



Courtesy of Paramount

John Waitzkin (Max Pomerac) is a chess genius in "Searching for Bobby Fischer," a film directed and written by Steven Zaillian.

# Chess film shows young boy's innocence, his father's drive

## "Searching For Bobby Fischer"



Based on a true story, "Searching For Bobby Fischer" is a movie more than worth checking out.

Newcomer Max Pomerac plays Josh Waitzkin, a 7 year old with an uncanny ability for playing chess. Waitzkin enjoys going to Washington Square Park where he plays "speed chess" — three-minute chess games — with Vinnie (Laurence Fishburne), the first person to recognize Josh's natural talent.

Josh's father (Joe Mantegna) tries to support his son's gift by

entering him in tournament after tournament. He also hires Bruce Pandolfini (Ben Kingsley), a former chess champion, to tutor Josh toward greatness.

Thus begins the battle of wills between Josh, who just wants to play the game, and his father, who wants him to constantly win.

"Searching for Bobby Fischer" is full of wonderful performances, particularly from Mantegna and Kingsley. Fishburne plays his role well, but he just isn't given the amount of screen time he deserves.

Pomerac really shines as well. His portrayal of the young, quiet genius shows the innocence of a child simply trying to make his father happy. It's almost enough to bring tears to the eyes.

Steven Zaillian, the "Awaken-

ings" speechwriter, makes his directorial debut with "Searching For Bobby Fischer," and his vision for the film is stunning.

From the first time Josh encounters the "speed chess" players in Washington Square to the movie's climactic final game, Zaillian is there for every move, every twitch of the eye, every breath the players take.

He brings the audience into the movie and makes them a part of the game. He also makes it as tense and suspenseful as we imagine it would be in real life.

Going to see "Searching For Bobby Fischer" would be a very wise move.

—Gerry Beltz

## Batman

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"(Batman group editor) Denny O'Neil suggested that we replace Wayne as the Batman — get him out of the costume and bring in someone new," Peterson said.

"Once something like that gets out, there is no pulling it back, and naturally everyone was flabbergasted," he said. "But once the initial shock was over, everyone took the idea and ran with it."

The "Knightfall" storyline began last spring with the release of a four-part miniseries, "Batman: The Sword of Azrael." The miniseries introduced Valley, and "The Vengeance of Bane," a one-issue special, introduced Bane, the villain who would break Wayne.

Bane, a psychopath who escaped from an island prison, traveled to Gotham City determined to destroy Batman.

First, he broke Batman's greatest enemies out of Arkham Asylum — then he watched as Wayne attempted to fight off the super-villains.

As Batman neared the point of exhaustion, Bane attacked. In the bitter fight that followed, Bane broke Wayne's back.

The story reached its climax with "Batman" No. 500. Valley, who had taken over as Batman at Wayne's request and designed a new high-tech suit, confronted Bane and defeated him in a bloody battle.

In the meantime, Robin's father was kidnapped. A broken Wayne rushed off to attempt a rescue, leaving Robin with the new Batman.

Now, Valley makes it clear he wants nothing to do with Robin, and he dissolves the dynamic duo.

"Gotham is a crazy city. Valley doesn't want to be responsible for Robin, and he doesn't want the added burden of trying to protect him," Peterson said.

Robin loses his job with Batman, but he won't stop fighting crime.

On Oct. 5, DC Comics will premiere the new Robin series.

"Robin is easily one of our second or third most popular characters, and his own series is something he deserves," Peterson said.

"The series will deal with how a 14-year-old young man can fight crime at night, go to school during the day, and still find time to try and figure out girls," he said.

The new series will place the spotlight firmly on Robin's shoulders, with little interaction between Robin and Batman, Peterson said.

"That's not to say that Batman won't show up now and then, but the focus is really going to be on Robin," he said.

In the meantime, the Batman saga will continue, Peterson said.

The new storyline, "Knightquest," is now running through the Batman titles. The story is broken into two parts: "The Crusade," which follows the adventures of the new Batman, and "The Search," which follows Wayne as he searches for Robin's father.

