featuring Van Morrison, a well-known hater of live performing, will air in September.

Ehrlich also is the man who did the critically acclaimed "Soundstage" on PBS--the "granddaddy," as he calls it, of up-close music shows.

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