



Courtesy of Universal Pictures

Christopher Lambert stars as a Western businessman fighting for his life in "The Hunted."

'Hunted' bloody slice of action

By Gerry Beltz
Film Critic

Lambert's getting there, but he's still falling short.

The man can't act. This is a fact and he probably knows it. However, in several scenes of "The Hunted," Lambert's confused-but-determined look and attitude actually work.

Jean-Claude Van Damme has the same problem. However, one movie with John Woo ("Hard Target") finds Van Damme doing what he does best: entertain.

Perhaps that's what Lambert needs to do; go find Woo — who got out of his three-picture contract and left the country after working with egomaniac Van Damme — and make an action film that will have action junkies on double overdose.

"The Hunted" already has a slight feel of a Woo film, where some of the characters are outrageously ridiculous, and the violence levels are ludicrous. Perhaps Lambert and Woo should team up for "Highlander 4: The Final Apology."

However, Woo films have tons and tons of action, and action junkies would barely get a slight buzz from Lambert's latest flick, "The Hunted."

Paul Racine (Lambert) is a businessman who has just picked up Kirina (Joan Chen, "On Deadly

The Facts

Film: "The Hunted"

Director: J.F. Lawton

Stars: Christopher Lambert, John Lone, Joan Chen

Rating: R

Grade: C-

Five words: Ninja and samurai get nasty.

against-powerful-enemy movie turns into a two-man-battle-of-skill-and-wits, or should we say twits?

Lambert's bad acting is a given. But this film casts him as a man who knows his limitations, not a killing machine.

Lone's portrayal of the ninja is rather reserved, but that's the way it should be — controlled with focused emotions. However, Kinjo seems to oscillate between ancient honor and a modern desire to win at any cost, and that weakens the character immensely.

The surprise is Shimada as Takeda, supposedly a samurai who is fighting a 200-year-old war with Kinjo. However, his strike-and-pause swordfighting is deplorable, even for a movie.

Still, the movie is not completely void of merit. It's nice to see ninja movies where weapons beyond the ninja-to and shuriken are used (and used correctly). The battle on the bullet train between Takeda and about a billion stupid ninjas is the high action point of the film.

"The Hunted" is the directorial debut of J.T. Lawson, who also wrote the screenplay. Lawson's previous work includes the screenplays for "Pretty Woman" and "Under Siege." From the looks of "The Hunted," he still has a lot to learn, but at least he's trying.

Ground") at a bar and sleeps with her within the movie's first 10 minutes.

Being talented in a Lambert flick can dramatically cut down life expectancy. Racine leaves and comes back only to find a ninja named Kinjo (John Lone, "The Shadow") slicing off Kirina's head. (Maybe Kinjo thought he was in a "Highlander" sequel.)

Racine sees Kinjo's face, something Kinjo doesn't like. Racine tries to escape, but Kinjo's ninja buddies poison and cut him up before he can get out.

He lives, but is soon being hunted again. He is eventually offered protection by Takeda (Yoko Shimada), a samurai-type swordsman who has a personal beef with Kinjo.

How convenient!
What starts out as a one-man-

Ross Theater offers free screenings

By Jeff Randall
Staff Reporter

For those who complain about the rising cost of big-screen entertainment, a long-standing but little-known alternative exists.

The Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater, located in the Sheldon Art Gallery, offers free-of-charge films every Tuesday and Wednesday until April 26.

Dan Ladely, director of the Ross Film Theater, said the films were primarily shown for students in film classes, but are open to anyone interested.

Public turnout tends to be low for

the screenings, Ladely said, probably because of the afternoon show times.

"It's mainly a problem of accessibility," he said. "I don't think many people are able to make it to see the afternoon screenings because they have jobs to go to."

In the past, when there were evening shows, too, Ladely said, the public attended more film-studies shows.

"We used to get quite a few people who weren't involved in the university at all who would just come to see good films," he said.

The decision to move the screenings to the afternoon was made by the university's administration, Ladely

said, and was not related to public attendance in any way.

"Anyone is welcome to attend," he said. "I think it's a great opportunity and a good alternative to other theaters."

