

Ill-paced, tiresome Van Gogh film won't succeed in commercial arena

By Jim Hanna
Senior Reporter

History remembers Vincent Van Gogh as a nutso painter who lopped his ear off and sent it to an estranged love.

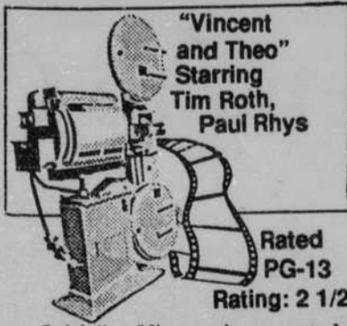
Director Robert Altman remembers the Dutch painter, in "Vincent and Theo," as an ordinary human engaged in extraordinary struggles: to succeed, to love his brother and to keep his life.

"Vincent and Theo" details the relationship between Van Gogh and his younger brother Theo.

The film opens with actual footage from a recent auction, where a Van Gogh painting sold for 22.5 million pounds. A tragic contrast to this scene is provided as the film fades to the squalor of Van Gogh's apartment in the 1880s.

Vincent (Tim Roth) has opted to live in poverty and try to make his living as a painter. His brother Theo (Paul Rhys), a well-to-do curator at a local art museum, provides an allowance to keep Vincent alive.

When Theo is named head curator of his own art museum in Paris, his financial status appears to be moving even higher. Theo cannot, however, bring himself to abandon his brother. He believes Vincent has great talent and continually tries to sell his brother's works.



Initially, Vincent is presented as a determined artist with a normal commitment to his craft. Yet, even when Theo sees Vincent slipping into insanity, he still refuses to forsake his brother and his paintings.

At one point, Theo sends another artist, Paul Gauguin (Wladimir Yordanoff) to the south of France to act as a mentor to his seemingly aimless brother.

This, too, backfires as Vincent plunges further into insanity. Theo's increasing frustration begins to take its toll, and he begins to lose his grip on sanity as well.

The movie behaves like a runaway train, beginning slowly and increasing speed as Vincent's mania grows, sucking his well-meaning brother into derangement as well.

"Vincent and Theo" is a rarity, being an "art" film released in one of Lincoln's commercial theatres

as opposed to Lincoln's more traditional art venue, Sheldon Film Theater. It certainly doesn't succeed as a commercial film and, unfortunately, it doesn't quite succeed as a "Sheldon" film either.

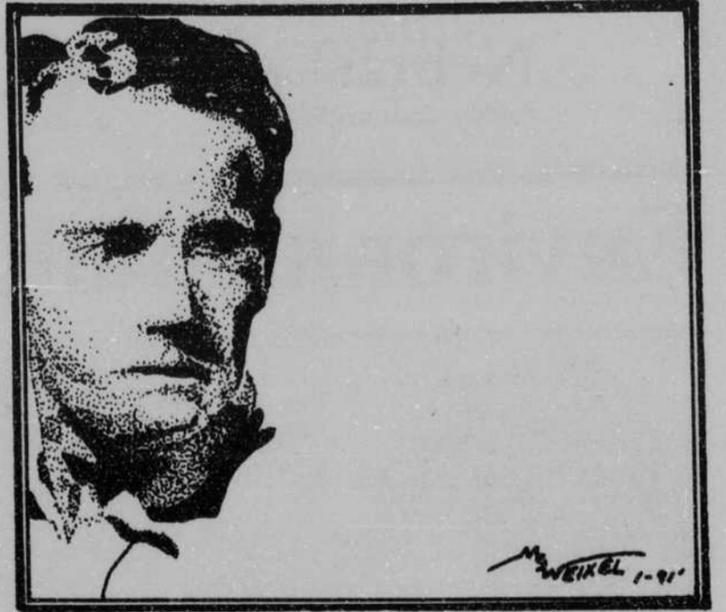
Being a non-commercial film does not excuse it from being consistently uninteresting. "Vincent and Theo" contains too many ill-paced scenes and simply becomes dull in spots. Perhaps film experts will wallow in the stunning beauty of a plodding restaurant scene, but most audiences merely will yawn.

The most effective moments involved no dialogue. Gripping scenes showing Vincent at work, underscored by eclectic snatches of music, were extremely well done. These scenes were not, however, able to sustain the movie's energy through the tiresome intellectual babble.

Roth is excellent as Van Gogh. Any actor runs a huge risk when asked to "play" insanity, but his dive into madness was entirely believable and never contrived. Rhys is less effective as Theo, but his own fall from sanity is well done too.

Good acting and a few powerful scenes are not enough, however, to carry "Vincent and Theo" successfully into the commercial arena.

"Vincent and Theo" is playing at the Cinema 1 & 2, 201 N.13th St.



Historical society series to highlight Fonda flicks

By Robert Richardson
Senior Reporter

On Super Bowl Sunday, movie fans will not be forgotten. They will have a choice between watching sports or watching Academy Award-winning actor and Nebraskan Henry Fonda.

