

## Ross film series focuses on women in movies

WOMEN MAKE MOVIES AT 20

**Thursday, Oct. 22**  
1 p.m. HOMECOMINGS  
3 p.m. STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART  
7:30 p.m. THE FILMS OF SU FRIEDRICH: PROGRAM 1\*

**Friday, Oct. 23**  
1 p.m. THE FILMS OF SU FRIEDRICH: PROGRAM 1  
3 p.m. WOMEN WHO MADE MOVIES  
7:30 p.m. THE FILMS OF SU FRIEDRICH II\*

**Saturday, Oct. 24**  
11 a.m. TWO BY PRATIBHA PARMAR  
1 p.m. DOUBLE BIND  
3 p.m. THE FILMS OF SU FRIEDRICH II  
7 p.m. SHOOT FOR THE CONTENTS  
9 p.m. JOHANNA D'ARC OF MONGOLIA

**Tuesday, Oct. 27**  
7 p.m. GIRL MEETS GIRL  
9 p.m. SHOOT FOR THE CONTENTS

**Wednesday, Oct. 28**  
7 p.m. WOMEN WHO MADE THE MOVIES  
8:15 p.m. JOHANNA D'ARC OF MONGOLIA

**Thursday, Oct. 29**  
7 p.m. DOUBLE BIND  
9 p.m. TWO BY PRATIBHA PARMAR

**Friday, Oct. 30**  
7 p.m. HOMECOMINGS  
9 p.m. STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART

**Saturday, Oct. 31**  
11 a.m. GIRL MEETS GIRL  
1 p.m. WOMEN WHO MADE THE MOVIES  
2:15 p.m. JOHANNA D'ARC OF MONGOLIA  
7 p.m. GIRL MEETS GIRL  
9 p.m. STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART

**Sunday, Nov. 1**  
3 p.m. HOMECOMINGS  
5 p.m. TWO BY PRATIBHA PARMAR  
7 p.m. SHOOT FOR THE CONTENTS  
9 p.m. DOUBLE BIND

\*Filmmaker Su Friedrich will be present to discuss her work with the audiences.

Mary Riepma Ross  
Film Theater

By Stacey McKenzie  
Senior Reporter

The truth is: women invented the movies.

Legacies to that invention will show Thursday through Nov. 1 in "Women Make Movies At 20," a film series at Ross Film Theater.

Wheeler Dixon, chairman of the film studies program and professor of English at UNL, can rattle off name after name of women who were and are the foundation of the film industry.

"There have always been women making movies, since the dawn of cinema history," he said.

One of the earliest, if not the very first of the women film directors, was Alice Guy Blaché, a Frenchwoman.

Blaché made more than 600 films in her 25-year career and was the first to make a film with a fictional narrative plot. She had many other "firsts."

Dixon's wife, Gwen Foster-Dixon, is the director and producer of "Women Who Made the Movies," to be included in film festival.

"Women Who Made the Movies" is a documentary about women film directors from 1896 to 1960. Blaché's work is included.

But there is much more to the festival: it celebrates the 20th year of the New York-based media arts organization by the same name, Women



Courtesy of Women Make Movies

"Canto a la Vida," a documentary on Chilean women exiles directed by Lucia Salinas, is one of many films featured in the film series "Women Make Movies at 20."

Make Movies, the largest distributor of films and videos by and about women.

New York filmmaker Su Friedrich, whose film "First Comes Love," is included in the series and will appear with screenings of her work at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday and Friday.

Friedrich has won numerous awards and is widely screened and broadcast throughout the United States and Europe. Her films include: "Damned if You Don't," "The Ties That Bind," "Gently Down The

Stream," "Sink Or Swim" and "First Comes Love."

"Her films are remarkable," Dixon said of Friedrich. "Her stuff is great." This series will give audiences an alternative view of cinema history, Dixon said.

"Cinema history has been a patriarchal affair," Dixon said.

Women Make Movies works to correct this, he said.

But, he said, women "still are not getting the credit they should."

This series may remedy that.

## Film leaves Columbus clash unsolved



"1492: The Conquest of Paradise"



By Anne Steyer  
Staff Reporter

Sometime in 1492, Christopher Columbus landed at San Salvador.

Five hundred years later, sitting in the Douglas Theater (13th and P streets) watching Paramount Pictures' re-creation of that fateful day, it's difficult to be sure how I feel.

Without being a history scholar or a Native American, the traditional Anglo-Saxon opinion of Christopher Columbus comes from those grade-school presentations where Columbus is a hero, the natives are savages and Amerigo Vespucci steals the credit.

Publicity surrounding the explorer accuses him of genocide, a man who brought about the destruction of a culture and the disenfranchisement of an entire people.

