

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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Movie blames media for glorifying murder

By Gerry Beltz
Staff Reporter

Add one cup each of "True Romance," "Serial Mom," "Altered States," "Bonnie and Clyde," "Pump Up The Volume" and "A Clockwork Orange" and one director who brought the psychedelic flick "The Doors" to the screen, and you might come close to making "Natural Born Killers."

Director Oliver Stone doesn't try to accurately depict the violence that has occurred in our day and age (Košesh, Bobbitt, Menendez), but he instead goes over the top with everything. He blames this violence on the media that glorifies it for nothing more than ratings and popularity.

Mickey Knox (Woody Harrelson) saves Mallory (Juliette Lewis) from her abusive home life by killing both of her parents. They then set out on a murder spree that lasts for about two weeks and around 50 bodies, not counting the ultraviolent prison riot. Their fame and presence form the catalyst for the riot.

Neither character feels the least bit of regret or guilt for anything they have done, and they choose not to blame their behavior on love or the Bible. They are a product of the society that surrounds them and,

Quik Facts

Movie: "Natural Born Killers"

Rating: R

Stars: Woody Harrelson, Juliette Lewis, Robert Downey Jr., Tommy Lee Jones

Director: Oliver Stone

Grade: A-

Five words: Dark satire and bizarreness converge

according to Mickey, that has made them into "natural born killers."

Leading the disaster-chasing bloodsuckers is Wayne Gale (Robert Downey Jr.), a tabloid TV host with the ethics and morals of a slag heap. He behaves as if he is on the side of righteousness and quality journalism, but he eventually decays into a ranting lunatic with an automatic weapon and a video camera — someone who wants nothing more than to achieve the same fame and recognition of the rabble that he sensationalizes.

Every character in the film is a caricature of real life, and all performers handle their roles perfectly. Harrelson and Lewis are great in their leading roles. Harrelson gets



Courtesy of Warner Bros. Productions

Woody Harrelson stars as Mickey Knox in Oliver Stone's "Natural Born Killers." The movie also stars Juliette Lewis, Robert Downey Jr. and Tommy Lee Jones.

extra praise for taking on a difficult role that sheds his nice-guy image.

Great supporting performances also are turned in, from Tom Sizemore as a corrupt cop obsessed with the crimes of Mallory and Mickey to Tommy Lee Jones — not at his best but still great — as McClusky, a high-strung prison warden who underestimates what he thinks he knows about his prisoners.

In terms of unconventionalism and overall weirdness, "Natural Born Killers" makes "Pink Floyd: The Wall" look like a half-hour videotape on life insurance premiums. Stone's blast on the media's obsession with violence and real-life crimes is visualized with a mix of grainy, black-and-white photography, sharp color pictures with voiceovers and some fairly freaky animation sequences.

The film's music also is stunning. It has an incredible mix of variety. "Natural Born Killers" is the first soundtrack by Nine Inch Nails' Trent Reznor, and he has come up with something incredible, compiling music ranging from "Leader of the Pack" by the Shangri-Las to "Ted Just Admit It" by Jane's Addiction.

"Natural Born Killers" isn't just a journey; it's a trip.

Dummies delight Devaney droves

By Joel Strauch
Senior Reporter

The Crash Test Dummies and the Millions gave a bang-up show Friday night at the Nebraska State Fair.

The acoustics at the Bob Devaney Sports Center were better than basketball audiences would have believed. Both bands had great sound vocally and instrumentally.

Lincoln's own Millions opened the show, playing songs off of their debut album and their new compact disc, "Raquel," to a rather docile crowd.

After the Millions' short five-song opener, the Dummies took the stage, and the formerly sedate throng jumped out of their folding chairs and crowded all sides of the stage.

The Dummies played a host of songs

from both their first album, "The Ghosts That Haunt Me," and their latest LP, "God Shuffled His Feet," before they got to the songs that most of the crowd came to see.

Near the end of the performance, the band played its breakthrough hit "MMM MMM MMM" and followed it with "Superman's Song" and "Afternoons and Coffeespoons" — the other two songs that have received heavy radio play.

The concertgoers thought these songs would be a perfect time to try the traditional "cigarette lighter waving during a slow song" that makes these events so memorable — and potentially life-threatening. But fortunately there weren't enough smokers in the audience to make this move successful.

The show's lighting was far from

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WEBER

UNL senior biology major

dazzling, but the sound was exquisite and, with the revolving platform on the stage, everyone in the audience had a chance to see the bands from all angles.

Steve Weber, a senior biology major at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said of the concert, "I liked it. I only wish the Millions could have played a few more tunes."

Weber is mainly a Millions fan, but he said he also liked the Dummies.

"I've seen the Millions play a thousand times. I love 'em," he said. "The Crash Test Dummies have slower music — not as energetic as the Millions. But the singer's voice is so unique."

The lead singer for the Dummies, Brad Roberts, gave the audience plenty of chances to hear his unique voice, singing almost 20 songs, including three encore songs.

Kari Stofer, a sophomore biology major at UNL, said, "I thought that both bands were great, although we didn't know that we were coming until about an hour before the show."

As either a much-anticipated event or a spur-of-the-moment date, this concert was far from a disappointment for most members of the crowd.

Country stars ready to shine at State Fair

By Paula Lavigne
Senior Reporter

Tonight at the Nebraska State Fair, the stars will shine when country singers Lorrie Morgan and Sammy Kershaw take the stage.

Morgan and Kershaw are part of the revolutionary force that is changing country music, and have a number of things in common.

Both draw inspiration from country legend George Jones, and the two have a similar past and an identical future on the road to success.

Morgan, still on the attack after her recent release, "War Paint," continues to carve a new niche for women into a male-dominated industry.

The daughter of Opry star George Morgan, Lorrie Morgan grew up with country music and drew her motivation from stars like Loretta Lynn, Dolly Parton and Tammy Wynette.

Morgan made her singing debut at age 13, and never stopped her tales of love, heartache, longing and fiery passion that are present in her music.

"1-800-Use To Be," is a song of challenging fear and anxiety while "Don't Touch Me" is a powerful song of true love. "If You Came Back From Heaven" is a song about Morgan's genuine loss — that of her husband Keith Whitley.

Also on the album is Jones' "Good Year for the Roses." To record that track, Morgan teamed with touring co-star Kershaw.

Kershaw, who began his singing career a year younger than Morgan, at age 12, also is reeling in the success of a recent album, "Feelin' Good Train."

Oddly inspired by the perseverance and honesty of Sam Walton — Kershaw worked as a remodeling supervisor at a local Wal-Mart — this new country star has been taking care of his customers first.

Morgan and Kershaw will be on stage tonight at the Bob Devaney Sports Center at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20, \$17 and \$14.



Jeff Haller/DN

Brad Roberts, the Crash Test Dummies' lead singer, smiles during the band's Friday night performance at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.