Weekly screening schedules can be picked up in the Ross Film Theater, and each week's screening times are included in the recorded phone schedule.

This week's films are "The Horror of Dracula," which is showing today at 1 p.m. and Wednesday at 3:15 p.m., and "Mothra," showing today at 3:15 p.m. and Wednesday at 1 p.m.

No film-studies films will be shown during Spring Break.

struments from around the world into a contemporary rhythm.

Tickets for the 8 p.m. concert are \$10 for the general public and \$5 for students, and are available at the Lied Center Box Office. Net profits from the concert will be given to the Nebraska AIDS Project.

Mirabal's residency at UNL, which began last spring and continued in late February, has influenced him. He said he enjoyed seeing new faces and hearing new ideas in the many lectures he has given.

Mirabal has lectured in classes ranging from anthropology to law on

both City and East campuses. He meets with three to four groups of 20 to 45 students each week from nearly every UNL college.

Mirabal said his lecture methods varied. Sometimes he has the students lie down while he plays flute music for them.

"I ... let them experience the life of my tribe," he said.

On March 8, Mirabal will give a Great Plains Studies seminar entitled "Music and Culture: A Taos Pueblo Artist's View." The free seminar is at 3:30 p.m. in 205 Love Library.

Show to feature classics

By Josh Wimmer
Staff Reporter

The Lincoln Symphony Orchestra will perform a collection of "American Classics" at the Lied Center tonight at 8.

The performance will feature works by American classical composers including Howard Hanson, Samuel Barber, Morton Gould, Roy Harris and Lukas Foss, said Jeth Mill, the orchestra's executive director.

Foss will also appear tonight as guest conductor of his pieces, Mill said, titled "Three American Pieces" for flute and strings.

"There are two works here by living composers, Lukas Foss and Morton Gould, and to have one of America's notable composers conducting is a real honor," Mill said.

The orchestra's music director and regular conductor, Yong-Yan Hu, will also conduct tonight, Mill said.

Mill said the performance also would feature two guest instrumental soloists: Tricia Park, a 17-year-old violinist; and flutist Marina Piccinini.

"It would be a treat to come and hear either one of them alone," Mill said.

To hear them together will be especially thrilling, he said. Park will play during Barber's "Violin Concerto," Mill said. Piccinini will perform with the orchestra during Foss' "Three American Pieces" and

"Sometimes I think people are put off in classical music because they don't feel they are educated in it. You don't need a course in film to enjoy movies."

JETH MILL

Lincoln Symphony Orchestra
executive director

Hanson's "Serenade for Flute, Harp and Strings," he said.

Hanson, a composer and educator, was a Nebraska native, Mill said. He headed the Eastman Conservatory of Music in Rochester, N. Y.

Mill emphasized that anyone could come to this performance and enjoy it, classical-music aficionado or not. "Sometimes I think people are put off in classical music because they don't feel they are educated in it," Mill said. "You don't need a course in film to enjoy movies."

Tickets will be on sale at the door, or can be reserved in advance by phoning the Lied Center box office. Ticket prices are \$18, \$22 and \$27, and are half price for students.

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To renovate and expand the Nebraska Union or not? What do you think?

An Open Forum Discussion sponsored by Nebraska Student Union Board
Tuesday, February 28, 1995
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
City Union Main Lounge

ASUN has placed this question on the ballot for the upcoming student elections. Because this is a current topic of interest to students, you may want to attend this information session and discussion regarding the proposed renovation and expansion of the Nebraska Union.

Give us your view at this Open Forum and vote at the March 8th ASUN election.

Nebraska Union Board
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
220 Nebraska Union
Lincoln, NE 68588-0452

SPEAK OUT!

Mirabel

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chest and say, "I'm going to educate you," he said. "I want people to see me as an individual. That's it."

Rather than teach them or make them feel guilty, Mirabal said, he'd rather let people have fun and feel good about themselves.

Mirabal will perform his unique brand of "world music" March 11 at Kimball Recital Hall. The concert, "Native Beat," will incorporate Mirabal's flute and traditional in-