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New western not quick enough

By Gerry Beltz
Film Critic

Even Sam Raimi couldn't save this piece of dreck.

That comes as a bit of a surprise, considering the talent involved in "The Quick and the Dead."

Raimi had one two-time Oscar winner, Gene Hackman, as the bad guy, an Oscar nominee from last year, Leonardo DiCaprio, as a happy-go-lucky gunfighter, and box-office star Sharon Stone as the mysterious woman with a score to settle.

(Granted, she couldn't act her way out of a wet paper bag if someone gave her a map, but anyway...)

Raimi, who in past has dazzled audiences with entertaining films like "Darkman" and the "Evil Dead" trilogy, tries his hand at westerns with this flick.

In "The Quick and the Dead," a quick-draw contest in the sleepy town of Redemption brings people from far and wide, seeking fame and fortune for winning the contest.

However, a mysterious woman named Ellen (Stone) comes to town, not in search of money or glory, but revenge. She has come for Herod (Hackman), the mayor of Redemption.

Herod runs the town with an iron fist and the quickest draw around. The man has no conscience, no soul and no remorse whatsoever. He even brings in Cort (Russell Crowe), his

The Facts

"The Quick and the Dead"

Rating: R

Stars: Sharon Stone, Gene Hackman, Leonardo DiCaprio

Director: Sam Raimi

Grade: D+

Five Words: Gunfighting western widely misses target.

former partner-in-crime who has recently embraced religion and become a preacher.

Rounding out this set is the Kid (DiCaprio), a greased-lighting gunslinger who (over an hour into the film) claims that Herod is his father, and has a thing (wink, wink) for Ellen.

The supporting cast is rather impressive as well, including Gary Sinise as Ellen's father (seen only in flashbacks), Keith David as a gunfighter hired by the town and Lance Henriksen as Ace Hanlon, a gunfighter with a flamboyance that makes Elton John look like an accountant.

Raimi's camerawork is great, taking bizarre angles and quick close-ups that we have seen in his previous works. It gets the movie-goer to realize that the film has been made to entertain, to provide an escape.

However, from a story and plot

aspect, the film stinks.

"The Quick and the Dead" tries to go in too many directions at once, and leaves too much to be explained until the last 20 minutes of the film. An attempted hanging at the beginning of the film ends up being a central part of Stone's character, yet this is not brought up until the end.

The leading characters seem lost. Hackman's bad guy has too much fun, even for someone in a Raimi film, and Stone's character is far too overplayed. Her emotions run rampant, but she just looks stupid.

The film is further damaged by Raimi finding a way for Stone's breasts to make yet another appearance to keep at least half of the audience focused on the screen. The film didn't need the scene, and Stone should be looking for roles that don't require a nude scene. Does the word 'typecasting' ring any bells, Sharon?

Hopefully, this talented young actor will bounce back from this dreadful flick to appear in something with a little more integrity, like a cock-fight.

Fans of Raimi's "Evil Dead" films will not be disappointed. Raimi's usual star, Bruce Campbell, shows up as a wedding shemp (whatever that is). Next thing you know, Bruce will be showing up in Pauly Shore films munching on frogs.

Overall, "The Quick and the Dead" wasn't quick enough, and ends up as a very tedious, boring film.

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James Mehlsing/DN

Live video to be filmed at tonight's NIN show

By Joel Strauch
Senior Reporter

Trent Reznor's sore throat is better, and he's ready to take the stage tonight at Omaha's Civic Auditorium.

The concert, originally scheduled for Feb. 2 in Lincoln, was postponed when Reznor fell ill. It was moved to Omaha because of scheduling conflicts at Pershing Auditorium.

The change of venue has kept some people from making it to the concert.

Becky Rupprecht, a senior art education major, said she would not be able to go to the new show.

"I have class on Monday nights," she said. "If the date would have been on a Thursday, like it was originally, I would have gone because I don't have class on Fridays."

"Plus, I don't know my way around Omaha."

There haven't been too many people complaining about the change, according to local radio stations.

Mark Ross, a disc jockey for KIBZ (106.3 FM), "The Blaze," said most people had been interested only in finding out details about the change.

"I've heard a lot of people tell me that they are more excited about going, because the Melvins are opening instead of Pop Will Eat Itself," Ross said.

Some people would travel to hell

and back just to catch Nine Inch Nails live. Tim Lawler, an undeclared sophomore, said he was one of those people.

"I've yet to see anybody else who puts on a show like he (Reznor) does," Lawler said.

Lawler went to the Nine Inch Nails concert in Omaha last fall and said it was the best concert he had ever attended.

"I loved it," he said. "His energy on stage is just amazing."

Lawler said the postponement of the concert was no big deal to him.

"The only thing about postponing it is that I'm so eager to see it," he said. "I'm raring to go."

The change of venue also has led to a video shoot at tonight's concert.

Kendall, a disc jockey at KKNB (104.1 FM), "The Planet," said Nine Inch Nails was filming for a longform home video.

"They decided to shoot after they switched it from Pershing to the Civic," he said. "They like the crowds we have here. The Midwest is often viewed as ho-hum. This is a good sign."

Kendall said a few people had called the station to complain about the changed venue.

"But people are so excited to see him, they're going to Omaha," he said. "And the video has been generating more excitement."

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