

Daily Nebraskan WEEKEND PREVIEW

For the weekend
of Sept. 9-11

Give it a shot

> **Blue Sunday** — Lincoln Action Program is sponsoring this blues festival to help low-income families in Lancaster and Saunders counties. It will be held at the Antelope Park Bandshell from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday, of course.

> **University Singers** — This UNL music group will perform Sunday at 7 p.m. in an interdenominational matriculation service at the Cornerstone, 640 N. 16th St.

Plot slaughtered in 'A Good Man in Africa'

By Gerry Beltz
Staff Reporter

The tools were there, the talent was there, but it was all for naught. "A Good Man in Africa" just doesn't come together.

It's not as though there wasn't any potential, either. Any cast that includes such talented and award-winning performers as Sean Connery, John Lithgow and Louis Gossett Jr. seems almost sure of success.

Then again, some predicted a big comeback for the Village People, too.

"A Good Man in Africa" is based on William Boyd's novel of the same name, and the book has been highly acclaimed, but the film version may end up being disclaimed by anyone involved.

Australian talent Colin Friels — Americans have seen him in "Class Action" and "Darkman" — plays Morgan Leafy, a British diplomat who is looking to get out of his assignment in the newly independent African state of Kinjanja.

Leafy is a butt-kisser and a yes man; he cares only about sex and alcohol and is willing to bend over backward to please the people over him, always fearing that one iota of failure on his part will result in a permanent assignment in Kinjanja.

Leafy hears opportunity knock when his boss, the extremely stuffy and racist High Commissioner Arthur Fanshawe (Lithgow), arrives in Kinjanja. He instructs Leafy to sway the favor of soon-to-be-elected president Sam Adekunle

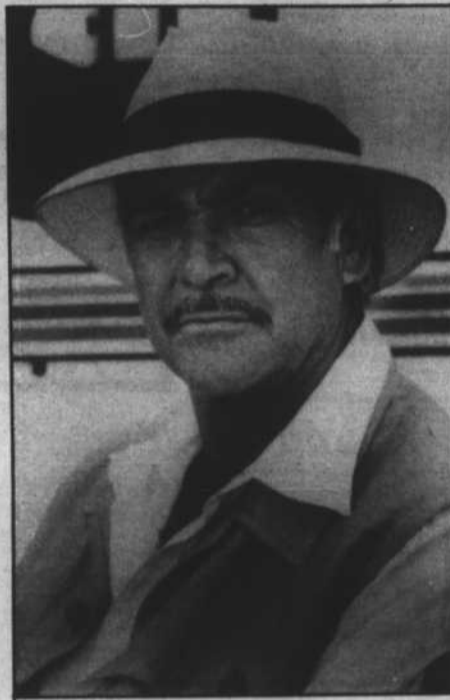
Quik Facts

Movie: "A Good Man In Africa"
Rating: R
Stars: Sean Connery, Colin Friels, John Lithgow, Diana Rigg, Louis Gossett Jr.
Director: Bruce Beresford
Grade: C-
Five words: A stellar cast completely wasted

(Gossett) toward the British side, because of oil and mineral deposits that have been discovered in Kinjanja.

However, the favors continue to pile up, and hands start washing other hands, all cumulating with a talk with another one of Sean Connery's all-knowing, all-wise characters, which gets Leafy to see the light.

This entire film is incredibly dreadful and marked by barely passable performances from everyone involved. Friels is a virtual newcomer to the screens, and it is unfortunate that this is his big debut film, but it is hoped he will have other opportunities.



Sean Connery, left, and Colin Friels star in "A Good Man in Africa," a Gramercy Pictures release.

The only good thing about Lithgow's performance is his attempt at having a stuffy British accent. Gossett could have faxed in his performance.

"A Good Man in Africa" isn't funny enough to be called a comedy, and it doesn't carry enough interest to be considered a drama. The film is very ... blah.

Improvisational saxophonist to jazz it up at Westbrook



Courtesy of American Music Projects
Saxophonist David Murray will appear with the Nell/Roberty/Edwards trio at Westbrook Music Hall Sunday.

From Staff Reports

Jazz up Sunday night with saxophonist David Murray, who will appear with the Nell/Roberty/Edwards Trio in Room 119 of Westbrook Music Building at 8 p.m.

This may be the first time the trio, consisting of pianist Bob Nell, bassist Kelly Roberty and drummer Brad Edwards, has played at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, but Murray has performed here often enough to know his way around.

The last time Murray came, he appeared with Kahil El'Zabar, an avant-garde percussionist, said Ron Bowlin, director of Kimball Recital Hall.

But what stands out in Bowlin's mind is the first time Murray and the World Saxophone Quartet performed at UNL.

"It was a wild event," Bowlin said. "It was supposed to have been semitransitional Ellington stuff, but the Quartet forgot their stuff and had to do a four-part improv."

Spontaneous improvisation is Murray's style — he makes the music up as he goes along.

And what pours forth from his sax is an assortment of intense emotions, influenced by his religious roots in the black church and his African-American lineage.

Concert tickets, available at the Lied Center box office, are \$10 for general admission and \$5 for students.

'Blizzard' new addition to frontier bronze exhibit

From Staff Reports

Herb Mignery wanted to be a cowboy, but he captured the heart of the wild prairie through a different medium — art.

Mignery, who specializes in creating bronze sculptures depicting scenes from Nebraska's history, will be in Lincoln on Sunday for the unveiling of his new sculpture, "Blizzard of '88."

Mignery's sculpture depicts a couple and their horse caught in the mounting drifts of the devastating blizzard that hit Nebraska on Jan. 12, 1888.

"Blizzard of '88" will accompany a new exhibit titled "Sculptures by Herb Mignery" as part of the Great Plains Art Collection.

A native of Bartlett, Mignery grew up on a central Nebraska cattle ranch that had been homesteaded by his paternal great-grandfather in 1878.

He majored in industrial arts at Wayne State Teachers College. In 1961, he was drafted into the U.S. Army and served as illustrator of training aids. After his discharge, he worked as a sign painter, cartoonist and rhythm guitarist in a local band.

He began working in Hastings as a commercial artist with the Cornhusker Press in 1965, and it wasn't until 1973, when he received a birthday gift of sculpting tools and clay, that he found his true love.

Mignery focused on bringing out the true nature of heroic West-erners like settlers, farmers and

Quik Facts

Event: Opening of new exhibit, "Sculptures by Herb Mignery"

Time: 3:30 p.m. Sunday

At: Love Library, Room 205

Comment: Artist will appear and talk to audience

cowboys.

He was able to combine his love of sculpting and his dream of becoming a cowboy when he served as president of the Cowboy Artists of America in 1992-93.

Mignery has cast more than 100 editions of different subjects in varied sizes.

"Trails Home" is a 7.5-foot sculpture of a pioneer family that commemorates the 150th anniversary of the Oregon Trail. "Heritage" shows a settler family planting trees, and "Prairie Odyssey" depicts a heroic frontiersman.

Other topics for his work include settlers fighting a prairie fire, cowboys managing their animals, a rancher and his wife conversing and two boys picking an apple.

The exhibition opening and unveiling will take place Sunday at 3:30 p.m. in Room 205 of Love Library.

Mignery will give a brief talk and answer questions from the audience. In conjunction with the exhibit, noted poet Ted Kooser will read from his book of poems "Blizzard Voices."