

## Duo of Depp, DiCaprio deliver delightful drama



### "What's Eating Gilbert Grape"



"What's Eating Gilbert Grape" is a film for all appetites.

Johnny Depp ("Benny and Joon," "Edward Scissorhands") brings in a powerful performance as Gilbert, a young man living in a dead-end town with an unusual family.

His mother (newcomer Darlene Cates) weighs more than 500 pounds; she has been eating nonstop since Gilbert's father committed suicide many years ago.

Gilbert's younger brother Arnie (Academy Award nominee Leonardo DiCaprio) is mentally challenged and wasn't supposed to live past the age of 10. Yet, the Grape household is preparing to celebrate Arnie's 18th birthday.

Gilbert has no life and no ambition. He's the man of the Grape household and must stay for the love and obligation he feels for his mother, his two sisters and Arnie.

However, when Becky (Juliette Lewis,

"Kalifornia," "Cape Fear") comes rolling into town with her grandmother and a disabled mobile home, Gilbert begins to lose focus on his family's need for him.

The entire film is a masterpiece, courtesy of Lasse Hallstrom ("My Life As A Dog"). He assembled an incredible cast, filled with some of the best of today's young talent in Lewis, Depp and DiCaprio.

Lewis' touching performance more than makes up for what she threw out to the camera in "Kalifornia," and Depp shows improvement with every film. There is always more depth and more sensitivity to his characters. It's hard to believe this person at one time appeared in a "Nightmare on Elm Street" film.

However, it is DiCaprio that runs away with the prize. He has received a well-deserved nomination for Best Supporting Actor in the upcoming Academy Awards.

His character of Arnie is hypnotizing. DiCaprio evokes anger, laughter and sympathy from the audience as easily as any seasoned performer in the movie business, and this is only his second feature film. His first was a riveting performance in "This Boy's Life" with Robert DeNiro.

The chemistry between Depp and DiCaprio's characters is a big part of what makes the film work. Gilbert's quiet sensitivity contrasts with Arnie's childlike demeanor wonderfully. It helps the film along and draws the moviegoer into the story.

"What's Eating Gilbert Grape" should not be missed.

— Gerry Beltz



Courtesy of Paramount Pictures

"What's Eating Gilbert Grape" stars Johnny Depp (center) as Gilbert Grape and Juliette Lewis (right) as Becky, while Leonardo DiCaprio co-stars as Gilbert's brother. The film is about Grape's life in a dead-end town.



Jay Calderon/DN

Eric Ginsberg, a clarinet professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, performs tonight at 8 as a contributor to UNL's Faculty Recital Series. The free concert is in Kimball Hall and is open to the public.

## Concert at Kimball to spotlight professor's talent on clarinet



### Concert review

By Marissa Jorgenson  
Staff Reporter

Eric Ginsberg is no stranger to the eloquent world of classical music, and on Thursday, the clarinet player's harmonies will dance through the auditorium at Kimball Hall.

The concert is part of the Faculty Recital Series, in which University of Nebraska-Lincoln faculty showcase their talents.

Ginsberg said the series, which has been going on for about six years because of its success, would continue as a tradition on the UNL campus.

As for Ginsberg, he began his musical career with private lessons at the age of 9, and the clarinet has

been his passion ever since, he said.

Ginsberg said he studied at the Julliard School of Music in New York City, where he earned his master's degree. He then went on to play with the Oklahoma Symphony Orchestra in Oklahoma City. The Con Spirito, a chamber group in Pennsylvania, was next to add to the richness of his already budding career.

Ginsberg now spends his time at UNL, where he is a professor in the School of Music. Ginsberg uses his talent with the clarinet to enrich his students in Single Reed Skills, a class for music education majors. But Ginsberg said despite his impressive score of accomplishments, he would always be a student.

"Teaching is always a great way to learn to play your own instrument, because you're forced to repeat to yourself," Ginsberg said. "One never really grows out of learning."

