

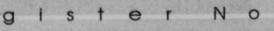
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'Balance'' is a short morality play on the nature of greed, by twin brothers Christoph and Wolfgang Lavenstein.

Sheldon presents 18 short films showing various animators' works

By John Payne Senior Reporter

The Sheldon Film Theater is again showcasing the best animation from around the world, as it welcomes the 22nd International Tournee of Animation. Last year's second "Anima-

tion Celebration" was a visual feast, with styles ranging from traditional "cel" cartooning to the slick computer-generated animation.

Although this year's offerings are somewhat less impressive, they provide welcome relief from the current field of stale, feature-length flicks.

The 18 short films represent the works of independent animators and

animation studios from 10 countries, including the United States, Canada, Yugoslavia, West Germany and the Soviet Union. Clay animation, or "claymation," watercolors and even puppetry are on display.

Subject matter varies greatly. Some, like Yugoslavia's "Pictures From Memory" are quite serious, relating the artists' thoughts and emotions. One of the very best films of the Tournee is "The Cow," a somber story about a Russian farm boy's friend-ship with a newborn calf. When his father sells the calf, the family plummets into despair. The soft shifts between shadow and light make Alexander Petrov's tale even more desper-

"The Cow," along with West Germany's "Balance" was an Academy Award nominee in 1989 for Best Animated Short Feature, and with good reason. It's the best of the lot.

tures'' recounts the events, both political and personal, that shaped the life of Yugoslavia animator Nedjeljko

Dragic. "Shradrack," the Beastie Boy's colorful "music video," of sorts is also one of the standouts. Oil paintings are animated to the forceful rap tune of the same name. The artwork is pleasing, and the film as a whole puts one in the concert arena with the Beasties.

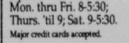
Some of the more imaginative works, though, are also the most whimsical. Boston's Olive Jar Animation Studios, which had several short films featured in the Second Animation Celebration, contributes the most hilarious entry in the Tournee with "A Very, Very Long Time Ago." It speculates on man's origin in a way that satisfies both creationists and evolutionists.

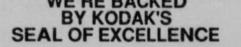
"A Warm Reception in L.A." chronicles a struggling New York author's attempts to sell his screen-play in Hollywood. "The check is on the way," the movie moguls keep telling him to Lanstronaut's catchy reggae beat.

The 22nd Tournee also features the work of cartoonist Bill Plympton, whose odd brand of humor is interspersed between the films. Also worth noting is a compilation of animated 'self portraits'' turned in by all the artists involved. As varied as their work is, an unbound imagination is the common thread.

The 22nd Tournee of Animation plays tonight through Sunday, and









One of the more intriguing films is 'Pictures of Memory,'' a 12-minute flashback that capsulizes the history of Eastern Europe between 1940 and 1960. Using extremely quick edits, and a soaring classical score, "Pic-

Sept. 13-16 at the Sheldon Film Theater. Show times are at 7 p.m. and 9:15 p.m., with matinees Saturday at 12:45 p.m. and 3 p.m., Sunday at 2:30 p.m. and 4:45 p.m.

