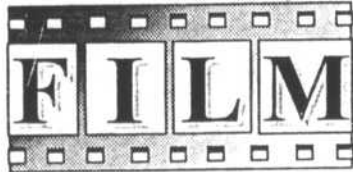


New animated dinosaur flick missing magic

Famous voices lend character



"We're Back! — A Dinosaur's Story"



Steven Spielberg is probably hoping for some spill over from people who loved the dinosaurs of "Jurassic Park."

He'll need it if the mediocre "We're Back" animated film is to succeed.

The story is really weird, even for Spielberg. Captain NewEyes (voice courtesy of Walter Cronkite) journeys into pre-history and raises the IQs of four dinosaurs and brings them back to the present. The dinosaurs help fulfill children's wishes

that have been broadcast to NewEyes on his Wish Radio.

They have crazy adventures in New York City, helping two kids, Louie (Joey Shea) and Cecilia (Yardley Smith — aka Lisa Simpson).

The best animation in the film is at the Eccentric Circus of Professor ScrewEyes (Kenneth Mars), the evil brother of NewEyes. ScrewEyes has a Fear Radio and uses his circus to give people what they fear most.

Rex (John Goodman), the Tyrannosaurus, is the most entertaining character, with his commanding size and voice. The rest of the animated cast is pretty blah, with a couple exceptions. Cronkite is an excellent Captain NewEyes and Martin Short livens up the Eccentric Circus with his humorous bit as Stubbs the Clown.

Overall, the film is amusing but not as funny as it should be. It follows in the footsteps of "The Land Before Time" and "Tiny Toon Adventures," and it will be enjoyed by children, but that is the limit of these dinosaurs' humor.

— Joel Strauch



Courtesy of Universal Pictures

In the animated adventure "We're Back! A Dinosaur's Story," a quartet of friendly, intelligent dinosaurs travel to modern-day New York City.

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Nutcracker

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Sugar Plum Fairy. There the young couple enjoy performances by the best dancers in the land.

The movie is filmed well, and the backgrounds and effects are impressive.

But this movie is not just based on a stage production; it is a stage production. It is filmed from only one side and has the same back-

drops that would be used on stage.

It is unfortunate that the filmmakers did not use any special effects unique to the big screen or different camera angles in this film. It could have been a new film version of "The Nutcracker." Instead, it is just a filming of a New York City Ballet performance.

But if you haven't been able to catch any of that group's performances, this is a close second. Plus, it's got a great soundtrack.

— Joel Strauch

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Season

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Sunday holiday festivities abound in Omaha's Old Market, 11th and Howard streets. Saturday morning kicks off with a parade at 11 a.m. Entertainment continues throughout the day until 8 p.m. featuring carolers, strolling performers and craft demonstrations. The same is scheduled for Sunday 12-5 p.m.

• The Renaissance Madrigal Syngers present a traditional Christmas Feast Dec. 11 and 18 in the grand hall of Dance City, 7117 Jones Circle. Cocktails and pre-show entertainment will start at 6 p.m. A multicourse dinner follows at 7 p.m. Included in the evening's entertainment are a procession of the lord and lady of the manor and their guests, English traditions such as wassail toasts, a boar's head procession, strolling carolers and a flaming pudding procession. Tickets are \$25. For reservations, call 556-1400.

SOUNDS

• "Winter Solstice Concerts." A concert featuring Windham Hill Recording Artists Nightnoise, Liz Story, and Alex DeGrassi with special guest Joel Di Bartolo. Sunday at 8 p.m. in the Lied Center for Performing Arts. UNL student tickets are \$15.

• "Around the World and at Home Christmas." A performance by the Air Combat Command Heartland of America Band at the Orpheum Theatre, 1819 Farnam, Dec. 17, 18, 19. For information call 444-4750.

• "The Magic of Christmas." Conductor Bruce Hangen and the Omaha Symphony Orchestra present the magical sights and sounds of Christmas Wednesday to Sunday, at 1615 Howard St., Suite 310. For tickets call

342-3560.

• "A Classic Christmas." The Lincoln Orchestra presents its Holiday Pops Concert at 7 p.m. Friday on stage at the Lied Center. Conductor Yongyan Hu leads the orchestra while state senator David Landis emcees. The event comes complete with music, community and children's choirs, dancers, a bell choir, sing-alongs and Santa Claus. Call 472-4747. Tickets are \$23, \$19 and \$15, with half-price tickets for students.

• University Singers, University Choral and Varsity Glee Holiday Concert, Sunday at 3 p.m. in Kimball Hall.

• Nebraska Brass Christmas, Sunday, 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul United Methodist Church, 1144 M street.

• "The Majesty and Glory of Christmas." Presented by the Living Christmas Tree Choir of Capitol City Christian Church, Dec. 11, 12 and 18 at 4 p.m.; 13, 14, 16 and 17 at 7:30 p.m. Reservations required. Performances available for the hearing impaired. For more information call 467-6288.

THE NUTCRACKER

• "The Nutcracker." Ballet Omaha and the Omaha Symphony together present this classic Christmas tale at Omaha's Orpheum Theatre, 1819 Farnam St., Dec. 10, 11, 12, 14. Call 444-4750 for more information.

• "Nutcracker on Ice." Ronald McDonald Children's Charities presents Randy Gardner, Tai Babalonia and Linda Fratianne in this skating sensation at the Lied Center, Dec. 10-11 at 8 p.m. with an additional 2 p.m. performance Dec. 11.

• "The Nutcracker." Performed by the Lincoln Midwest Ballet, at the Lied Center Dec. 18, at 2 and 8 p.m.

• "The Nutcracker." The newest film version starring Macauley Culkin, at the Plaza 4, 12th and P streets.

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Tight

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experiencing the same problems that other hard-rock bands are facing—a decline in the popularity of heavy metal music.

"I'm really discouraged with the music scene; it's gone down a lot," Rutherford said. "It goes in cycles, and right now country music and alternative are popular. It seems like the type of music we play—the heavier crowd—appeals more to the 18-20 crowd, and they can't get into bars."

Although the heavy metal market isn't what it used to be, Beers said it hasn't gotten in the way of Tight Fit's goal.

"Our goal is to get signed. Earlier, when we were first starting out, we played bars just to have fun. As it went on, we tried to get signed," Beers said.

"I think it's great that bands like 311 or Mike Furkins are successful. It shows the talent we have here in the Midwest—especially in the Lincoln and Omaha area. There are tons of original bands out there that don't get recognized."

As for the future of Tight Fit, work on a follow-up to their self-titled release is awaiting Beers' vocals. After that, the direction the band will take is up in the air, bandmembers said.

"We're committed to finishing the CD, which means the vocals," Rutherford said. "We're at the point where we need to do all originals or else go our separate ways."

"If the band does get back together we'll be all original. We'll open for national acts and even do our own shows," Beers said.

The band's final appearances in Lincoln will be at the Royal Grove, Dec. 27 through Jan 1, 1994.