"In the same way that you can always see your own faults better in

other people, you can see your own problems as a player in your students. It's made me a better player, and it's also a lot of fun."

Thursday night's recital, Ginsberg said, will consist of two pieces of chamber music accompanied by soprano voice professor Margaret Kennedy and pianist David Abbott.

"When I pick music for a program, I try to make a balance between music that I'm interested in learning and performing and music that will, in the totality of the program, make some sense and make a balanced program that will be enjoyable for me to play and enjoyable for the audience to hear."

A piece by composer Ned Rorem is one that Ginsberg said he had always wanted to perform and was thankful for the opportunity to do so. The second piece will come from Hungarian composer Bela Bartok.

## Success-driven mind-set is focus of Mamet play



By Paula Lavigne  
Senior Reporter

At the root of all evil lies the American Buffalo nickel. No matter whose toes he tramples, junk shop owner Donny Dubrow will get it back.

Dubrow's insistence on breaking the rules and making new ones to get what he wants is the topic of the award-winning play "American Buffalo," by David Mamet.

"American Buffalo," a University Theatre production, will be performed at the Studio Theatre tonight. Directed by Kevin Hofeditz, this true-to-life play takes a shot at declining American values.

Set in the mean streets of Chicago, the play creates a satirical look at what desperation to succeed will do to an average American.

Hofeditz, a coin collector himself, said the play, at face value, told the story of how three people planned to steal a man's coin collection.

"There's a bit of mystery involved. The audience will see how these three characters go through trying to accomplish what they're trying to accomplish," he said.

The quest for the coin begins when Dubrow, played by senior theater major Dean Houser, sells an American Buffalo nickel to a customer. An interest in old coins sparks Dubrow's curiosity in this man's collection.

An old swindler named Teach (Mark Klemetsrud), a naive young man named Bobby (Colby Cash) who falls under Dubrow's wing, and Dubrow conspire to break into this man's house and bring the "American Buffalo" back home. Hofeditz said the story operated on a much deeper level as well.

"It's about how people go about getting what they think they deserve in life, whether that is financial reward or prestige or just what they consider to be what they deserve," Hofeditz said.

He said the play showed how people sometimes changed or twisted the

rules in order to make the rules apply to their lives.

"It's based on the idea that 'I have my right to get what I want just like anybody else does,'" he said. "It shows what lengths people will go to to justify going after what they think they deserve."

The three characters make the initial mistake of breaking the rules, he said, but then they still don't work hard to accomplish their goals.

"There's a bit of a double difficulty there," he said. "They think they deserve something, and they twist the rules to get it, but then they don't work very hard even with the twisted rules."

Hofeditz said the characters weren't even sure of the value of the coin. Depending on the variation and the year it was minted, the coin could be worth between a few cents and several hundred dollars.

This ambiguous nature of the value of the coin shows that people establish questionable goals, he said.

"Mamet has given them something to go after that they don't really know much about," Hofeditz said.

In this aspect, "American Buffalo" is parallel to the Nancy Kerrigan-Tonya Harding incident, Hofeditz said.

"The fact that whoever was involved in Nancy Kerrigan's assault, it was at least people in Tonya Harding's camp, and the idea (behind the assault) was that Tonya Harding deserves Olympic gold," Hofeditz said.

"Yet they weren't willing to say 'let's see if she can get it,'" he said. "They said 'let's see if we can twist the rules to help her see if she can get it.'"

Hofeditz said once Harding's group decided to eliminate her strongest American competition, they still didn't do a good job of it. This was just like Dubrow's group screwing up the coin heist, he said.

"(Harding's attackers) didn't do their homework," he said. "They could have done a lot better and not implicated themselves — maybe more successfully disabled her."

Although Hofeditz said he didn't wish for Kerrigan to have been hurt, he said the two cases still proved the same points.

Another similarity between the Olympic skaters and the characters is the violent nature of the two incidents.

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