

Responsible parents keep children out of adult films

It happens more and more frequently: You go to an R-rated movie, and there are children in attendance.

Parents, it seems, no longer care about what their children see at the movies, and theater employees too often fail to screen out underage patrons. The problem splits into two groups: the wee children brought into late-night screenings of "Faces of Death" and "Dangerous Minds," and the 10- to 16-year olds who sneak into "Interview With a Vampire" and "Pulp Fiction."

All are fine movies, but not for such a young movie-going crowd.

That young children are brought to these movies is a problem with the parents, pure and simple. More than the problem of just how annoying these kids can be (though a blessed few actually sleep through the film), the fact that they are CHILDREN should be troubling. Parents seen taking their toddlers into R-rated films like these should be flogged on general principles.

Not only is taking kids into these movies a potential problem for the other theater patrons, but also it is a terrible thing to do to a child.

The AMC theater chain (there are none in Lincoln, but a few screens in Omaha) have a nice, little rule about admittance to R-rated films: after 6 p.m., no one—again, NO ONE—under the age of three is allowed in.

Perhaps this idea could be looked into by the Douglas Theater Co., which runs all but two theaters in Lincoln, so it can better serve its customers.

Parents bringing their children to R-rated movies is one thing, but the problem of unattended children at R-rated films is a two-fold issue.

Granted, if kids sneak into an R-rated film (either by sneaking into the theater itself or by buying tickets for a different movie in a multiscreen theater complex), simply reporting them to theater employees more often than not will take care of the problem.

But theaters are not always so responsive.

I've witnessed on several occasions where parents walking up to the ticket booth with their underage children and verbally approve for them for an R-rated film.

Again, flogging on general principles. Movie theaters should enforce the R-rating guideline a bit more strictly to cut down on these potential problems.

Unlike alcohol purchases, where IDs are generally required, theaters are less discerning. Perhaps theater companies should require that fewer "judgment calls" be made and more requests for identification be issued instead.

Recently, at a showing of "Dangerous Minds," I was pleasantly surprised as I watched youth after youth turned away at the door because of their under-17 status. I even had three grade-school kids ask me to take them in with me. (I patted one on the head and pointed them across the street to "Pocahontas.")

I have nothing against teen-agers. I find it unfortunate that they will have to wait to see this high-quality film, which focuses on issues dealt with by their peer group.

This entire issue comes down to one idea—responsibility. Parents need to accept more responsibility for their children and their upbringing, and theater companies need to be more responsible in following guidelines set for movie-goers everywhere.



A young generation of Jerry Garcia fans wait outside Mueller Planetarium for Saturday night's laser light show dedicated to Jerry Garcia. From left are Jeremy Grobsmith, 13; Max Hoage, 14; Andy Holland, 14; and Nate Francis, 14.

Tanna Kinnaman/DN

A legend lives on Grateful Dead fans celebrate music, memories

By Jeff Randall
Senior Reporter

For years, fans of the Grateful Dead had known of Jerry Garcia's battle with his failing health. Still, news of the rock icon's death Aug. 9 came as a shock to many.

Garcia, lead guitarist and vocalist for the Grateful Dead, was in a drug rehabilitation center at the time of his death. But for many Nebraska fans who paid tribute to Garcia on Friday and Saturday nights, his death was still a surprise.

"This wasn't supposed to happen," said Anthony Davidson, a Lincoln resident and a long-time Grateful Dead fan. "The Dead were the ... indestructible band, you know?"

With Garcia's death, many Grateful Dead fans have been left to wonder just what the future will hold for the band that has long had one of the world's most loyal followings.

A number of those fans showed up at the Mueller Planetarium for a laser light show tribute to Garcia and the Grateful Dead.

"It's about as close to the actual concert experience you can get in Lincoln at this point," said Davidson, who has attended three Grateful Dead shows. "It's a chance to get together with other fans and celebrate the music."

"Jerry may be gone, but his songs aren't. His words aren't. We'll have them until the day we die."

■
JOAN HALLOWAY
Lincoln

But for some fans, the weekend show was the closest they would ever get to Garcia and his bandmates.

Andrea Hardy and Alyson Tredway, two Lincoln Southeast juniors, were among those Deadheads who never were able to see Garcia and the Dead perform live.

"We were going to go see them next year," Tredway said. "But now ... I guess we'll never get the chance."

Those who had seen the Grateful Dead perform had both music and memories to celebrate.

Joan Holloway of Lincoln said actually seeing the Grateful Dead perform was an experi-

ence that was too magnificent to re-create with mere words.

"If you've never been there, I wouldn't be able to explain it to you, and you would probably never be able to understand," Holloway said.

When asked about the Grateful Dead's future, fans were divided in their opinions.

A number believed that with Garcia's passing the Grateful Dead became a thing of the past.

Jack Leigh of Omaha said any plans by the Grateful Dead to tour in the future should be shelved, out of respect for both fans and the band itself.

"It just wouldn't be the same," Leigh said. "In a way, it would almost be insulting to the memory of what the Dead were."

But Hardy disagreed with Leigh's vision of the Grateful Dead's future.

"I'd like to see them keep going," she said. "Because I think that's what Jerry would have wanted."

No matter what the future holds for the Grateful Dead, Holloway said, the fans will still have the music to remember them.

"Jerry may be gone, but his songs aren't. His words aren't. We'll have them until the day we die," she said.

Reeves movie puts viewers on Cloud 9

By John Fulwider
Film Critic

Only in the movies would a guy marry a woman who drops her suitcase on his toe, throws up on his shoulder and gets him kicked off a bus—all in the space of a day.

"A Walk in the Clouds," starring Keanu Reeves and Aitana Sanchez-Gijon, is a little far-fetched. But moviegoers won't even notice Hollywood's touch when they become immersed in this wonderful romantic tale of passion, sensuality and tradition.

Paul Sutton (Reeves) meets Victoria Aragon's (Sanchez-Gijon) bag before he meets her on a train bound for Sacramento. After an extraordinary set of coincidences, Paul and Victoria are alone on the road leading to the

Aragon family vineyard.

Paul, the ever understanding, sensitive gentleman, listens while Victoria tells him that her father is going to kill her because she is pregnant and unmarried. After some painfully cheesy dialogue (the only bad part of the movie), Paul offers to pretend to be Victoria's husband for one night, then pretend to abandon her. He cannot stay because he is already married.

Victoria's surprise "marriage" is not at all well-received by her domineering father, Alberto Aragon (skillfully played by Giancarlo Giannini). Alberto is a man of deeply held convictions about family traditions, and he suspects from the start that something is not right. And so the fun begins.

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The Facts

Film: "A Walk in the Clouds"

Stars: Keanu Reeves, Aitana Sanchez-Gijon

Director: Alfonso Arau

Rating: PG-13

Grade: A-

Five Words: Magical tale of love, grapes.