

Film sensually portrays gay black community



"Tongues Untied"



By Mark Nemeth
Staff Reporter

"Tongues Untied" (Ross), Marlon Riggs' 1989 award-winning documentary on the black gay male experience, is a powerfully sensual, politically critical film.

"Tongues Untied" is not pornographic or offensive. Its controversy lies in its treatment of an unpopular topic: the personal lifestyle of gay black men. This controversy has led to the film's removal from NETV's "Point of View" series and local controversy over its screening.

"Tongues Untied" opens with the words "brother to brother," repeating rhythmically, before introducing a striking and erotic barrage of tasteful black gay street poetry.

Riggs describes himself through a phone sex recording advertisement as "pro-feminist activist... safe sex. We can make a serious revolution together."

Throughout the movie, the audience sees scenes of a black gay lifestyle: clubs, street dancing and the rituals of "Snap Diva," a group performing a sort of finger-snapping theatre. Society's intolerance has made these rites a private language, and the audience is shaken by the oppression of homophobia and racism and seduced by the language of this poetry.

"What are you first, black or gay?" Riggs is asked at one point in the film. "This is absurd," he says.

Early in the film, Riggs' poetry talks about the instinct of the black homosexuals to be silent in the face of oppression, to use silence

as a "cloak" and a "sword," "smothering and cutting" the oppressed and the oppressor.

The film ends with a call for action, an "untying of tongues."

"Now I speak, and my burden is lifted, lightened, free," Riggs says.

According to Riggs, oppressed homosexuals often respond with anger and silence.

"I know the anger that lies inside me like I know the taste of my spit," Riggs says. It is the "material I built my house on."

Riggs' collaboration with poet Essex Hemphill provides "Tongues Untied" with a sense of personal diversity. Poets Alan Miller and Steve Langley and singer/composer Blackberri also are featured in the film.

Two other socially critical films, "Stop the Church" and "What Can I Do With a Male Nude," are showing with "Tongues Untied."

PBS removed "Stop The Church" from its P.O.V. series. The film is a witty and critical 1989 documentary about a protest of a Sunday Mass at New York's St. Patrick's Cathedral staged by ACT UP, a gay rights group. The protest was in opposition to Cardinal John O'Connor's refusal to accept gay rights or support AIDS education.

Though "Stop the Church" is critical of the Catholic Church, it is not "blasphemous," as one of the Sunday worshipers at the mass described the protest.

"Curb your dogma," yells one of the protesters at O'Connor. After the protesters are arrested, O'Connor finally responds, saying, "I always feel anguish for people who hate for any reason... We must always respond with love, peace and understanding."

"What Can I Do With a Male Nude" is a sporadically humorous short film about society's moralities and laws regarding sexuality, specifically the photographing of a nude male.

A seven-member panel will discuss censorship after tonight's 7 p.m. showing of the films.



Michalis Zeke plays Alexander, a boy searching for his father, in "Landscape in the Mist," playing Sunday at the Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater.

Mists eventually evaporate

Surreal film advances slowly



"Landscape In The Mist"



By Mark Baldrige
Staff Reporter

If David Lynch directed an "Incredible Journey" for Disney — with rape and subtitles — it might be something like "Landscape in the Mist" (Ross), this Sunday's University Programming Council foreign film. "Landscape," a Greek film by writer/director Theo Angelopoulos, moves slowly (as only a European film can) through a landscape as sur-

real as anything Lynch ever cooked up in that infernal head of his. But this movie has a soul, something Lynch has yet to demonstrate.

Under the guidance of Angelopoulos, the audience is ushered into an alien world that exists simultaneously with this one. None of the events are unbelievable — if one understands them as junctions in life paths, lives that are working themselves out without relation to each other. A bride runs from her wedding in tears as a white horse dies in the street. It's an interesting juxtaposition of facts that seems to mean something to the passers by, but how does one interpret the significance of these events?

