



Courtesy of Pelemele Films

Singer k.d. lang stars as Kotebue in "Salmonberries."

## Film starring k.d. lang will be shown Sunday

By Charles Russell  
Film Critic

### The Facts

**Film:** "Salmonberries"  
**Stars:** k.d. lang, Rosel Zech, Chuck Connors  
**Director:** Percy Adlon  
**Rating:** NR  
**Grade:** B+  
**Five Words:** Women find love in Alaska.

Percy Adlon's "Salmonberries," is an endearing and touching look at love and friendship among outsiders. Enigmatic singer k.d. lang makes her screen debut in this film that has been on distributors' shelves since 1991.

Lang plays a pipeline worker in the small Alaskan town of Kotebue where she was abandoned as a child, the town that gave her her name.

Mistaken for a man for years and desperate to learn something of her mysterious past, Kotebue attacks the town library in search of information.

Here she meets the cold and elegant Roswitha (Rosel Zech), an East German emigre who has been working as a librarian in Kotebue for 21 years. Roswitha's brusque manner soon captivates the young Kotebue.

Through Kotebue's perseverance and a mutual need for love and a sense of belonging, a friendship full of sexual and emotional tension develops between this mismatched pair.

After revealing her sexuality to Roswitha, Kotebue becomes a confidante to Roswitha's tortured past. Kotebue learns that during her escape from East Germany 21 years ago, Roswitha's husband was killed by a border guard.

Since leaving East Germany, Roswitha has found her only solace in picking salmonberries and arranging jars of the preserved berries in her room.

Roswitha's icy shell melts during a stunning scene in which her entire room is lit by sunlight streaming through her windows lined with jars of salmonberries.

The two eventually make their way to Berlin in the wake of the Berlin Wall's fall to search for

answers and absolution. Here they are forced to confront Roswitha's brother, Albert (Wolfgang Steinberg), whom she has not seen since leaving 21 years ago.

Steinberg delivers an incredibly powerful performance as the brother whose world is now falling apart, even though he speaks only one line.

The film incorporates realistic and stylistic elements that seamlessly intertwine.

For the most part, we are treated to an intimate and natural view of the relationship that develops between the two women.

Adlon also incorporates very symbolic scenes in which unrealistic lighting helps reinforce themes and moods established in the film.

The film's one drawback is a time-lapse sequence. In the scene, one line is spoken, the screen fades to black then fades back in on the same scene a few hours later, over and over. This repetitive process seemed more a parody of foreign films than a legitimate scene and undermines the film's believability.

The movie will be shown Sunday at the Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater in the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery as part of the University Program Council International Film Series.



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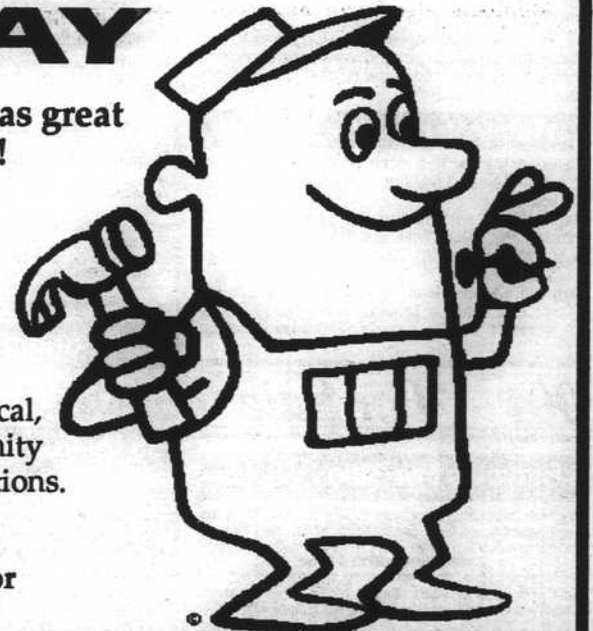
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