

'Tournée of Animation' to entertain its audience with array of techniques

Mary Riepma Ross
Film Theater

By Mark Nemeth
Staff Reporter

"The 23rd Annual Tournée of Animation" is another entertaining compilation of international and independent short films from an always above-average series.

This year's Tournée features a creative array of animation techniques, including the mixed use of clay, photographs, photocopies as well as traditional drawings and watercolors.

All the images in "Photocopy Cha Cha" (Chel White, USA, 3:30), were created on a photocopy machine. These images, which include faces and bodies, dance across the copy machine to the Cha Cha. The result is impressive.

White's other work includes animation for Michael Jackson's video "Leave Me Alone" and an MTV logo spot, "Copy Me," a pioneer in the copy-machine animation technique.

"The Potato Hunter" (Timothy Lee Hittle, USA, 7:11) is about a clay man and dog. The man hunts potatoes and blows smoke rings represented by cotton. His open range is a wooden table.

Hittle, who for 10 years has used kitchen tables and a Super-8 camera for his animation, pays close attention to detail in this film. The wooden

table really looks like an open range, and the man's expressions and demeanor successfully depict an old hunter. Hittle is best known for his animation of the food people in Pee Wee Herman's refrigerator.

Although most of the shorts in this year's Tournée have animation punch lines or draw attention to their montage technique, "Les Saisons Quatre A Quatre" (Daniel Suter, Switzerland, 2:05) excels in this aspect with its depiction of seasons. Polaroid pictures of a tree in a park, taken daily for a year, pass rapidly on the right side of the screen as a bicyclist rides to the park on the left. A changing calendar marks the day during this captivating use of multiple imagery. The result is beautiful.

The clearest political commentary in the Tournée is "The Breakdown" (Klaus Georgi, Germany, 3:25). This animated short shows the entire East German state devastated by a pot-hole.

Also outstanding in this year's Tournée are the entertaining absurdities in "The Lift" (Pilot Studios, USSR, 9:00), a homage to the '70s; the G.I. Joe doll in "Ode to G.I. Joe" (Gregory P. Grant, USA, 4:55); and the stoic violence of two men in suits in MTV's "Push Comes To Shove" (Bill Plympton, USA, 4:41).

The 23rd Annual Tournée of Animation plays Jan. 23 through Jan. 26 and Jan. 30 through Feb. 1 at the Mary Riepma Ross Theater. Show times are 7 and 9 p.m.; Saturday matinees are 1 and 3 p.m.; and Sunday matinees are at 3 and 5 p.m.



Lisa Pylik/DN

UNL artists feature work in new show at Sheldon art

REVIEW

By Paul Winner
Staff Reporter

Once every two years, the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery devotes a portion of its halls to displaying the works of UNL's graduate art students.

The exhibition is intended to showcase the varied talents of those men and women and to offer them a premature foray into modern art's development in a curatorial environment.

Through Feb. 2, the gallery once again will present the Master of Fine Arts Biennial Exhibition, with the work of more than 20 students adorning the floors and walls. One of the show's interesting aspects is that most of the artists are still developing their skills, and it is curious to think of where each artist will take his or her art in the future.

Sheldon Curator Daphne Deeds has cultivated a diversified collection of art, and presents a natural contrast between each of the styles.

Pat Twomey's drawings, for example, are tiny, fragile pieces with slightly distorted images. They contrast but strangely complement the more imposing works by artists such as Paul Connor, who creates vast charcoal sketches with vague human contours reminiscent of some of Matt Mahurin's work.

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Courtesy of Paramount Pictures

Bishop (Tupac Shakur, right) confronts Q (Omar Epps) in "Juice," the story of four young men coming of age on the streets of Harlem.

Film grapples with murky questions; actors, new director achieve realism

film about survival of youthful spirit. "Juice" (The Lincoln Theatre, 1145 P St.) tells a very real story of friends whose lives and ambitions erode against the suffocating suppression of living day to day in Harlem. To get ahead, the young men realize they need juice — status on the avenue. The question the film raises is how important this juice is and how far one might go to get it.

Through tasteful direction, a sterling soundtrack and solid performances from newcomers in the lead roles, "Juice" works better than the other films it will inevitably draw comparisons to. It lacks pretension and tells its tale as best it can. On

these terms, "Juice" is a prodigious debut.

Omar Epps is Q, a youth who looks toward a way out of the streets through his budding talents as a DJ. He and his best friends Steel (Jermaine Hopkins), Raheem (Khalil Kain) and Bishop (Tupac Shakur) skip class, charm the ladies and thieve around a bit in order to survive. Their camaraderie is infectious and genuine, and we empathize with their situation as they wait for the juice to flow their way.

Bishop, in contrast to Q, sees crime as a way to get clout. He is fascinated with death and violence as being the

See JUICE on 10

Grab bag of film fare new to video shelves



By Anne Steyer
Staff Reporter

Big blockbusters are not the wave of the week. Instead, family-film fare, made-for-television movies and a movie probably better left unseen are coming to home video.

"Wild Hearts Can't Be Broken" (G) Disney has created another inspirational tale suitable for the whole family.

Sonora Webster's real-life story inspired this tale of an orphan who triumphed over tragedy in Atlantic City.

Newcomer Gabrielle Anwar is Webster, a young woman anxious to prove herself in a professional diving horse show. To do so, she must win over the show's owner (Cliff Robertson), gain his confidence and then, his permission.

Robertson's character is a bit on the gruff side, but he understands Webster's drive to perform. His son, played by Michael Schoeffling of "Sixteen Candles," finds himself equally charmed by Webster.

Obtaining permission isn't quite enough though, especially after Webster is stricken with blindness. Riding blind would be difficult on its own, but diving horses requires jumping off a 40-foot tower astride a horse.

The story finds its legs in the characters and the touching portrayals by each of the leads. Incredible location shots and stunts also make this a must-see.

The horse activities were supervised by the American Humane As-

sociation. (Available today.)

"Sweet Talker" (PG) This feel-good drama takes place in a sleepy harbor town Down Under.

Australian actor Bryan Brown is Harry Reynolds, a sweet-talking con artist ready to swindle a fortune from the town's trusting citizens.

He convinces the residents that he has found a legendary Portuguese treasure ship buried (conveniently) on their shore. He also tells them he's planning to create a theme park and he'll need investors.

But before he can put his plan into action, he falls in love with the owner of his boarding house (Karen Allen of "Raiders of the Lost Ark") and develops a genuine attachment to her son. (Available today.)

"Beverly Hills, 90210" (NR) The pilot episode of today's hottest teen show arrives on home video on the heels of what is certainly the biggest merchandising venture since "New Kids on the Block."

Ironically, the pilot concerns itself with the new kids — in school, that is. The now-famous Jason Priestly and Shannen Doherty play twins Brandon and Brenda.

The siblings arrive in posh Beverly Hills High School from their native Minnesota and find that their middle-American values aren't exactly in sync with the Southern Californian way of life.

This first episode also stars heart-throb Luke Perry as the tormented and rebellious Dylan. (Available today.)

"Naked Lie" (NR) This made-for-television drama pits love against legal ethics.

Victoria Principal plays a prosecuting attorney embroiled in a sensational murder trial. She also happens to be deeply, romantically involved

See RELEASES on 10

film

"Juice"



By Paul Winner
Staff Reporter

Cinematographer Ernest Dickerson's first venture into direction is a