The story follows the search of two young children, brother and sister, for a father they have never known. The quest is futile. We know from the beginning that their mother has invented the story of a father in Germany to hide the truth — the children are illegitimate, and she doesn't know

who their fathers are.

The children decide to take an express train to Germany. Having no knowledge of tickets or passports, they soon find their way impeded by the police. They miraculously escape and are variously befriended and abused by strangers in their bizarre "one step forward, two steps back" odyssey.

The Greece through which they travel is inhabited by monstrous machines, ghost-like traveling theater troupes and mad women. All significant events occur in abandoned buildings and deserted highways. One of the friendly characters, after watching an enormous hand rise out of the sea, asks, "If I shouted, who would hear?"

Finally, the audience comes to care for these characters. The alienation we feel from the world they inhabit bleeds from them as well, but we are



See MIST on 10

American Indians to perform today

By Andrea Christensen
Staff Reporter

The Greatland Traditional dancers will give a free performance today at 2 p.m. in the Nebraska Union main lounge. The group of American Indian artists will dance to traditional rhythms in the Yunik style.

The group, based in Anchorage, Alaska, consists of 21 men and women of all ages. Although the dancers represent a variety of tribes, most are members of the Inuit nation. The group says it is touring to preserve its heritage and to share it with others.

The dancers' press biography explains the group's purpose as "keeping the traditional dances alive in the Anchorage area." It also stated that the members have seen "the young enjoy the dancing and become proud of who they are by building confidence and self-esteem while sharing their dancing skills with others."

The University Programs Council Native American Committee is sponsoring the event as a prelude to Native American Heritage Month in November. Native American Special Events Chairman Nancy Texidor said the performance would give University of Nebraska-Lincoln students a chance to learn to appreciate the arts of another culture.



Courtesy of the M'rage

Vocalist Michael White will do his best Robert Plant tonight and Saturday when his Led Zeppelin tribute band, The White, performs at the M'rage, 27th and Holdrege streets.

Cover band to perform Zeppelin tribute shows

By John Skretta
Staff Reporter

Led Zeppelin cover band The White will play live Zeppelin tribute shows Friday and Saturday night at the M'rage, 27th and Holdrege streets.

concert PREVIEW

The White formed in 1980 as a Zeppelin version of Beatlemania after a Los Angeles music reviewer said the band's original work indicated "just another Led Zeppelin clone." Lead singer Michael White has claimed, "I figured that if we sounded so much like Led Zeppelin, we should just go ahead and do it all the way."

The White then began touring as Led Zeppelin impersonators, with White dressing up as Robert Plant circa 1975, and guitarist Phil Bolene wearing a tailor-made duplicate of Jimmy Page's famed white suit, flared bell-bottom legs and all. "Zosa" symbols from Zeppelin's famed untitled 1971 release are draped across the stage.

The White has over 60 of Led Zeppelin's tunes in their repertoire, so the sets can change from night to night depending upon the whims of the band. One of the centerpieces of the show is a frequently performed

30-minute version of "Dazed and Confused," comparable to Led Zeppelin's extended live version captured in the film "The Song Remains the Same."

In striving to achieve a tribute "as perfect as possible" to the '70s saviors of grunge-based blues rock and esoteric Celtic mythology, The White has purchased a theramin, a heat sensitive box used by Zeppelin to create the eerie electric interlude on "Whole Lotta Love." In addition, guitarist Bolene evens goes so far as to use a violin bow, as Page did, to produce bizarre screeching effects for "Dazed and Confused." Other frequently performed tunes include acoustic versions of "Going to California" and "Black Country Woman."

In 1985, The White landed a recording contract with Atlantic records and have since released two albums. The band's debut album consisted of original work in a self-conscious departure from the Zeppelin mystique, while the more recently released self-titled album contains more Zeppelin-derived material and a cover of "Communication Breakdown."

The White will perform at 9 p.m. both nights. Tickets are \$5 in advance, \$7 at the door.