"The Search" will run through two issues of "The Justice League of America," three issues of "Showcase '93," and three issues of "Legends of the Dark Knight."

The many different titles associated with Batman made the storyline tough to accomplish, Peterson said.

"This was a very ambitious project, with so many ways to fail," he said.

"But I think we've pulled it off and told a great story."

## Laser

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Rock is not the laser show's only format, Dunn said. Alternative and heavy-metal bands also are used.

The more family-oriented "Laser Visions" shows include classical, country and instrumental music, he said.

"In country, it's Garth Brooks," Dunn said. "There's no doubt about it, the guy is popular."

The planetarium also schedules theme shows such as "1960s Celebration," "Rock 'n' Roll Halloween," and "Christmas Laser Fantasy."

Dunn said audience feedback was important.

"There are times when you have a really good audience with which you can do a lot of neat things," he said.

"If you have a dead audience, at least you have a standard," he said.

Laser shows are not new to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Dunn said. Mueller has been presenting the shows for more than 16 years.

The first shows were a little different than the ones people see now, he

66 Obviously, something like Pink Floyd is going to sell and is going to be tried and true.

—Dunn coordinator, Mueller Planetarium

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said. The early shows were in only one color, without any graphics, Dunn said. Technology has changed that.

Pangolin — a high-grade graphics program — and a 16.5 million color palette has vastly improved the quality of the shows, Dunn said.

"You must keep making new things and putting new technology into the shows so it's not the same," he said.

"Laser Fantasies" will begin its season Friday with a show featuring Pink Floyd. Laser show schedules can be picked up at the planetarium and also are broadcast on local radio stations, Dunn said.

## Daily Nebraskan

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Washer/dryer set. \$200. Call after 5:00, 438-3863.

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'93 Trek 800 Mountain Bike. Good condition. Great for school. \$250 OBO. Call 474-1377.

Clearance sale prices on all '93 Trek, Specialized and KHS bicycles. Cycle Works 27th & Vine.

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10 Books For Sale  
A NOVEL IDEA: Now open at 10:00 a.m. Monday-Saturday, 118 No. 14th, 475-TOME.

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70 Ticket Exchange  
2 tickets for Grateful Dead in Boston on Sept. 29, 30. \$30 each (face value). Call 477-5123. Ask for Jeff.

For Sale: Two NYC Ballet tickets for Fri. Sept. 24. \$40. Please call 484-2903.

WANTED-FOUR NU-CSU FOOTBALL TICKETS FOR SAT. CALL 477-0248.

Wanted: 2 tickets. UNL/CSU game. September 25. Phone 436-5941. Leave message.

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Wanted: 5 or 6 CSU tickets together, Sept. 25. 436-5941. Leave message.

Wanted: Three validated tickets for CSU on Sept. 25th. Call Connie at 436-8128.

## 90 Vehicles For Sale

'84 Fiero. Red, four-speed, am/fm stereo cassette, new clutch/struts. Looks and runs great. \$1500 OBO. 476-0887.

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1983 Olds Cutlass Calais, automatic, A/C, AM/FM cassette. Excellent condition, \$3,000 OBO. 474-7117. Ask for Kent.

## 200s Notices

### 205 Career Events

CHOOSE THE PATH FOR YOUR FUTURE CAREER!  
1993 Career Information Day  
Thursday, September 23rd, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. UNL City Campus Union. All students are welcome to come gather career information from top national companies seeking interns and full-time employees. Career help tables and a Career Fashion show (noon to 1 p.m.) are also featured. Don't procrastinate & miss out on this excellent opportunity. For more information call 472-3145.

### 210 Announcements

AEROBIC INSTRUCTOR TRAINING WORKSHOP  
Oct 8, 9 & 10. \$95. Call Kris 423-7171.

Sand Volleyball Tournament  
8 person coed, Saturday, October 2 at McCormack's. \$30 entry fee, 5 cash prizes. Two levels of play. Sign up by Sept 29. Call 436-9690. Proceeds benefit HOBY Alumni Association.

Plan for Spring Break, Christmas, or next summer to Fort Lauderdale, FL. \$450 includes hotel & (one week for two persons), but not airfare. Tammy 467-4605.