The question remains whether Columbus was a visionary, looking for a better world, or a racist butcher.

Somewhere between the two must lie the truth.

Ridley Scott, director of "Blade Runner," "Alien" and "Thelma and Louise," is no stranger to creating compelling visions of controversial material.

For "1492" he relies on historical journals, original documents and letters, and the research of journalist and screen writer Roselyne Bosch for the core of the story.

Scott's film, well-crafted and visually stunning, spans 20 years in the life of Columbus from the beginnings of the explorer's search for funding to his ruinous downfall at the end. The film also documents the sea voyage, the "discovery" of the New World



Courtesy of Paramount Pictures

Gerard Depardieu stars as Christopher Columbus in "1492: Conquest of Paradise," an epic adventure directed by Ridley Scott.

and his formidable struggle to realize his dream.

French superstar Gerard Depardieu ("Green Card," "Cyrano de Bergerac") brings his powerful presence to the film in the role of Columbus. His interpretation shows a passionate explorer and seaman with a vision of paradise.

Sigourney Weaver is Queen Isabel, the matriarch of Spain who develops an affection for the bearish man and funds his trips across the ocean.

Weaver's casting is a bit disturbing as she is not Spanish and makes no attempt at a Spanish accent.

This is also true of Depardieu, whose performance as an Italian sounds more French. However, his stilted and soft-spoken English detracts little from his towering presence.

Armand Assante ("The Mambo Kings") is Sanchez, treasurer to the Spanish crown, who underhandedly secures Columbus' meeting with the queen and monitors his progress in the New World.

The strangest character in the film

is Spanish nobleman Adrian de Moxica (Michael Wincott of "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves"). He accompanies Columbus on his second voyage and incites a brutal mutiny.

Thus begins the downward spiral of the relationship between Columbus and the crown, and the Europeans and the natives. In seems that de Moxica represents the negativity involved in the founding of the New World.

Shot on location in Spain and Costa Rica, "1492" is full of sweeping visuals and authentic costuming, as well as a swelling score, courtesy of award-winning composer Vangelis ("Chariots of Fire").

It drags in places, and at two hours, 25 minutes, it becomes a bit tedious. As well as this trouble, the film lacks a strong plot and makes little attempt to accept or refuse the blame placed on Columbus.

But Depardieu's presence, coupled with Scott's visionary style, makes "1492: The Conquest of Paradise" an evocative portrait of one of the most noted and mysterious men in history.

## Bloom film festival to be free-for-all entertainment



By Lisa Newberg  
Staff Reporter

A Claire Bloom film will be shown outdoors today as a special free-for-all form of entertainment.

Bring lawn chairs and blankets to prepare for the unique festivity sponsored in part by the Mary Riepma Ross Theater and the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

The presentation will be in the garden between Sheldon Art Gallery and the Lied Center. "The Spy Who Came in From the Cold," is the main attraction that will begin at 7 p.m.

Born in London, Claire Bloom made her first appearance at the age of 16. She is known for her appearances in films such as "The Lady's Not for Burning," "Ring Around the Moon," "Limelight," "The Man Between," "Richard III," "A Doll's House," "Islands in the Stream," "Clash of the Titans," and

Woody Allen's "Crimes and Misdemeanors."

Bloom now divides her career between the United States and England.

Her most notable stage roles have included Ophelia, Juliet, Viola, Cordelia and Miranda at the Old Vic. In London's West End, she has appeared as Sasha in "Ivanov," Nora in "A Doll's House," Rebecca West in "Rosmersholm," and Mme. Ranyeskyva in "The Cherry Orchard."

In 1974, Bloom won three major English theatrical awards for her London portrayal of Blanche du Bois in "A Streetcar Named Desire."

Bloom also has appeared on many television programs, including "Brideshead Revisited" with Lawrence Oliver, "The Ghost Writer," and "Shadowlands," for which she won a British award for the best television actress of the year.

Claire Bloom now is appearing as a narrator with major symphony and chamber orchestras and tours the United States extensively with her one-woman performances.

## entertainment SHORTS

### 'Getting Out' kicks off Theatrix

From Staff Reports

The Theatrix fall 1992 season opens Thursday with "Getting Out," a play by Pulitzer Prize winner Marsha Norman.

Theatrix stages original and experimental works.

The play, directed by Mark Giesler, a theater graduate student, is about a young woman who must come to terms with her past after she is released from prison.

Arlene, the lead character played

by Meredith Morgans, is shadowed throughout most of the play by the image of her younger self, Arlie, played by Angie Claus.

She is "haunted" by memories of her past, including her abusive mother.

The play features a minimal set, lighting and costume support.

"Getting Out" will be performed at 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday in Room 301 of the Temple Building.

Tickets are \$2 and available at the door.