

# Directing rookie De Niro makes film shine



## "A Bronx Tale"



The movie's narrator calls it "just another Bronx tale," but it's not really.

"A Bronx Tale" is special for a few reasons. Robert De Niro makes his directing debut in a coming-of-age story told with a refreshing frankness. It's told from the viewpoint of a young man, who also narrates. And it makes no bones about the struggle between good and evil.

Well, maybe good and evil are too strong. Instead, let's say it's a struggle between a working man, who wants what is best for his son, and the mobster his son idolizes.

De Niro is Lorenzo, a bus driver living in an Italian-American neighborhood in 1960s New York. His son, 9-year-old Colgero (Francis Capra), witnesses the neighborhood "god" Sonny (Chazz Palminteri) kill a man in the street.

Colgero doesn't rat on Sonny, both because the boy idolizes him and because there's nothing worse in his neighborhood than a rat. This forms the base for Sonny's relationship with the boy, whom Sonny now calls C.

C. starts working at the Chez Bippy, where all the "guys" hang out. Sonny is the "god to the neighborhood," but Lorenzo constantly reminds C. that Sonny is not loved or respected but feared.

Despite his status as a gangster, Sonny wants what is best for C. As the boy grows, Sonny doles out advice and tries to keep him out of trouble, even saving the boy's life when he's 17 years old.

Newcomer Lillo Brancato plays the older

Colgero, and he does a fine job. Palminteri, who adapted the screenplay from his own play, is very good as Sonny, giving him a three-dimensional quality few film gangsters seem to have.

There is some heavy violence, such as the brutal clashes between the young Italians and the young blacks.

Some shots are jerky and jumpy, but throughout, De Niro's direction is consistently solid. And from doo-wop to the Beatles, the movie's music also subtly shows the passage of time.

"A Bronx Tale" is a fine first effort from Hollywood's heavyweight actor.

— Anne Steyer

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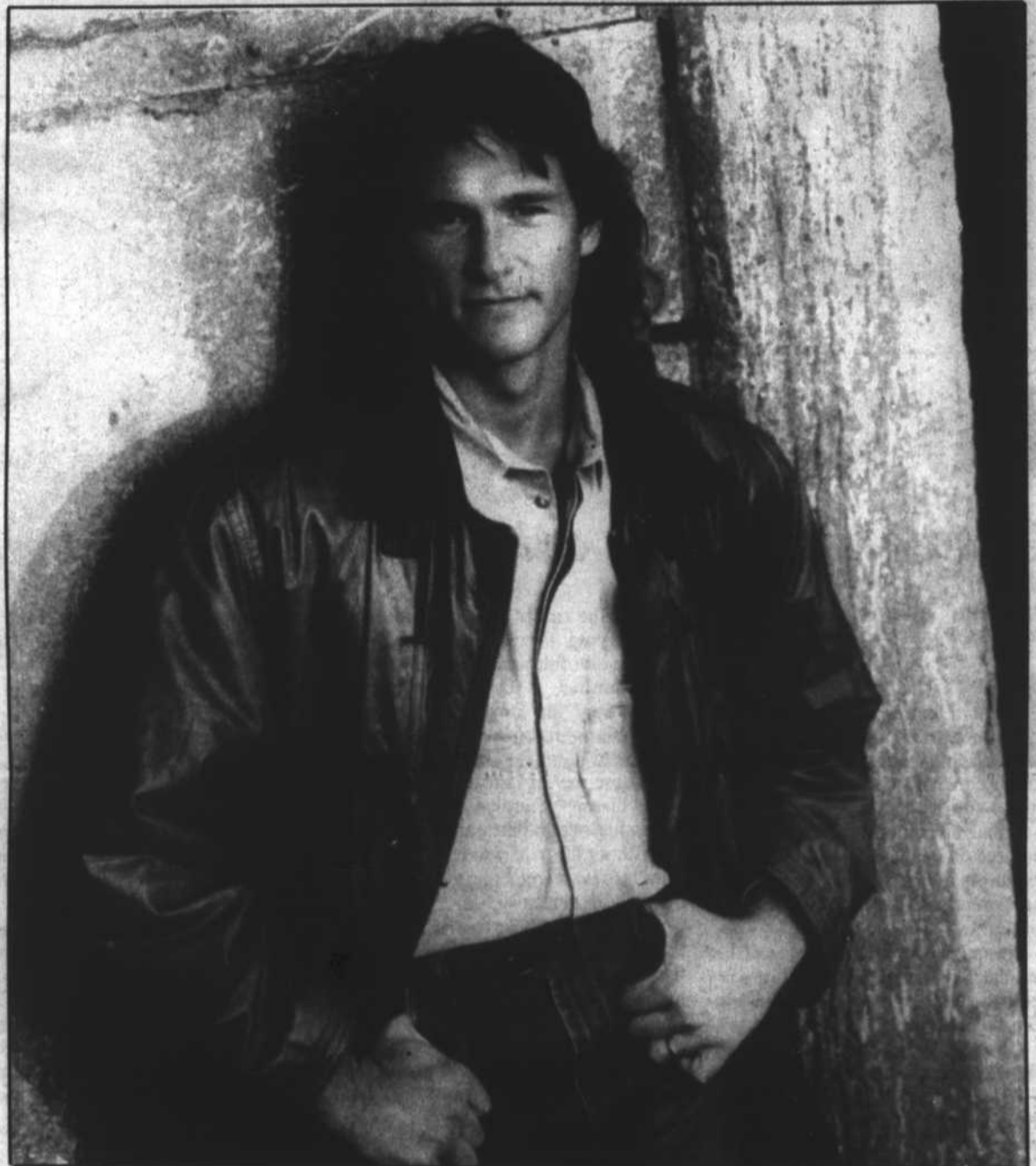
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Country singer Billy Dean will appear at the Lied Center for Performing Arts Saturday at 8 p.m. The concert will raise money to benefit Lincoln General Hospital.

