

Multicultural show strives to build bridges

By Bryan Peterson
Staff Reporter

"Building Bridges and Strengthening Alliances," a multi-cultural performance of music and poetry, will be presented Thursday night in the main lounge of the Nebraska Union.

The performance will feature two musicians and two poets from the San Francisco Bay area, all dealing with themes of "unlearning" oppression.

The four performers are part of a San Francisco-area group called New Bridges which presents workshops in

several cities, covering issues like racism, sexism, heterosexism and anti-Semitism.

The four will join three other people to act as facilitators at this weekend's Diversity Retreat, the third such retreat at UNL.

The retreat is full and will be attended by 70-75 people, according to Peg Johnson, executive assistant to the vice-chancellor for student affairs.

Gina Matkin, coordinator of the Womens' Resource Center, helped set up the performance after being

contacted by Lakota Harden, who will be reading poetry at the performance.

The Womens' Resource Center joined Lincoln Women Against Racism to sponsor the performance.

Matkin hopes at least 100 people

concert PREVIEW

will view the concert and "hear their message. They are doing things important to them, talking about how we should all be working together."

Harden said the group is presenting the concert because they are already at UNL doing the retreat.

"We'll be looking at issues like racism and sexism," she said. "It's hard work emotionally, so we also try to do light work, laugh and sing together."

"This is a way to reach more people than those who will go to the retreat," Matkin said. "It is an attempt to talk about building bridges between dif-

ferent communities."

The performers use various terms to describe their backgrounds, such as hyphenated, multi-heritage and multi-cultural. These differences are brought into their performances and into their personal lives.

"We take this work into our everyday lives," said Harden. "We try to model these things, working together and overcoming differences."

The performance will feature Donna Keiko Ozawa, a 26-year-old Japanese-American who has practiced and played guitar in the Bay area for 15 years.

Ozawa sings about her life and heritage. One of her songs, "Train Ride For America," describes the journey her grandparents took when they were forced into internment camps during World War II, Harden said.

"She begins the song by holding the original poster which told her grandparents they had 24 hours to pack," she said.

Like Ozawa, fellow musician Gil

Guillermo performs all original music. Guillermo, of Chicano-Filipino descent, is a teacher in Chinatown who will perform songs about the homeless and the possibility of returning to one's heritage.


Brenda Marie Blasingame is an African-American Jewish convert who will read her own poetry, which Harden describes as "a more intimate look at the relations between people."

The other poet, Lakota Harden, is from the Minnecoujou/ Yankton Lakota and Winnebago tribes. Harden attended UNL while living in Lincoln and graduated in May from UC Berkeley.

"That is part of why I wanted to bring this back, to show UNL students what the rest of the world is like," she said.

"My poetry is about looking, trying to show people what I see and notice as an original inhabitant of this continent," Harden said.

The performance is free and begins at 8 p.m.



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By William Rudolph
Staff Reporter

It's the 21st Century. Nuclear holocaust has reduced the world to a war-torn nightmare. Countries seem intent on killing each other with more and more sophisticated machines. Iggy Pop is the voice of doomsday blaring the bad news over radios everywhere as DJ Angry Bob.

Sound like "Blade Runner," "Aliens," or "Mad Max?" True, "Hardware" may have a lot in common with these popular films, but writer/director Richard Stanley manages to add new touches to this familiar scenario in this low-key thriller.

As "Hardware" opens, we meet Moses (Dylan McDermott), ex-Marine Corps member and drifter who scratches out a living selling scrap technology on the black market with his friend, Shades (John Lynch).

It's Christmas Eve, and Moses is bringing home a present for his girlfriend Jill (Stacey Travis), an artist who lives alone, barricaded in a security apartment. Since Jill likes to work with metal, Moses is surprising her by bringing her the bits and pieces of the M.A.R.K. 13, a defunct robot he's found abandoned out in the Zone, a post-nuclear desert wasteland.

Delighted with her new present, Jill incorporates the robot's parts into a collage to represent the babies she'll never make, because the government is planning on enforcing sterilization of all couples. Then she and Moses do the dirty deed accompanied by a throbbing soundtrack from Public Image, Limited.

Kiss

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though they play the Top 40 game. Guitarist Re Beach, who attended the

Only all is not well with Jill. Not only does she have her problems in her relationship with Moses to consider, she also worries about the state of the world today. And she's got a creepy Peeping Tom neighbor, the disgustingly obese and sweaty Lincoln Weinberg, Jr. (William Hootkins), spying on her through a telescope and

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whispering obscene suggestions over the videophone.

Little does Jill know that watching the couple's shenanigans will activate the M.A.R.K. 13, and that once awakened, the robot will rebuild himself and decide to kill everything that he can get his metallic hands upon.

And little does anyone know that the M.A.R.K. 13 has been programmed to be a virtually indestructible killing machine that ruthlessly will go after its prey.

In fact, its name comes from the Mark 13 in the Bible: "...and no flesh shall be spared." That about sums up the robot's mission.

After this, "Hardware's" plot becomes very reminiscent of "Aliens," with the lone woman trapped in a complex, stalked by a creature with all sorts of lovely ways to injure her.

But "Hardware" isn't really a clone. Writer/director Richard Stanley has worked at developing his characters. We actually learn about Jill's relationship with Moses -- they argue about her art and her fears for the future. And Tom Lincoln Weinberg

Jr., the Peeping Tom, adds a pathetic note as he remembers the first time he saw Jill when he installed the security system in her apartment: she made him a cup of coffee, doesn't she remember?

Without spoiling anything, it's safe to say that "Hardware" may end as one might expect -- but there are still a few twists on the damsel-in-distress situation. Everything does not end rosily, with the happy couple riding off into that blood red nuclear sunset.

The special effects are impressive in a matter-of-fact way. The audience is treated to viewing particularly ingenious ways of being murdered by robots.

And watching the robot reassemble itself from the bits and pieces of Jill's metallic sculpture actually seems obscene.

"Hardware" is not a great film. Even with good performances by its unknown cast, atmospheric sets, an excellent, driving soundtrack and one of the best love scenes in a shower in recent memory, the film still has a few too many stock elements of the sci-fi, post-nuclear human vs. technology genre to make it entirely memorable.

Nevertheless, "Hardware" does have a distinctive charm. Moviegoers who only expect the routine number of naked babes, gore, spills and chills might be disappointed by the intelligent script and credible performances. But they can rent "Aliens" instead. The rest of us may, in fact, be pleasantly surprised.

"Hardware" is showing at the State Theatre, 1415 O St.

Berklee College of Music, became a hotshot studio wizard, lending his licks to the Bee Gees, Fiona, Howard Jones and Chaka Khan. Paul Taylor plays guitar, keyboards and sings for Winger. And last but not least, Rod Mor-

genstein drummed for Dixie Dregs for years, and was named "Best Progressive Rock Drummer" by Modern Drummer for four years running.

Vixen is an all-female metal band that has supported acts like the Scorpions, Ozzy Osbourne and Bad Company.


Their latest album is "Rev It Up," the follow-up to their self-titled debut. The first single off the album is titled "How Much Love?," a powerful rock tune with that good old radio attraction. On "Rev It Up," the band attempts to spit out a tough, no-nonsense attitude, competing with tough guys like Winger in the world of metal. Critics have spewed mixed responses to the release.

Tickets for tonight's show are \$20. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Show starts at 7 p.m.

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