

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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Courtesy of Universal Pictures

An unlikely friendship between two 11-year-old boys leads to a grand adventure in "The Cure," starring Joseph Mazzello (top) and Brad Renfro (bottom).

"Cure" explores ills of society

By Joel Strauch
Film Critic

"The Cure" is an enjoyable film that deals with some relevant social issues. But if you go see it, try to be in a positive mood, because you probably won't be in one by the time you leave the theater.

The story is very touching. Erik (Brad Renfro, "The Client") befriends his neighbor, Dexter (Joseph Mazzello, "Jurassic Park"), an 11-year-old who has contracted AIDS through a blood transfusion.

Erik faces alienation from kids at school and punishment from his mom, but he suffers through it all because of his friendship with Dexter.

Erik becomes conscious of Dexter's illness and becomes obsessed with finding a cure.

The two boys watch "The Medicine Man" and Erik experiments with local plant life in a similar fashion.

Erik's mom (Diana Scarwid) finds out about their friendship when one of Erik's plant concoctions makes Dexter sick.

She decides to send him away to summer camp to keep him away from Dexter and his illness.

Instead, Erik and Dexter take off on the Mississippi River in

The Facts

Film: "The Cure"

Stars: Joseph Mazzello, Brad Renfro, Annabella Sciorra

Director: Peter Horton

Rating: PG-13

Grade: B

Five Words: Bring a box of kleenex.

search of a cure for AIDS that someone has supposedly found in the bayous of Louisiana.

The two solidify their friendship as they adventure down the river together.

Of course, the movie has to have its social commentary. And it is very positive commentary. It deals heavily with the intense prejudice people with AIDS are forced to deal with on a daily basis.

During one excellent scene, the local bullies are getting ready to beat up Erik and Dexter because of Dexter's virus.

But Erik compares Dexter to the brother of the lead bully, who had just returned from the hospital.

His soliloquy touches the audience—even the bully, making everyone think about the frightening universality of the disease. If Dexter can be affected, anyone can.

Another scene in the movie is much more frightening. A hoodlum who ripped off the two boys and who they have ripped off in turn, corners them and is beginning to be violent.

Dexter cuts his hand and threatens to mix his blood with that of the thug.

Erik calls him a superhero, but Dexter begins to realize the horrific potential that he is dealing with, both for himself and for others.

The excellent acting in the film helps pronounce its tragic believability.

Mazzello is superb as a young boy who is horribly aware of his mortality and how to cope with it.

And at the same time, Renfro helps the audience overlook the fact of the disease and see Dexter for what he really is—an 11-year-old boy who wants to experience the most out of the rest of his life.

"The Cure" is a buddy movie that viewers can relate to and in many ways, would be scared to.

Couple finds fun as 'Cheeseheads'

By Jeff Randall
Staff Reporter

Lou and Peter Berryman have spent the last 32 years as friends and a brief stint as marriage partners, a long and impressive track record for any two people.

But they are considerably more famous for their 18 years as "The Wisconsin Cheeseheads." After meeting as students in an art class in 1963, Lou and Peter, whose short marriage ended long ago, went on to form a number of bands, resulting in their current setup with Lou playing piano and accordion and Peter playing 12-string guitar. They share singing and songwriting duties.

"We are collaborators in nearly every respect," Lou said in a telephone interview. "And that allows us to criticize each other and make suggestions without anybody getting their feelings hurt."

She said their musical style was difficult for her to pigeonhole, although most people tended to classify them quite easily.

"It's a little hard to define," Lou said. "We're humorous, and people like to call us folk musicians, so we've had no problem

with that.

"A lot of our songs are satirical, but a lot of others are just plain funny."

The Berrymans have steadily acquired a loyal following, as is evidenced by their six consecutive first-place finishes for folk music in Wisconsin's Isthmus Annual Peoples' Choice Awards.

Getting the chance to perform those songs in front of audiences, she said, is the duo's favorite aspect of the musicians' life.

This love is evidenced by their regular appearances at folk festivals and coffeehouse concerts.

"Performing and meeting the people who listen to our music is by far the best part," she said.

Lou described their performances as lighthearted and energetic.

"We talk a little; we sing a little. No matter where we are, we try to make the audience feel like they are important to us," she said. "And they are, so it's not too difficult."

But live performances and audience gratification aren't the only rewards of musicianship.

"We also really get into the songwriting," she said. "It's something that a lot of people don't like as much, but we love it."

Lou said their muses were more often hard-sought than divinely inspired.

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Duffy's welcomes Womanstock, NOW

By Jeff Randall
Staff Reporter

Womanstock, a benefit event for the Lincoln chapter of the National Organization for Women, will be held tonight at Duffy's, 1412 O St., from 8 to midnight.

Local bands Cool Riddum, Alias Jane and Lavender Couch will perform and a silent auction will also take place.

Eldonna Rayburn, assistant coordinator for the Lincoln chapter of NOW, said tonight's show would hopefully be as successful as last year's event.

"Last year, it was very good for the organization," Rayburn said. "We nearly raised enough to cover the costs of running things for the entire year."

NOW is primarily an education and information organization, she said. Influencing laws and spreading information are the group's main tasks.

"We're trying to make the public aware of the various issues that face women," Rayburn said.

The three bands that will perform in tonight's show are returning after their performances in last year's Womanstock, she said.

"I don't believe that any of the bands are active members of NOW," Rayburn said. "But they are all involved in the same issues that we in the organization face on a regular basis."

"They are members of the community, and they are women, so they are definitely involved in some way or another with what we deal with."

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■
ELDONNA RAYBURN

assistant coordinator for
Lincoln's NOW chapter

The silent auction was made possible by donations from local businesses, she said.

"We basically just walked into local stores and asked if they wanted to give anything to help our cause," Rayburn said. "For the most part, we had very positive responses."

Attending tonight's event would be another way to show support for NOW, she said.

"These are three popular bands that people really like and who rarely all play together," she said. "It's going to be a lot of fun, and you'll be able to help out a worthy cause."

Womanstock '95 is open to those 21 years of age and over. Tickets are \$6 and are available at the Albino Rhino, 101 N. 14 St., and Recycled Sounds, 824 P St. Tickets will also be sold at the show.