



Courtesy of Nickelodeon

The "lost episode" of "The Ren & Stimpy Show" will debut at 10 a.m. Sunday on Nickelodeon, and will repeat at 7 p.m. Sunday.

Oh, joy!

"Ren and Stimpy Show" delightful, intelligent slapstick

By Mark Nemeth
Staff Reporter

John Kricfalusi has taken subversive animation to new heights of anarchic hilarity and aural sensation with "The Ren & Stimpy Show," spawning a rapidly growing cult since its Aug. 11 introduction on Nickelodeon.

Kricfalusi, who is producer, director and voice of Ren, also holds credits for "The New Adventures of Mighty Mouse," "The Jetsons" and the Rolling Stones' "Harlem Shuffle" video.

As part of its largest programming investment to date, Nickelodeon has contracted with Kricfalusi to produce 20 more episodes of "Ren & Stimpy" to be aired in mid-1992.

Each of the half-hour, two-part "Ren & Stimpy" episodes has a depth of absurdity and twisted campiness that makes the show highly addictive.

Only six "Ren & Stimpy" episodes have been produced, and only five have aired. They start at 10 a.m. Saturdays on Nickelodeon and at 8:30 p.m. Saturdays and 11:30 p.m. Sundays on Nickelodeon's parent

company, MTV.

The new sixth or "lost episode" will debut at 10 a.m. this Sunday on Nickelodeon and will repeat at 7 p.m.

Commander Ren Höck is a scrawny, temperamental, asthmatic, hyper-caffeinated, uptight, underfed, slightly sadistic, yet essentially kind, bulging red-eyed Chihuahua with a Cheech Marin- or Peter Lorre-like voice.

Ren terrorizes his loyal, smiling, tongue-dragging and less intelligent feline friend, Cadet Stimpson J. Cat. Stimpy is not always naive; he shows himself to be a brilliant inventor and master of revenge in "Stimpy's Invention."

"You idiot!" Ren often yells, "You bloated sack of protoplasm! I will kill you!" Ren regularly explodes in fits of repressed anger with primal hilarity.

Although much of the show's humor is campy but intelligent slapstick, full of farts, screams and other body sounds, its schtick on primal adolescent sensibility surpasses the politically correct comedy of "The Simpsons."

Recurring themes such as toast, talking horses, food and the music of "The Nut-

cracker Suite" run rampant in "Ren & Stimpy."

"Ren & Stimpy" is high on style, with a massive mix of influences and objects parodied — from '50s art deco to "Tom & Jerry," "Yogi Bear" to "The Adventures of Mighty Mouse," "Bullwinkle" and "Fritz the Cat."

In "Stimpy Goes to Hollywood," Ren tells Stimpy, "Don't you know cartoons will ruin your mind? ... They're not real, man. We are real."

The "lost episode" may be the masterpiece of this brilliant series. Ren and Stimpy enter a radioactive and surreal world of deformity in the show's first segment, "The Black Hole," where they discover all the lost left socks in the universe are kept. In "Stimpy's Invention," Stimpy takes the ultimate revenge on Ren by inventing his Happy Helmet and its accompanying remote control. "I must do nice things for my best friend Stimpy," says Ren, his face contorted with happiness.

Although produced for children, "Ren & Stimpy's" audience appears mostly to be

See REN on 10

Walpurgisnacht to haunt Union with local acts

By Jill O'Brien
Staff Reporter

Although the Walpurgisnacht festival takes its name from a demonic holiday celebrated on the eve of May, there will be nothing demonic about tonight's 19th annual event.

Sponsored by the University Program Council and the Residence Hall Association, Walpurgisnacht will be from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. at various locations in the Nebraska Union at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Featured acts include a 7:15 p.m. performance by juggler and comedian Peter Nicolaus of Kansas City. A Lincoln native, Nicolaus specializes in vaudeville-style juggling and slapstick comedy.

Besides Nicolaus, Dan LaRosa, a comedian and hypnotist from Connecticut, will appear at 9:45 p.m.

Other acts include the Scarlet & Cream Singers at 8:30 p.m. and the Blues Brothers Band at 11:30 p.m.

Free performances include Beth Mullaney, a vocalist who will open Walpurgisnacht activities; the Household of Scholarskeep, a medieval act; juggler Susan Lynch and the Lincoln International Folk Dancers.

Also free will be caricature sketches by Daily Nebraskan cartoonist, Brian Shellito, from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m.

A prohibition-era casino in the After Hours Night Club in the Georgian Suite will feature blackjack, craps, roulette and possibly gangsters from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Tickets including all Walpurgisnacht events cost \$8 for students and \$10 for non-students. Tickets for individual events also can be purchased throughout the evening.

Mediocre films fill this week's movie shelves



By Anne Steyer
Staff Reporter

It is a bleak week for home video. No blockbusters come home to roost this week. Instead the video stores are inundated with barely mediocre movie fare.

"Harley Davidson and the Marlboro Man" (R) It's two cardboard characters made into a major motion picture complete with stubbled stars Mickey Rourke and Don Johnson.

The setting is 1996 Los Angeles, gas prices are \$3.50 a gallon and people get high on something called Crystal Dream.

Rourke is Harley Davidson, a Mel Gibson-

See NEWVID on 10

Projectionist preserving piece of nostalgia

Human touch means movies run smoother

ENTERTAINING
PEOPLE



Mark Baldridge
Senior Reporter

It is a tiny room, crowded with bulky equipment and reels of celluloid.

Through the little windows I watch the lights dim in the theater. The small audience settles in the darkness, waiting for the trance to take them, waiting for the magic.

A lever is thrown, complicated machinery grinds into motion and a

dark image is thrown upon the distant screen.

The movie has begun. Dale Mace, projectionist for the Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater, checks the image for focus and the film to see if it is spooling correctly. He has 20 minutes or less before the reel changeover.

"A full reel has 20 minutes," he tells me, "But that's a full reel, now."

"They (filmmakers) sometimes cut them shorter as a convenience to themselves," he says, "Like between scenes."

In any case, we have only a few minutes to talk.

Dale, 74, stands stoutly in his red suspenders and pure white hair. He seems a little like Santa Claus.

But with the ever-present toothpick tucked into the corner of his mouth, he seems something of a slouch Saint Nick — a Bowery elf.

He's been a projectionist, at least part-time, for 52 years, not counting the 42 months he took off for a little thing called World War II.

He was present at the Battle of the Bulge, among other things, and was overseas for 14-16 months.

But it was way back in 1939 that he found his calling. He was friends with the owner of a "B house," a

cinema with second-run and B movies, in Clarinda, Iowa.

"How'd you like to go up there and run the projectors?" his friend asked. And the rest is history.

Oh, there were other jobs, and for a while Dale attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"They called it the Rag in my day too," he once told me, speaking of the Daily Nebraskan.

Some things don't change, I guess. But when Dale's wife became ill in 1947, he had to leave school and go to work.

He worked hard. By the end of his career he owned

a couple of local soda-pop businesses. But he was always showing films somewhere to "keep up with the changes," he said.

For the last 16 years or so, he's been comfortably ensconced as the projectionist at the Ross.

He sees a lot of films. "We're required to watch (each) film once, to check it out," he said, speaking of the rules of his union, the International Alliance of Theater and Stage Employees.

But that's not such a hardship; Dale's always liked movies.

"Those (movies) were always our dates, when we went on dates," he said of the old days. "We didn't have

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