

Computer, clay animation featured in film

By Jim Hanna
Senior Reporter

The Renaissance in animation just keeps rolling along.

With feature-length animated films regularly invading movie theaters and half-hour cartoons snagging prime-time television slots, the animation industry is experiencing its biggest boom since its inception.

To encourage this revival, Expanded Entertainment has assembled 90 minutes of animated shorts from around the world into "The Third Animation Celebration." The show is playing at the Sheldon Film Theater through next week.

A variety of styles, including cel, computer and clay animation, are featured in the film. The 21 shorts come from nine different nations.

This third celebration will certainly please those who enjoyed the first two installments.

Although not all of the films are as well-done or as entertaining as others, the entire effect is consistently enjoyable.

One of the best cartoons is the hilarious "Ren Hoek and Stimpie in 'Big House Blues.'" Done in the classic Tex Avery style, the cartoon is a pointless look at an asthma-riddled Chihuahua named Ren Hoek and a fat cat named Stimpie.

When thrown into the pound and faced with "The Big Sleep," the two grotesquely drawn beasts furiously try to avoid catastrophe.

Complete with several magnifi-

cent jaw-takes and screeching eye bulges, the film is the funniest, albeit least meaningful, piece of the feature.

For fans of deep, brooding European themes, there is "Darkness, Light, Darkness." From its enigmatic title to its mysterious conclusion, this film is entirely elusive.

Still, the claymation depiction of a human being assembling itself is fascinating to watch and, at times, is downright funny.

The increasingly complex art of computer animation clocks in with three different pieces. Of these, the best is "Bonehead," a short, yet gratifying film about a bouncy goof who stops in at a record store to sample new albums.

Although computer animation is sharper and slicker than cel or gel animation, its limits are obvious. Storytelling is almost nonexistent, and the variety of images is restricted.

Other excellent shorts include "Wiseman," "Zeno Reads a Newspaper" and "Welcome," a Soviet film about the limits of hospitality.

"The Third Animation Celebration" was coordinated and distributed by Expanded Entertainment, a group dedicated to the growth of independent animation around the world. Fifty percent of the profit generated by this film and other Expanded Entertainment exhibitions is recycled back to the animators.

As animation continues to flourish, films like this will play a vital role in revealing new talents in the field. "The Third Animation Cele-



Courtesy of Expanded Entertainment

"Ren Hoek and Stimpie in 'Big House Blues,'" John Kricfalusi's uproarious update of the classic cartoon mayhem of yesteryear, tells the story of two unlikely comrades, a cat and a hairless Mexican asthma hound.

bration" is immensely likable and may spawn an even better "Fourth Animation Celebration."

"The Third Animation Celebration" runs today through Feb. 3 and Feb. 7-9. Screenings are at 7 p.m. and

9 p.m. with Saturday matinees at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

'Pioneer' fails despite solid music, performance

By Adam T. Branting
Staff Reporter

"A little artwork makes the past come alive."

-Pioneer

Despite high aspirations, revealing historical insight and an intense musical and visual barrage, the Paul Drescher Ensemble's production of "Pioneer" is a piece of postmodern pap.

"Pioneer" tells the overlapping stories of Junior (Rinde Eckert) and his search for new frontiers through cryogenic hibernation; Dottie (Jo Harvey Allen) and her journey to survive without Junior, and an overlapping montage of his-

torical figures, as played by John Duykers.

The ensemble weaves its tales together with deft glee, combining some of the best music experimental theater has produced in a long time with swell lighting and truly neat settings.

A tip of the hat must go to the musicians, led by Drescher, for some music that is awfully good. Terry Allen's sets create a feel for this sick savagery that is the core of this piece. Larry Neff's lighting complemented and often rocked the audience.

The performances are solid and strong, particularly Allen as Jun-

See DRESHER on 11

Legend Bo Diddley rocks Omaha with tour through music history

By John A. Skretta
Staff Reporter

Bo Diddley rocked the Ranch Bowl Thursday night with two blues-packed shows.

The famed rocker walked on with his trademark rectangular guitar and black bowler hat and immediately launched into the classic song "Bo Diddley."

Bo advised the crowd to "clap your hands and we'll party."

The crowd roared. Next, Bo took the audience through a tour de force of rock history with "Roadrunner," and on the heels of that, "I'm a Man."

"I'm a Man" was first released as the "B" side of "Bo Diddley," and Bo showed why the song has maintained

its power for more than 30 years. He belted out the song with grunting, rhythmic intonations that delighted the crowd.

Bo took time to thank the fans for their continued support over the years.