Their choice is made possible by the Nebraska State Historical Society, which will begin their latest film series, "Focus on Fonda," on Sunday with the movie "On Golden Pond."

"In the past, we've done series on a variety of Nebraskans, and we got to the point where we wanted to emphasize the career of one Nebraskan," said Andrea Paul, assistant state archivist.

Paul is heading the Fonda series that was made possible by a \$75,000 national museum services grant, she said.

Many people know that Henry Fonda is from Nebraska, Paul said, and Fonda films are sure to have good attendance because Nebraskans can relate to him.

"When you hear his voice, he sounds Midwestern and he sort of epitomizes the common man, Midwesterner, in various situations," she said. "He just seemed like the best to show first."

Paul said that, ironically, Fonda was introduced to acting by Marlon Brando's mother in an Omaha com-

munity theater — Brando being another famous Nebraskan actor.

She said Fonda had to be coaxed into auditioning for his first role, but, once he did, he was hooked on the art. Fonda and Brando are just a few famous Nebraska actors who have made it big in film.

"We've been stressing in the past that there have been a number of prominent Nebraskans in films," Paul said. "The premiere dancer in films, Fred Astaire. The premiere teen-age rebel of the '50s, Marlon Brando. The handsome leading man, Robert Taylor. We have those connections, and therefore we're emphasizing film history."

Film history and education are important to the historical society. In fact, it's their job, Paul said.

"We serve sort of an educational role. We do provide a little intro to each of these films, so it's sort of fulfilling our mission to tell people about people from Nebraska that went on and became successes," Paul said.

The Nebraska State Historical Society will continue the film series every Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m. until March 24th. "On Golden Pond" will be shown Sunday at 2 p.m.

Films will be shown in the Blackman Auditorium, 15th and P streets. Admission is free, but seating is limited to the first 100 people.

Flock

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couldn't locate the ones that did. "Different Corners," which Flock wrote while in high school, has been performed by high school students. And her play, "A Crowded House," was performed last weekend at the American College Theatre Festival's regional theater competition in Lincoln.

But Flock says she considers "Magdalene" the biggest and most in-depth play she has written in terms of the total amount of work that has gone into it.

"This production has really been the most fully mounted production by someone other than myself as a director," Flock said. "We've had quality actresses come to the auditions and really want the roles."

Flock said she believes in live cent. One really felt a sense of being in a foreign place.

But unfortunately, cinematography doesn't make up for poor direction. The script and plot have poten-

tial, but the movie dragged on too slowly to keep the audience's full attention.

"The Russia House" is playing at the Cooper Theatre, 54th and O streets. issued as soon as this month."

The newsletter set "panels, measuring 3'x3' and set 3" deep, will be located near downtown movie theaters, tying together the theater district.

Russia

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Much of the cinematography that was filmed in Moscow was magnifi-

Correct

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would be featured on the sidewalk. Also uncertain at this point, Schi-

zas said, was that "LAC is sending a call to artists that they would suggest" for the star design. According to the council's January newsletter, "the call to artists to design Lincoln's own 'Walk of Fame' may be

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Bianchi Premio roadbike, red, 17-inch frame, like new. Paid \$425, asking \$250/obo. 474-0526.

Corsaro 12-speed, 27 inch frame new SunTour equipment, quick-release alloy rims. \$65, 436-7938.

For Sale: 12-Speed Schwinn World Sport bicycle, gray, in excellent condition. \$150 obo. Call 436-8490, leave message.

Like new. Centurion Ironman 12 speed touring bike. Call Doug, 421-6451.

Men's Sedona mountain bike, brand new, all accessories. \$400. 435-2578, leave message.

Mountain bike. Perfect condition. Worth \$500, will sacrifice for \$300. Call Mike 470-3824.

Must sell 1990 woman's Sterling street bike. Like new for \$200. Call 476-9785.

Performance training rollers, \$100 obo. Avenir tri-trainer, \$40 obo. Call 4pm, 466-1503.

Redline Mountain Bike, \$250, 436-8052.

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10 Misc. For Sale

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14" color TV with remote control, 3 years old, \$300/obo. Peugot ten-speed \$150. 786-2216.

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For Sale: Fender Baseman 50 amp, Peavey StudioPro 40 amp, and B.C Rich guitar. 489-7884.

For Sale: Yamaha Diversity Wireless instrument System. Good condition. Great for guitar or bass. \$200. Call Jeff, 436-8963.

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Ibanez J-Bass; Fender Tele Crate 60W Bass Amp; 2 Monitors. Dave, 483-5085.

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Three-way Yamaha speakers. Great condition. \$200 for both. 421-8433.

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Call 467-2876 after 6 p.m.

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1981 Z28, 1-tops, code alarm, many extras, must see. \$3100 obo. 477-0025.

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