## Dean to shine at Star Night, Lincoln General's fund-raiser

### Concert preview

By Jill O'Brien  
Staff Reporter

Country western singer Billy Dean is the star of Star Night, an annual benefit hosted by the Lincoln General Hospital Auxiliary, Saturday at 8 p.m. at the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

Sheryl Wanek, general chairwoman of Star Night, said the Auxiliary, made up of volunteer members and Lincoln General Hospital staff, had a history of hiring high-caliber artists such as Dean to perform at the benefit.

"Last year, we had Mark Chestnut, another country western singer, plus we've had Juice Newton, Melissa Manchester, Natalie Cole and Bob Hope."

Besides offering top-notch entertainment, the show will benefit Lincoln General Hospital.

Proceeds from Star Night ticket sales will purchase a pneumatically-powered scalpel, a state-of-the-art tool for the surgery department," Wanek said.

While this year marks the 31st Auxiliary benefit, Star Night is only three years old, Wanek said.

Prior to Star Night, the annual benefit was called the Fashion Review show. A fashion show at the Pershing Auditorium was held in conjunction with an evening of entertainment, she said.

Wanek, a graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said the auxiliary decided to drop the fashion section of the program and move the entertainment to the Lied Center.

It is a move that has proved successful.

"It had gotten to the point where we had done the fashion review for many, many years, and at the time we made the switch, with the economy it was harder to get the stores to participate. We felt maybe it was a good time to try something a little different. The new format worked so well, we decided to stick with it."

Wanek said the Star Night entertainment was excellent.

"Billy Dean is going to put on a good show for us," she said.

Wanek, a self-confessed Dean fan, said one of her responsibilities as general chairwoman was finding the entertainer.

"Basically when you go about getting an entertainer, you get an idea of how much money you're willing to spend, and then you look for entertainers that fall into that range," she said.

"Right now it's a little easier to find country entertainers for a lesser price than some of the pop artists. And since I also enjoy country music, it was natural for me," she said.

"When I found that Dean was within our price range, he was somebody I was interested in."

"He's a very down-to-earth person," she added. "He's very nice and puts on a great show, so we're really looking forward to Saturday night."

UNL or Nebraska Wesleyan University students can attend the benefit at the Lied for \$14. General public tickets cost \$18.