"I want to thank all of you for helping me make it through the rock 'n' roll crisis," he said. "I've been here 36 years. Only in rock 'n' roll!"

Bo cruised into a slow blues lament, with a tune he called "Shut Up, Woman." The song included lyrics like "don't let your mouth write a check your tail can't cash."

Next, Bo took time "to name a few people responsible for where we are in rock 'n' roll today." Bo listed a virtual legion of blues and rock greats, from Muddy Waters and Jimmy Reed to "Brother James Brown" and "The

Genius Ray Charles."

When Bo went into the traditional blues arrangement of "You Don't Love Me, Baby," the crowd was treated to the eloquent pain of the genre, as Bo moaned about cheating and deception.

Diddley's latest innovation was an alteration of "From Say Man," titled "Boy, You Ugly." "You Ugly" was about the only verse, but Bo turned that lyric into a rare and hilarious experience with turns like "You ugly and your breath stink/Scope won't work/ you need Listerine" and the even more offensive "I heard you landed a new job/ in front of a doctor's office/ making people sick."

Bo invited several members of the

See DIDDLEY on 10

UNL professors share works Nebraska poets to versify for peace in gulf

By Bryan Peterson
Staff Reporter

"It is in gatherings such as this — for word, song, and performance — where the living spirit of our species is nurtured, celebrated and affirmed. This night will, in ways not totally understood by any of us, help keep that spirit alive, repair it and strengthen it for the difficult and sad days which lie before us and all the members of the human family."

— Greg Kosmicki

Twenty-six local poets will be joined by four musicians and a performance artist tonight at Omaha's Antiquarium bookstore in a fund-raising performance for Nebraskans for Peace.

The readings will be held in an upstairs art gallery at the Antiquarium, 1215 Harney St. in Omaha. They are scheduled to run from 7 p.m. to 3:30 a.m., with several breaks between readings.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln English Professor Greg Kuzma will

be the final reader. Kuzma will be preceded by several other UNL faculty members, including Amil Quayle, Ray Ronci and Susan Whitmore, all from the English department.

Other readers include Liz Banset, Susan Strayer Deal, Art Homer, Bill Kloefkorn and Nancy McCleary.

Greg Kosmicki, the event's organizer, will also be reading in the early Saturday morning hours. Kosmicki sees the event as "a mass reading acting as a counterweight to the rush toward death and destruction; something to affirm life."

A UNL graduate with an M.A. in English, Kosmicki has had poems published in the Paris Review, the Kansas Quarterly and the Cimarron Review.

"Poetry speaks to the human element that people who make war pass over as something unimportant," Kosmicki said. "It speaks to the human spirit that holds us together."

Kosmicki and Whitmore both stressed that all the works read will not necessarily be anti-war or overtly

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political. Other themes may include nurturance, affirmation, love and nature.

"It is not a reading against the troops," said Whitmore, a UNL assistant professor of English who has had students now stationed in the gulf region.

"It's more about educating people about the issues. No one is for killing, but we have to think about how it could be different."

Whitmore also has had several poems published in various maga-

zines and has just had a piece titled "Operation Desert Shield" accepted for publication, a piece that might be read at tonight's benefit.

Kosmicki says he expects 200-400 people to hear at least some of the readings tonight, a number much larger than attendance at a poetry reading at last October's Peace Arts Festival at Creighton University.

"This will not be a traditional reading with everyone sitting still and listening reverently," he said. "I hope folks feel free to get up quietly and go to the bathroom and such."

Kosmicki said the idea for tonight's reading popped into his head after talking to NFP Director Robin Carter about the then-impending Jan. 15 U.N. deadline for the withdrawal of Saddam Hussein from Kuwait.

After driving home, Kosmicki began calling poets he knew from prior readings and others with whom he had gone to school.

"I told them they did not have to read anti-war or political material," he said. "Any creative act is an act for

peace."

Whitmore said she usually does not write overtly political poetry, but that she views everything as being political to some extent.

"Every poet fears that the culture is less interested in poetry," Whitmore said. "When there is a crisis, people start to open to the artists that make political statements."

"Everybody has a responsibility to make these things their issues... to be involved and try to understand as much as they can," Whitmore said.

Antiquarium owner Tom Rudloff referred to the "leave it to the experts" ethic as the death of democracy. "There aren't any experts," he continued. "Only the necrophile believers and the biophile believers, and I want to be among the biophiles."

Kosmicki said that as citizens in a democracy, we have the right and obligation to take part. "We did leave it to the experts, and now we are fighting a war," he said.

Admission to the event is \$5 and \$2.50 for students under 20.