

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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Gallery honors past exhibitors

By Joel Strauch
Senior Reporter

The Haymarket Art Gallery is celebrating its 25th year and grand opening at its new location in October with a special exhibit honoring 15 established artists who began their careers at the historical nonprofit gallery.

Ruthann Young said, "We promote and feature regional artists who are starting out."

Young is secretary of the nine-member volunteer Board of Directors for the gallery.

"During this celebration we are honoring these artists who are now established but nurtured their careers here," she said.

"We're really excited to have the artists come back and support our opening," she said. "It also gives the public a chance to see and buy their work."

Jay Miller, the gallery director, said, "All of these artists started here, and most of them are still local or regional. Some of them have moved away, but we brought them back as retrospective."

There will be a wide variety of art represented at the gallery's

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board of directors secretary

grand opening, which will last through Oct. 29.

"We're going to have watercolor and oil painting, jewelry and ceramic, woodcarving and metal sculptures," Miller said.

The gallery was established in 1968 in the basement of the old Hotel Lincoln.

"It was started by some volunteers who felt there should be a place for beginning artists to show their work," Young said.



Damon Lee/DN

Jay Miller is the director of the recently relocated Haymarket Art Gallery at 728 Q St. The gallery is celebrating its 25th anniversary this month.

It was later moved to 119 S. Ninth St.

"We sold that building last spring," she said. "It was old and needed repairs."

The new location, in the historic Hide and Fur building at 728 Q St., is closer to the center of the Haymarket.

"We felt that having the name 'Haymarket Art Gallery,' we should be in there closer," Young said. "We were a little around the corner from the Haymarket proper."

"We're excited about our new space. It's very attractive."

The gallery both supports and is supported by the community.

"We are run through donations from the community," Young said.

"But 45 percent of the sales of the artists' works are for the gallery, and we give the money back to the community," she said.

"We provide scholarships to high school art students and make some art teaching efforts."

But the main focus of the gal-

lery is to represent emerging regional artists in a variety of visual mediums.

"We're always happy to support them and give them a place to show their work," Young said. "That's what we're all about."

Miller said, "We view this show as stepping from the past into the future by representing people who have helped us and remain in the field as accomplished artists. Now we're in a new space and are moving on to a new generation."

Action flows in 'The River Wild'

Streep plays hero of the river rapids in rafting adventure

By Joel Strauch
Senior Reporter

"The River Wild" is downstream excitement all the way, but the realism flounders a bit.

The story provides an interesting twist on the ol' hijacking, kidnapping and get-away story.

Gail (Meryl Streep), a former white-water rafting guide, and her son Roarke (Joseph Mazzello) take a rafting vacation to get away from the hustle and bustle of the city.

Gail's husband, Tom (David Strathairn),

is so caught up in his work that he has been ignoring his family. He manages to make this trip in an effort to save the rocky family relationship.

The trip is fairly mundane until they come across two other rafters who need their help. Wade (Kevin Bacon) and Terry (John C. Reilly) seem to be innocent vacationers who have been abandoned by their guide.

The plot thickens as Wade and Terry force Gail to take them through the Gauntlet, a stretch of rapids that has been found to be too treacherous to traverse.

Bacon is characteristically great as the psychotic Wade. It is fun to see a "nice guy" cut loose with a sadistic role once in a while.

The development of Strathairn's character is impressive — perhaps too much so. He goes from a workaholic wimp to a marathon-running family saver.

But it is Streep who makes the show. She is fantastic as Gail, a self-confident woman

Quik Facts

Movie: "The River Wild"

Rating: PG-13

Stars: Meryl Streep, Kevin Bacon, David Strathairn, Joseph Mazzello, John C. Reilly

Director: Curtis Hanson

Grade: B

Five Words: Whitewater adventure exciting but shallow

who is filled with concern for her family. There is one scene, where Gail goes into shock, in which Streep demonstrates her truly great acting ability.

The background scenes are incredibly beautiful. Filmed in the mountains of Montana and Oregon, the scenery is breathtaking.

The stunt shots on the river voyage are phenomenal. The boat comes close to flipping several times, and the camera is always right in there, putting the audience on a flimsy raft in the middle of the roughest stretch of rapids this side of Niagara.

Although comprised of only a few songs, the soundtrack is impressive. Featuring a mix of Ministry, the Cowboy Junkies, the Screaming Trees and the Gigilo Aunts, the music adds a eccentric touch to the film.

The plot is complete, but the stretching of the story snaps the rubber band of reality in several places. It is unrealistic to assume that Tom, an architect who lives in his office, would be capable of such herculean efforts (although his architectural construction at the end is an essential part of the story).

Wade also makes a few irrational decisions that don't sit well but are necessary to make this a fun-filled, family entertainment film.

"The River Wild" is worth seeing at the box office. It's not a perfect movie, but it's a great ride.

'The Scout' may amuse disconcerted baseball fans

By Gerry Beltz
Staff Reporter

Baseball junkies may rest a bit easier now that "The Scout" is in town.

It may never replace the real thing, but "The Scout" does come close with its combination of greed, comedy, odd behavior and egotism.

Albert Brooks ("Defending Your Life," "Broadcast News") stars as Al Percolo, a fast-talking New York Yankees scout who could sell brass knuckles to Gandhi.

His latest prospect — and Yankee investment — ends up having mound fright, and as punishment from general manager Ron Wilson (Lane Smith), Brooks' character is sent to Mexico in search of new prospects.

Percolo starts out his trip with a big chip on his shoulder, but he winds up finding Steve Nebraska (Brendan Fraser), who is treated like a god in a small Mexican town.

Percolo weaves an enticing web of money and fame, and Steve agrees to leave Mexico to fulfill his dream of becoming a professional baseball player.

Is it all that easy? Not a chance. Nebraska's behavior at his first press conference, which culminates in an assault on a photographer, prompts Wilson to require a letter of mental competence from a psychiatrist before Nebraska can play (and, more importantly to Al, before any money is paid).

Director Michael Ritchie is no stranger to sports-oriented films ("The Bad News Bears," "Semi-Tough"), but his direction is not enough to overcome the predictable plot found in "The Scout."

See SCOUT on 11



Courtesy of Universal Pictures

Kevin Bacon (left center) and Meryl Streep (right center) star in the white-knuckle, white-water thriller "The River Wild."